

## Crestwood Local Schools to Lose \$1.75 Million per Year of State Funding

District implements reduction plan, includes personnel and curriculum

This is a challenging time for school districts across the State of Ohio and Crestwood is no exception. Proposed state budget reductions and the loss of federal stimulus monies have left the district searching for a way to offset $\$ 1.75$ million in lost funds for each of the next two years. Crestwood's yearly revenue (state, local, and federal) has typically been about $\$ 20$ million per year.
"There are still some looming questions, such as what the final approved state budget will look like in July, as well as how significant the reductions in special education and Title 1 funding will be," said Joe lacano, Crestwood Local Schools Superintendent. "Combined with a smaller student body, new legislation and further proposed reductions in federal funding in the areas of special services, we will continue to make necessary, but very difficult, decisions."

According to lacano, some reductions in state funding were anticipated, but the reductions went beyond what most districts anticipated. The reductions to the district are too significant to absorb without making changes to all areas of operations including curriculum and instruction, service contracts, personnel and miscellaneous operating expenses.
"As a result of the budget cuts, the district does not anticipate the complete loss of any program or service but will see reduction in personnel and educational opportunities," said lacano. "The Board of Education has approved a Reduction in Staff (RIS) of eight teaching positions, and I will soon be recommending the net reduction of two administrative positions through attrition and consolidation of duties. We may also see some small reductions for classified, non-teaching, staff as well."

Also as a result of the reductions, the exploratory Spanish course will no longer be offered at the middle school; and students and families may see less field trips, more user fees, and higher student-teacher ratios in some classes at the middle and the high schools.

Despite years of proactive reductions and responsible management of the budget, the significant loss of revenue requires the district to make these decisions. Today, the district remains fiscally stable because the district has built up cash reserves through proactive cost reduction measures during the past several years. However, according to Carol Corbett, Treasurer/CFO, the district anticipates a deficit by July 2013 unless there are more reductions or there is an increase in local and/or state funding.
"It is unlikely we will be able to cut our way out of a future deficit without making significant sacrifices to curricular and extracurricular offerings," said lacano. "We will continue to make a genuine effort to postpone local levies until there is no other choice. The uncertain future of school funding in Ohio, however, may mean we have to consider local funding options earlier than we planned."

## Refinancing of Elementary Schools Bonds Saves \$550,000 Savings continue trend of cost containment

Looking for ways to save money, Crestwood Local Schools refinanced their bonds on March 15 for their two elementary schools and will see a $\$ 550,000$ savings over the remaining life of the bonds.
"We've been keeping an eye on the rates for quite some time and struck when we'd benefit with the most savings," said Carol Corbett, Crestwood Treasurer/CFO.

The district is currently about half way through its 23-year bond issue, which was approved by voters in 2000. Collectively, taxpayers in the district will save about $\$ 40,000$ a year and see a slight adjustment in their 2012 taxes.
"It may not be that noticeable to our community on their tax bill, but the savings are there," Corbett said. "We continue to do everything we can to

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Superintendent's Letter ... 2
School News .. 3

Other Happenings .4-5

Menu \& Sports Schedule
Pull Out Section...............6-7
High School..................... 8
High \& Middle School ..... 9
Intermediate School ........ 10
Primary School................ 11

# Superintendent's Letter... 

## State and Federal Cuts Impact Staffing

In this month's issue of the Crestwood Comments, we've attempted to outline the impacts of the state and budget cuts, as well as efforts the district is taking to manage those cuts. The most difficult part is being forced to cut personnel as a cost containment measure. Not only does this have a significant impact on the lives of these individuals and their families, it is also a detriment to our district and the students to lose these dedicated staff members.

Due to declining enrollment in recent years, we have been managing our staffing needs closely. As we lost staff due to attrition, we only replaced those positions that were necessary to maintain reasonable student/teacher ratios and to meet curriculum needs. Additionally, two years ago, we offered and early retirement incentive, which helped to keep our staffing aligned with building needs and saved the district approximately $\$ 250,000$ per year for an


Mr. Joseph lacano
Superintendent 8 year period.

