



Jan. 28, 2016

**Quote of the week:**

Technology is best when it brings people together.

*Matt Mullenweg*

- January is School Board Recognition Month, and Noah Smith, Winton Woods High School Student Council president, was on hand at the district's January board of education meeting to honor board members for their service to the district and the community.

PHOTO CAPTION: Shown are (l-r) Board President Jessica Miranda, member Jeff Berte, Vice-President Dr. Viola Johnson, members Paula Kuhn and Katrina Rugless, and Winton Woods High School Student Council President Noah Smith.



- The Winton Woods Educational Foundation (WWEF) is continuing its support of Winton Woods City Schools with a fundraising benefit at the Grand Finale Restaurant in Glendale on Friday, February 26. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 771-5925. When scheduling a reservation, be sure to identify your affiliation with WWEF for credit. The restaurant will contribute 20% of food orders during the evening event, but a minimum of 30 attendees is necessary for funds to be paid.

The goal of the WWEF is to benefit students and provide assistance for programs and activities in Winton Woods City Schools that fall outside of traditional funding sources. "We will be emailing our grant application in the next month or so," said WWEF member LeAnne Montgomery. "The annual Grand

Finale fundraiser is a great way to support WVEF and enjoy a wonderful meal with family, friends or co-workers.”

Grand Finale is located at 3 East Sharon Road in Glendale.

- Once again this year the question is: Who will survive Winton Woods City Schools' creative writing contest? The Survival of the Fittest takes place this Saturday, January 30, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Winton Woods Middle School Media Center. The event is hosted by the Winton Woods Middle School Headcases Writing Club, and there's no cost to attend.

"The time has come again, dearest compatriots and colleagues, for the finest writers of our celebrated home to meet in a pitched battle of images and words," said Headcases sponsor Anthony Klancar, "where similes will be flung heroically, only to be cast aside by ardent metaphors while flat characters are crushed beneath the rumble and roar of their more robust counterparts."

This year's contestants are Rhoda Nkrumah, Monique Wallace, Conner Muddiman, Eden Daniel, Travis Ace, Abby Hunsburger, Parker Sarra, Kate Ingram and Jordan Denny. Celebrity judges are Gary Braunbeck, C.V. Hunt and Jonathan Lee. Two winners will receive a Saturday membership to Millennialcon, Cincinnati's longest running speculative fiction convention, and have an opportunity to read their work in front of an audience of professional writers, publishers and fans.

- The congregation of City Hill Church, which meets on Sundays in the Winton Woods High School auditorium, donated \$500 to the district to keep Winton Woods students warm and fed during the wintertime. "We were able to purchase nine turkeys and distribute winter coats, hats and gloves to some of our students in kindergarten through fourth grade," said Corina Denny, community engagement coordinator for the district. "Walmart added an additional \$100 to this outreach, making even more of an impact on our students."

Denny said that community partnerships provide vital support for the district. This sentiment was reinforced by the board of education, which extended its appreciation to City Hill Church at its January 25 meeting.

"We're thankful to City Hill Church for this wonderful donation and for thinking of the well-being of our students," said Denny. "And we continue to be grateful to Walmart for their ongoing support of the district."

- Congratulations to the members of the Winton Woods Warriors football team who were named to the *Cincinnati Enquirer's* list of 2015 Fall Sports All Stars. Honored were:
  - Senior Darius Thomas, who was second-team all-district and had seven season tackles.

- Junior Jerron Cage, who was the AP Southwest District defensive player of the year. He had 48 tackles including 13 tackles for loss and six sacks. Cage has verbally committed to The Ohio State University.
- Senior Rodney Croom, who was special mention all-state and first-team all-district. He had 63 tackles and is verbally committed to Marshall University.
- Honorable Mentions went to: Jalen Lumpkin, Kwamane Watson, Alex Parker, Zack Exalus and Kenny Mayberry.

Thomas and Croom also have been chosen to play in the North-South High School Football Classic on April 30 in Dayton, Ohio, at Welcome Stadium.

- Winton Woods Band Director Dani Ashbrook is proud of the way her high school and middle school music students have performed over the last month of honor band performances and competitions. "We've had some busy musicians representing our district well," said Ashbrook.

Eight students performed in the Xavier University Honor Band on January 16. They were: Aversa Prentosito and Menyada Anderson on oboe; Parker Sarra on bassoon; Jasmine Smith and Britney Rucker on clarinet; and Ravyn Ramsey, Alyya Scott and Darion Hassertt on trombone.

Seven students performed with the Northern Kentucky University Honor Band on January 23. They were: Menyada Anderson on oboe; Jasmine Smith and Britney Rucker on clarinet; Zach Mavridoglou on baritone saxophone; Jordan Denny on trumpet; and Ravyn Ramsey and Alyya Scott on trombone.