Even with these ongoing efforts, the cuts passed on to us by the state were significant enough that we were forced to eliminate eight teaching positions by Reduction in Staff (RIS) for the 2011-2012 school year in an effort to cover the $\$ 1.75$ million loss. In recent weeks, these teachers were notified in-person, and despite the uncertainty this presents them, they remain professional, optimistic and dedicated to our students. Our district is unfortunate to lose these dedicated staff members.

Contractually, we are required to RIS by seniority within the area of licensure regardless of current building assignment. The positions reduced include: 1 school counselor; 1 physical education; 1 middle school math/ science; $1 \mathrm{CBI} / 7-12$ English; 2 early childhood (P-3); and 2 Intervention Specialist K-12.

In addition to the RIS, there are six positions that may be considered vacant via resignation, retirement, etc. As we analyze staffing needs for the fall, we will determine which positions need to be filled through internal transfer, recall from RIS, or if there is no other choice, hiring from the outside. While I cannot guarantee it, we hope to recall some teachers on the RIS list, as other teachers in the district have shared potential plans for moving or otherwise leaving. Furthermore, the district is again offering an early retirement incentive, and if additional staff members take advantage of this it may enable us to recall staff.

I am also recommending the net reduction of two administrative positions through attrition and consolidation of duties. More information will be forthcoming.

Two classified positions will be eliminated via resignation or retirement. We have not yet determined if it is necessary to further reduce classified positions through RIS. Since classified staff members are not required to be notified of RIS until June, we have time to seek more financial information before making a final decision.

As a result of these cuts, we anticipate slightly larger

## Crestwood Comments

The Crestwood Comments is a non-profit publication serving as the communication medium between the Crestwood School District and the communities it serves.

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class-sizes in High School Physical Education and Spanish classes, and are losing the exploratory Spanish program in the middle school. The loss of staff may be the most notable reduction; however, parents will also see a decrease in field trips, and an increase in user fees. As we continue to evaluate our financial situation, we will make every effort to minimize the impact on our students and the curriculum offerings, and will continue striving to meet the needs of every child, every day.

Thank you for your patience and support.

- Joe Iacano
High School................................330-274-2214
Middle School ............... 330-274-2249
Intermediate School .......... 330-274-2710
Primary School ............... 330-274-2537
Primary School Alt............ 330-422-3104
Bus Garage................... 330-274-2776


# School News 

## Crestwood Exceeds Nutritional Standards

Every five years the food service program is evaluated through the Ohio Department of Education. ODE chooses schools and areas to review in the district. This year, the Primary and Middle schools were selected for the review.

At Crestwood Primary, as part of the School Meals Program review process, a nutrient analysis, also referred to as the SMI, was performed on a one-week menu from our district. The purpose of this review was to assess the nutritional content of meals served to the students in our schools. The USDA requires our meals to provide the proper amount of nutrition so students are well nourished and ready to learn, and balanced so as not to contribute to the obesity epidemic affecting today's children. The results of the menu analysis are as follows:

| Nutrient | Nutrient Standard for <br> Grades: <br> K-3 | Your menu results <br> K-3 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Calories (Kcal) | 633 | 855 |
| Protein (g) | 9 | 32.23 |
| Calcium (mg) | 267 | 619.3 |
| Iron (mg) | 3.3 | 4.47 |
| Vitamin A (RE) | 200 | 651.6 |
| Vitamin C (mg) | 15 | 48.66 |
| Total fat | $\leq 30 \%$ | $28.95 \%$ |
| Saturated fat | $<10 \%$ | $9.29 \%$ |
| Cholesterol (mg) | 100 | 67 |
| Fiber (g) | 5 | 7.36 |

The menu assessed for the SMI review meets or exceeds the USDA nutrition standards for the students served. We are proud of the effort that our child nutrition program has put forth in meeting the Dietary Guidelines for Americans!

Crestwood Middle School was chosen for the CRE. This is an intensive review of all critical areas of the food service operation. Critical areas include menu planning, meal patters, wellness, purchasing, food storage, and safety and sanitation. Crestwood was in compliance with critical areas.

The auditor had several comments regarding the operation which include the following:

- "A nice variety of meal selections are included and allowances for staff to add personal touches to Friday meals is a great way to try new menu items."
- "Records were in excellent order."
- "District-wide HACCP training to assure safety and sanitation of dining selections offered to students and staff was outstanding."
Congratulations to our Food Service Director Jennifer Bujak-Hirsch and the entire Food Service Team on a job well done.