Ohio Music Education Association's (OMEA) District 14 Solo and Ensemble contest also took place on January 23, with many Winton Woods music students participating. "All participants received either a Superior or an Excellent rating," said Ashbrook.

In Class A, the most difficult level, students who received a Superior Rating (I) were: Jaysean Johnson, vocal baritone solo; Joey Mayer, vocal baritone solo; Jaysean Johnson, viola solo. Students who received an Excellent Rating (II) were: woodwind quartet of Kate Ingram, Aversa Prentosito, Cari Sullivan and Parker Sarra; Parker Sarra, bassoon solo; and Brianna Richard, bassoon solo.

In Class B, Cari Sullivan received a Superior Rating (I) for her clarinet solo. Alena Sears-Whitmire received an Excellent Rating (II) for her oboe solo.

In Class C, students who received an Excellent Rating (II) were: bassoon trio of Parker Sarra, Brianna Richard and Shawndale Arrington; Cole Rucker, trumpet solo; Shawndale Arrington, bassoon solo; and Veronika Zavalaga, violin solo.

Winton Woods also will have students performing at the OMEA State Conference at the Duke Energy Center at the end of January. Parker Sarra is a member of the Northern Hills Bassoon Ensemble, Jaysean Johnson is a member of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra (CSYO), and three Winton Woods Middle

School students—Matthew Bernardo on bassoon, Alex Ingram on French horn, and Abra Upthegrove on trombone—are members of the Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble (Jr. CYWE). Winton Woods Orchestra Director Felipe Morales-Torres is one of the conductors for the CSYO.

“Earlier in the month, we also had some middle school students who were involved with OMEA District 14 Honor groups,” said Ashbrook. Rhoda Nkrumah on clarinet and Ayden Hassertt on trombone performed in the OMEA District 14 Junior High Honor Band on January 10. Five middle school orchestra students participated in District 14 Junior High Honors Orchestra on January 16. They were: Kiara Gaines, Starr Adams, and Monique Wallace on violin; Shelley Mbidi on viola, and Lizette Vivar on cello.

- Eight Winton Woods High School band students took part in this year’s Xavier University Honor Band Concert on Saturday, January 16. The musicians joined students from 19 high schools who performed under the direction of guest conductor Dr. Benjamin A. Chamberlain.

“We all appreciate the many opportunities that our band director, Ms. Ashbrook, provides for us,” said oboe player Aversa Prentosito. She

was joined in the Xavier University Honor band by Menyada Anderson on oboe, Darion Hassertt on trombone, Ravyn Ramsey on trombone, Britney Rucker on clarinet, Parker Sarra on bassoon, Alyya Scott on trombone, and Jasmine Smith on clarinet.



PHOTO CAPTION: Shown at the Xavier University Honor Band Concert are (l-r) are Alyya Scott, Jasmine Smith, Ravyn Ramsey, Menyada Anderson, Guest Conductor Dr. Benjamin A. Chamberlain, Aversa Prentosito, Britney Rucker, Parker Sarra, and Darion Hassertt. Photo by Tina Prentosito

- Save the date: there will be a fundraiser on Friday, February 5, at the Forest Park Chipotle (near Cincinnati Mall) from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you mention the Winton Woods fundraiser when you are ordering, 50% of all money spent will go to benefit the WWMS principal's fund for student incentives.



- Winton Woods Middle School seventh graders Karla Lopez and RJ Engleman have received awards in the Scholastic Art and Writing Contest and have their work on display at the Art Academy of Cincinnati from January 22-February 5. Lopez created an abstract watercolor painting inside a circle for the competition and Engleman created a drawing of a classmate. The award ceremony will take place on Friday, January 29, at the School for Creative and Performing Arts on Central Parkway.



For those who can visit the Art Academy, Winton Woods Middle School art teacher Pam Palmarini said her students' work is on third floor south, near the end of the hall.

PHOTO CAPTION: Artists RJ Rendleman and Karla Lopez are shown with their award-winning artwork.

- When Jeremy Day, principal at Winton Woods Intermediate School, joined the fifth and sixth grade orchestra at the beginning of the school year to learn to play the viola, he could not have imagined the attention he would receive. Not only has Day's story appeared in the local media, it was also featured on the NBC Nightly News. Yes, the national news.



This week Day will be honored as the Administrator of the Year by the Ohio String Teachers Association, all for stepping out of his comfort zone to learn to play a musical instrument. He still shakes his head in

amazement and hopes the true message in all of this isn't lost. "It's important for kids to see you can pick up something new no matter your age," said Day. "They can see that adults don't know it all. And in this case, the kids are teaching me something."