Refinancing - Continued from cover story
spend responsibly and keep taxes low."
The savings continue the work completed by the district over the past few years to contain costs. The district has been proactive in managing staff needs as student enrollment has declined in recent years. As staff was reduced through attrition, the district only replaced those positions that were necessary to maintain reasonable student/teacher ratios and meet curriculum needs. Additionally, the district offered an early retirement incentive in 2009 to reduce salary costs, which will save the district approximately $\$ 250,000$ annually for an eight year period.

This year, the district gathered teachers, administrators and staff to form a non-personnel budget reduction committee to come up with ideas to save taxpayer dollars without reducing district employees. Through their extensive efforts, the district will realize savings totaling $\$ 289,500$. The savings will come from ideas such as energy and utilities efficiencies, reductions to maintenance and principal's budgets, reducing field trip budgets, and increasing high school parking fees.

While much work has been completed, the district will continue to find ways to save taxpayer dollars while providing an excellent and valuable education for our students.

* Visit www.crestwoodschools.org to see a feature article from WKYC Channel 3 News on the refinancing of our elementary schools bonds.

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# Other Happenings. 

## The Crestwood Choir is Where It's At

Crestwood Choirs have countless rehearsals after and during school. They recently traveled to New York where they performed at South Side Sea Port where they performed some of their pieces for the Pop's Concert. The choirs received quite a turn out.

Support your choirs by attending the famous Pop's Concert! This is the big finale, the final frontier for the year. The blow out concert is the biggest fundraiser of the year. They sold out last year, having to add 6 extra tables a night. Tickets go on sale May 11, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the high school, and they are first come first serve. The Pops Concert will be held on Friday May 20, and Saturday, May 21. Both nights starting at 7 p.m. So come out and support our choirs, and remember, music gives us the beat to life.


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## Complete Our Online Survey

As part of our ongoing effort to engage the community and hear your thoughts, we invite you to take an online survey that can be found at our web site, www. crestwoodschools.org. The survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and for your continued support of Crestwood Local Schools.

# Go Forth \& Do Good! 

## Senior Companions \& Foster Grandparents <br> Volunteer 330-297-7027

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## Common Core Standards Guide Educational Future <br> Mary Ann Strenk, Coordinator of Curriculum \&

 InstructionThis has certainly been a year of change around the education community. One transformation that will directly impact our students is the state adoption of Common Core Standards and assessments that will begin in 2014. Crestwood will take an active role preparing for this transition through aligning materials, professional development, and implementation of a student formative assessment program.

The purpose of standards is to make sure that graduates are college and career ready upon graduation. We need to produce thinkers, collaborators, and problem solvers who possess the capacity to be life-long learners. The world of the future will require our graduates to continuously develop new skills and apply these to changing situations. Parents can set the framework for life-long learning at home in a variety of ways:

First, encourage your child to ask questions. Admit when you don't know the correct answers and then help your child research and find the appropriate information. Allow your children to grapple with problems, and don't be too quick to offer suggestions and solutions. Wrong answers are just as valuable in learning and applying new concepts. Turn the tables and ask them questions that force them to think about their own thinking. Ask why they answered a question in a particular way. Ask how they would solve a problem, and then encourage them to come up with multiple solutions.

Make reading a habit. Reading not only provides practice comprehending information, but also develops background knowledge. The broader the base of knowledge, the easier a student can make connections across multiple disciplines. Research shows that the best way to develop reading skills involves two factors. First, students should read materials at their appropriate readability *evel, and challenge themselves to read and comprehend more advanced text. Second, and just as important, students should read for pleasure.

Pleasure reading can be done at any level and students should strive for fluency and enjoyment. Encourage them to choose their own materials and read something every day. Easier books help readers gain background vocabulary, and also help emerging readers build confidence. Even as an adult I can still learn something from the Magic School Bus, and enjoy information embedded in the pictures from many Dorling Kindersley texts.

Finally, provide experiences that can then be transferred into learning. Explore the world and encourage children to never stop wondering, thinking, and dreaming.

* www.lexile.com can help locate books that coincide with readability levels.


# TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2011/2012 SCHOOL YEAR 

## BUS ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULES

Like last year, bus schedules will not be posted at schools. All bus schedules will be mailed out the week of August 14. Please review and contact our office with any discrepancies or if you have not received your child's schedule by August 22.

## TRANSPORTATION FORMS

All transportation forms are available on the Crestwood website. Go to crestwoodschools.org, click on Transportation - locate appropriate form. It is the parents or legal guardian's legal responsibility to ensure supervision for the child before and after they are picked up at their legal residence, alternate bus stop, or collection point.

ALTERNATE BUS STOP FORM (Students who use a sitter or daycare) Alternate Bus Stop forms are only good for the current school year and you must fill out a new Alternate Bus Stop form each year. As always, if you know your arrangements before the end of the school year you can fill out the form and return or fax it to the Transportation office Please return or fax $(330.274 .3706)$ the Alternate Bus Stop form to the transportation office as soon as possible, but no later then July 31, 2011. Allow three (3) business days to process your request.

## ENDING ALTERNATE BUS STOP FORM

(Students who use a sitter or daycare)
You must submit this Ending Alternate Bus Stop Form to the Transportation office if you choose to end an Alternate Bus Stop request that is currently on file. Once your ending form is processed your student is automatically added back to the Bus Route to and from their legal residence unless another Alternate Bus Stop Form is turned in for processing. All forms once completed can be brought to the transportation office, schools, or faxed to 330.274 .3706 . Allow three
(3) business days to process your request.

## JUNIOR/SENIOR REGISTRATION TO REGISTER YOUR 11/12 JUNIOR OR SENIOR FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION

If you have a junior or senior that will be riding the school bus for the $11 / 12$ school year as always. Juniors and seniors must register for bussing. Look for the 11/12 junior - senior bus registration form to come with your sophomore or junior's end of the year report card. Please return or fax (330.274.3706) the junior - senior bus registration form to the transportation office as soon as possible, but no later than July 31, 2011. Allow five (5) business days to process your request.

## how bus passes are issued and what info is needed

As always bus passes are issued on an emergency basis only. Approval is issued from the building administrator, secretary, or transportation office. A detailed note must be sent or a phone call to the school office from the parent or guardian with all pertinent information to have a bus pass issued. Information needed: Name, GR., Reason, Bus \#, and Name and Address of person at emergency stop. Sleepovers, parties, school projects, carpooling, evening groups, clubs or lessons etc. are not considered an emergency and will not be authorized. If your emergency arises after school hours and will affect the morning route please contact the transportation office at 330.274.2776. Feel free to leave a message. Bus passes will be monitored for abuse.

If you plan to stop in after the last day of school, our summer hours vary so please call ahead. (330.274.2776)

## Health Department Responds to State Immunization Requirement

Holds Community-based Tdap Clinics

The Portage County Health Department (PCHD) would like to remind all parents of current sixth-grade students that when they enter seventh grade this fall, their children will be required by Ohio law to have a combination shot of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine, otherwise known as Tdap. The Portage County Health Department is holding communitybased Tdap clinics to help parents meet the state requirement. Proof of immunization should be sent to the school nurse to add to their health record. Students whose "shots" are not up to date should be excluded from school after 14 days.

## Why Tdap is Important

"This vaccine protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis also known as whooping cough. It's good to have protection against tetanus in case of puncture wounds. Diphtheria and pertussis pose great respiratory risks. Pertussis is a mild illness with a lingering cough in adults; however it can be severe and possibly deadly in infants and unimmunized children. Portage County Health Department has continued to see incidences of pertussis in the community in both children and adults," said Director of Nursing, Rosemary Ferraro.

## Community Tdap Clinics

Along with the seventh-grade requirement of Tdap, the CDC also recommends that parents and caregivers of infants 6 months and younger should receive a booster dose of Tdap. The health department will hold five community-based Tdap clinics in the month of May to help meet these recommendations and requirements. The Tdap shot for children 18 and younger is $\$ 10$ or no charge if on Medicaid or uninsured/underinsured. The Tdap shot for adults 19 and over is $\$ 50$ or no charge if a parent or caregiver of an infant 6 months or younger. Cash or checks made out to the Portage County Health Department will be accepted. These are the closest immunization sites to


UOSITM


Wednesday, May 11
TBA Awards Assembly Home
8:15AM Boys Varsity Tennis To 8:15AM Boys Varsity Tennis Tourn @ Boardman H.S. Away
3:30PM Boys/Girls Varsity Track PTC Pre Lims @ Ravenna Away