In his nomination of Day, Winton Woods Orchestra Director Felipe Morales-Torres cited the district's strong support for the arts, adding, "Mr. Day stands out, however, as an administrator who walks the talk by committing to learning beside our students." Morales –Torres was recognized last year by the Ohio String Teachers Association as Young Teacher of the Year.

Day will receive this latest recognition at the OSTA State Meeting on Thursday, January 28, at the Duke Energy Center.

PHOTO CAPTION: Winton Woods Intermediate School Principal Jeremy Day is shown in orchestra class with Alexie Mavridoglou.

- Students at Winton Woods Intermediate School were treated to the Wings of Wonder Zoo Show, courtesy of Forest Park Environmental Awareness and the Cincinnati Zoo. "This is just another way the Forest Park Environmental Program is partnering with the Winton Woods School District in providing a quality education for our residents," said Wright Gwyn, program manager for Forest Park Environmental Awareness. To view the show, recorded and edited by Jason Grzegorek of Waycross Media, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTBfgSoiKSE&feature=youtu.be>.

- There were smiles, hugs, and thank-yous for members of the Greenhills-Forest Park Kiwanis Club from third graders at Winton Woods Elementary School as copies of the book *Stellaluna* were distributed to the students. This annual event means that all third graders at the school receive their own copies of the hardbound picture book that tells the story of a bat who learns about friendship after being separated from her mother.



"This is the seventh year we have had this project," said Kiwanis Club member Jim Lawler, who coordinated the event. "During that time we have given away 2,200 books. Some years it has been *Stellaluna*, and some years it has been the companion book, *Pinduli*, both by Janell Cannon. There is a label in the book's

front cover saying this is a gift from the Greenhills-Forest Park Kiwanis Club, but more importantly, there is a place for the student to write his or her name in it.”

When this literacy partnership between Winton Woods Elementary School and the Greenhills-Forest Park Kiwanis Club began, then principal Steve Denny recommended the book *Stellaluna*. “It has a great story of acceptance, plus it teaches some science,” said Lawler. “It even has an appendix.”

Kiwanis Club is an international organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. The Greenhills-Forest Park Kiwanis Club has about 50 members and was founded more than 50 years ago. It is one of 10 Kiwanis clubs in western Hamilton County.

Greenhills-Forest Park Kiwanis Club members who distributed *Stellaluna* to the students were Ben Floyd, Phil Haisley, Jim Lawler, Bill W. McMillen, Dick Patterson, and John Pennycuff.

Winton Woods Elementary School Assistant Principal Nelson Homan thanked the Kiwanis Club members for the gift to his students. “They know that reading is important and they share the love of reading with you,” he told the students.

PHOTO CAPTION: Greenhills-Forest Park Kiwanis Club members (l-r) Dick Patterson, Bill W. McMillen and Ben Floyd distribute the book *Stellaluna* to happy third graders at Winton Woods Elementary School.

- It was a performance to be remembered as second grade students in Winton Woods Primary North’s drama group, the Primary North Players, presented the musical *The Little Mermaid* on Thursday, December 10, at the school. “These students worked hard to bring their peers, parents and community members a night to remember,” said first grade teacher Teresa Stone, who directed the show with the help of fellow teacher Trina Baker.



Rehearsals for the show began in October, with students spending every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school through December to bring their parts to life. “The students are increasing their reading skills they as they are building self-confidence” said Stone. Second grade teachers at the school provided opportunities for the actors to read and work on their lines during recess and when their classwork was finished. “The

second grade teachers were so supportive of the students in the play,” said Baker.

The Winton Woods Educational Foundation also provided support for the musical through a grant—written by Stone—that funded the production.

“The Little Mermaid, played by Clarissa Martin, and Prince Edward, played by Brian Andrews, headed up an outstanding cast,” said Stone. “Humor and laughs were provided by Finney and Aruba performed by Alyssa Honnerlaw and Kennedy Hatten. A crew of sailors—Lilly Samelak, Ronan Buhl, Serenity Sims, and Jaxon Braswell—sang ‘Blow the Man Down’ and invited the audience to join in the singing. Odessa, the Queen of Humans, played by Camille Valle, was the foe of Neptune, King of the Mermen, played by Oscar Martinez. The supporting cast of various sea creatures, slivery sirs, servants, the duchess and performers provided the audience a night to remember.”

Stone said she thought Philippe the chef, played by Ryan Wissel, may have summed up the night the best. “Magnifique!” he said.

PHOTO CAPTION: The Winton Wood Primary North Players presented The Little Mermaid in December. Photo by Teresa Stone.

#### Upcoming Events

Jan. 28	Gr. 7-12 Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 5	No School – Professional Day
Feb. 15	No School – Presidents’ Day
Feb. 22	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

*Winton Woods Today* is brought to you by: Gina Burnett, designer; Teresa Cleary, writer and photographer.