Thursday, May 12
TBA Boys/Girls Middle School Track PTC MEET @ STANTON Away
4:30PM Girls Varsity Softball East Canton Home
4:30PM Girls JV Softball East Canton Away
Friday, May 13
3:30PM Boys/Girls Varsity Track PTC Finals @ Ravenna Away
Saturday, May 14
11:00AM Boys Freshman Baseball St. Vincent-St. Mary H.S.
Home
7:00PM PROM Away
Monday, May 16
4:15PM Boys Varsity Baseball Field Home
4:15PM Boys JV Baseball Field Away
4:15PM Girls Varsity Softball Field Home
4:15PM Girls JV Softball Field Away
Tuesday, May 17

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4:15PM Girls Varsity Softball Field Away
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Wednesday, May 18
7:00PM Senior Class Awards Home
Thursday, May 19
4:00PM Boys/Girls Varsity Track Pymatuning Valley Away
Friday, May 20
TBA Pops Concert Home
Saturday, May 21
TBA Pops Concert Home

Tuesday, May 24
TBA Band Concert Home
Monday, May 02
4:15PM Boys Varsity Baseball Southeast Home
4:15PM Boys JV Baseball Southeast Away
4:15PM Girls Varsity Softball Southeast Home
4:15PM Girls JV Softball Southeast Away
4:30PM Boys Varsity Tennis Norton Away
Tuesday, May 03
4:15PM Boys Varsity Baseball Southeast Away
4:15PM Boys JV Baseball Southeast Home
4:15PM Girls Varsity Softball Southeast Away
4:15PM Girls JV Softball Southeast Home
4:30PM Boys/Girls Varsity Track Norton and Crestwood @ Kent Away
Wednesday, May 04
8:00AM Boys Varsity Tennis PTC Tourn @ Ravenna Away 4:00PM Boys/Girls Middle School Track Coventry Home
4:30PM Boys Freshman Baseball Field Home
Thursday, May 05
4:15PM Boys Varsity Tennis Aurora Away 4:30PM Girls Varsity Softball Waterloo Away
4:30PM Girls JV Softball Waterloo Home
Friday, May 06
 Saturday, May 07
9:00AM Boys/Girls Varsity Track Woodridge Invitational Away 11:00AM Boys Varsity Baseball Timken (DH Game 1) Home 11:00AM Boys JV Baseball Timken @ Cook Park (2 games) Away 11:00AM Boys Freshman Baseball Woodridge (DH Game 1) Away 1:00PM Boys Varsity Baseball Timken (DH Game 2) Home
Monday, May 09
4:00PM Boys/Girls JV Track Woodridge Away 4:15PM Boys Varsity Baseball Coventry Away
4:15PM Boys JV Baseball Coventry Home
4:15PM Girls Varsity Softball Coventry Away
4:15PM Girls JV Softball Coventry Home
4:30PM Boys Varsity Tennis North (Akron) Home
Tuesday, May 10
4:15PM Boys Varsity Baseball Coventry Home
4:15PM Boys JV Baseball Coventry Away
4:15PM Girls Varsity Softball Coventry Home
4:15PM Girls JV Softball Coventry Away

## High School . . .

## Attention Senior Parents!

There are a few spots still open for Senior Parent Page Ads. This is a great way to personalize your senior's yearbook. The ad space will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. As soon as we sell out of space, we will not be able to make more. The Parent Page order form was sent home earlier this month with all senior students, is available in room 116 at the high school, and is also available at the Mr. Pavelek's teacher website. Please contact Mr. Pavelek (330-274-2214 x 416) with any questions.

## CHS STUDENTS \& ATHLETES OF THE MONTH - MARCH



Back Row: Joe Monroe (Wrestling), Mallory Lorence (10th), Talia Cobb (11th), Kyle Vertoch (12th)
Front Row: Rachel Quesenberry (9th), Sarah Brugmann (12th) Not Pictured: Olivia Phillips (Track)


## Crestwood High School Students Go to France

Eight CHS French students traveled to France over spring break. They spent a few days in the castle country of the Loire Valley before heading to Paris for the rest of their week abroad. Students were able to use their French language skills to order food at restaurants, make purchases in stores and converse with French people that they met.

Culturally, they saw and experienced a range of sights, like biking through the Loire Valley, going to the top of the Eiffel Tower, and seeing the Mona Lisa at the Louvre museum.

Junior Jocelyn Pearce commented about the trip, "It has opened my eyes to a different culture, and I will be a lot more sympathetic to those in the U.S. that are not native."

Junior April Sike reported, "It makes me want to go back to France, and helped me realize that it is possible and real to go to other countries and be able to fit in there."

The trip was supported in part by a grant from the Maison Française de Cleveland, an organization in Cleveland that supports development of FrancoAmerican relations. Plans are under way to return to France with a student group in 2013.
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# High \& Middle School . . . 

## Crestwood Art Students Shine at the Portage County Art Show

## High School Students Place in Every Category Entered

Crestwood Middle School and High School students fared well at the Portage County Art Show. This show gives all the county schools a chance to "strut their artistic stuff" and come together as a group that values the visual arts.
"We love to see what students are making in other schools as well as to show off our own talents," said Patty Eskridge, Middle School Art Teacher. "As enjoyable as the show is, it is always difficult to choose just 15 pieces of art, the middle school limit, when so many of our Crestwood students are very artistically talented."

This years contestants at the middle school level were:
$6^{\text {th }}$ graders
Alyssa Blake Michael Piccone Emily Urban Jessica Hand
$7^{\text {th }}$ graders Jarek Manners Sydney Nemec Nicole Hocevar Courtney Capel Cate McSwain
$8^{\text {th }}$ graders Brandon Johnson David Hill Leannah Francis Amber Gibbons Rosalie Novotny Stephen Cox


Jarek, Nicole, Rosalie, Amber, Alyssa and Michael all

## Intermediate School . . .



Hands On Math

Third grade math students are learning about three dimensional figures. They are learning to identify these solid figures by their faces, edges, and vertices. In Mrs. Vacca's classroom, students constructed three dimensional figures using mini marshmallows and toothpicks. Students looked at a model and then replicated it with ease. Students were then required to identify, count and label the parts of their figure. Students built cubes, rectangular prisms and the pyramids. Hands-on-math is an exciting way to learn!

## Medieval Times Visit Intermediate School

Mrs. Pochedly's, Mrs. Komoff's and Mrs. Patton's class recently completed a unit on the Middle Ages. Students read Romeo and Juliet and wrote informative reports on a topic of their choice. They also created shields, castles, masks, dioramas and weapons. The culminating activity was a medieval feast.


Students volunteered to entertain the "king and queen" by singing, playing a musical instrument and performing card tricks. A hearty meal of stew, fruits, pudding and bread was provided by parents.


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Crestwood Lil' Red Devils Football \& Cheerleading A member of the Western Reserve Youth Football League
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Ages 8-9 (J.V. Division, 120\# Max) Ages 10-11-12 (Varsity Division, 140\# Max)
Cheerleading Ages 6-12 (Age as of May 1, 2011) Season will start August 1st and runs through the end of October Registration is \$120 • Bring a COPY of your child's Birth Certificate. Questions? Please call Scott Vyhnal (330) 858-9597 Cheerleading Questions? Call jill Schreckengost at 330-281-8635 or Genelle Dunfee at 330-761-1013


Pictured are students from Miss Harr's and Mrs. Crowe's classes, Luke Conaway, Allison Wesley, Rebecca Scotton, Jacob Leister, Gracie Schweickert, and Kyle Sanderson

## Primary School . . .

## Students Learn Geography Skills Through Literature

First graders are learning many interesting facts in Social Studies. They read a story titled Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. It is about a boy named Stanley who gets smashed by a falling bulletin board. He travels in an envelope across the United States. Each first grader made their own Flat Stanley and mailed them to a special friend or relative. Students learned about mapping skills and the United States as each Flat Stanley returned from his adventures. Many thanks to all the families who helped make this project successful.



## April Showers Bring May Flowers at CPS

Students in Miss Lacko's room were extra excited about the arrival of rain showers and warmer weather. This meant they could begin their lessons on planting! Students had a lot of fun learning what plants need to have in order to grow, and problem solving some of the crazy things that could happen to our plants. The most fun was when we got to plant Painted Daisy's in our very own pots!!


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