

# intercom

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Superintendent

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## Wogaman neighborhood prepares for new school

Community members in the Wogaman neighborhood will see their vision for the future take shape in the months to come, as demolition makes way for groundbreaking and new school construction.

The former Wogaman school, which closed last June, fell to the wrecking ball on January 28, following brief remarks by school officials, who recognized the work of the planning committee for a new school that will serve students in prekindergarten through eighth grade on the 2716 Germantown Street site.

Issue 4, approved overwhelmingly by the district voters in November 2002, provides the local 39-percent share for building demolition and

new construction or renovation. The state funds the remaining 61 percent.

"We are grateful to the neighborhood residents, parents, business lead-

*(continued on page 3)*



Deputy Superintendent Debra Brathwaite addresses media and community residents during a winter press conference before Wogaman is demolished. Dayton Board of Education member Tony Hill looks on while John Carr, chief construction officer, displays the plans for the new Wogaman school.

## Sky is limit for Colonel White academy students

Any first-grader can appreciate the fun of a balloon launch; but for the students in Colonel White's Academic Magnet Academy, it's a lot of hard work. AMA students will prepare for the next four months to launch a single weather balloon that, once set aloft, will rise 100,000 feet into the atmosphere with a short-wave radio and a payload of experiments.

*(continued on page 5)*



DPS science instructor John Smith talks with students, who apply principles they have learned to test the buoyancy of a helium balloon. Students are gaining the knowledge and skill to launch a weather balloon with a payload of class experiments in May.



## From the desk of the Superintendent



From all accounts, our second annual READING Jamboree was a huge success. It was exciting to see so many parents and students filling the Great Hall in Sinclair's Ponitz Center to take advantage of the family activities and book giveaways. We estimate that nearly 4,500 students and their families stopped by to see our school displays, hear our authors and performing groups, or visit our school and community exhibits.

Just as we began February with a celebration, we ended the month on February 29 with a rally to reaffirm our confidence in our students as they prepare for the Ohio Proficiency Test. Commendations go to all those who contributed to the success of our district's first Proficiency Rally. Our students displayed their multitude of talents as they shared messages in song, entertained us with cheers and raps, and reached out through inspirational speeches to help their fellow students develop an "I Know I Can" attitude. Remarks from Mayor Rhine McLin and Sinclair Community College President Steven Johnson also helped to set the tone and show our students and their families that we want all of our young people to be successful. It is my hope that this rally will be the first of many more and that our effort—and our success—will grow with each event.

There is much more in store for our students and their families as we plan a high school fair on March 11 and plan for a parent academy in the spring. I urge you to share the excitement with your friends and colleagues. Add to that the excitement of breaking ground this spring for the first of our new preK-8 neighborhood schools.

If you know a family who is deciding where to send their children to school next year, let them know that great things are happening in Dayton Public Schools.

Percy A. Mack, Ph.D.  
Superintendent,  
Dayton Public Schools

## Dayton students win savings bonds by letting freedom ring

Five Dayton Public Schools students were congratulated after they delivered their thoughts on the theme of "I have a dream: strengthening the vision 40 years later" at the Dayton Public Schools Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Contest.

First-place winner Kristin Myers-Young received a \$100 savings bond. She is a Roth eighth-grader and she is a member of the Student Council and Youth for Justice.

Lynnsey Jones, second-place winner, earned a \$50 savings bond. The Fairview eighth-grader enjoys writing, reading and singing.

Wilbur Wright eighth-grader Marcellaus Edwards placed third, receiving a \$25 savings bond. The football player is on the yearbook staff and in the choir.

Eighth-graders Jessica Simmons of Kiser and Morgan Hood of Stivers received fourth-place, each winning a \$25 savings bond.

Hood, a previous third-place winner in the "Save the Earth" poem contest, plays the flute and guitar.

Simmons is a cheerleader and a member of the Astronauts Club, Student Senate, Student Council and National Honor Society. A member of the Honor Roll, she is also a participant in the Young Scholars Program.

Central State University also presented each winner with a trophy and gift bag.

Judges of the competition included CSU faculty and staff, representatives of the local media, and members of the Race and Reconciliation Dialogue Group. Tierra Days, vice president of the Superintendent's Student Senate, was the mistress of ceremonies.



*Martin Luther King Oratorical contest winners Lynnsey Jones, Marcellaus Edwards and Kristin Myers-Young (left to right) proudly display their trophies.*



# Experiments unveiled at science fair

Young scientists and inventors gathered at Jackson Center on February 21 for the district's annual Science Fair/Invention Convention, "Science Exploration Makes a World of Difference."

Young scientists and inventors lined the halls at Jackson Center bright and early, awaiting a visit from the judges and the opportunity to explain their projects. Each stu-

dent applied the scientific method to his or her project and was responsible for documentation of the process and results. Entries ranged from earthworms to glaciers—and everything in between.

"Many exemplary projects were on display and our students did a fantastic job of explaining their projects to the judges," said Carolyn Day, director of math and science

for the district. Approximately 70 judges from the community and DPS participated in the event.



Above, Franklin third-grader Erica Brewer proudly displays her award for her project, "Pulse Indicators."

*The following students in the grades one through three category received awards for their entries in the 2004 Invention Convention:*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

School: Orville Wright  
Student: Angela Terry  
Title: The Umbrella Pack  
Teacher: Marie Ciolek  
Grade: 2

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

School: Franklin  
Student: Erica Brewer  
Title: Pulse Indicators  
Teacher: Patricia York  
Grade: 3

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

School: Valerie  
Student: Charlette Hunt  
Title: The Hat That Does All That  
Teacher: Connie Miles  
Grade: 2

## Wogaman prepares for new school

*(continued from page 1)*

ers, and educators who have committed their time and talents to the needs of our students and who have worked with our architects over the last year to create a new vision for the Wogaman neighborhood," said DPS Deputy Superintendent Debra Brathwaite.

Wogaman Elementary School, built in 1929, served Dayton students for nearly 75 years but lost its place as a neighborhood school when court-ordered desegregation began in 1976.

"With the end of the court order in 2001, Dayton's new schools will once again become neighborhood anchors, proudly serving local residents with up-to-date classrooms for students and meeting spaces for community activities beyond the school day," said Dayton Board of Education Vice President and Facilities Committee Chair Tony Hill.

Members of the site committee were on hand to mark the beginning of a new era for their neighborhood and their school.

"We hate to lose our Wogaman," said DPS teacher Elaine Fenton. "But I'm glad to be part of the new design effort."

Local business owner Clarence Bowman Jr. was pleased to see that a number of citizens' suggestions for the school design were considered by the architects and represented in the schematic design.

Neighborhood resident and site committee member Craig Powell said he "appreciated the opportunity, as a community member, to have some input and some inside information as to how the new building was going to work on the current site."

Nancy Garcia, who taught at Wogaman for 15 years until it closed last June, felt a "sense of community" working with the site committee and gained new appreciation for the Wogaman's history. "I was excited to see how [the architects] could take the site and change it to build a new school there. The architects listened to us."

Glenda Roberts, vice president of

the Plainview Neighborhood Association, enjoyed her experience on the site committee and invited her neighbors to attend the demolition. "There were very few questions when the architects explained the process to us," said Roberts. "They did a thorough job."

Dunbar physical education teacher Gail Miller, who attended Wogaman as a student and taught there briefly, was pleased that designers took note of her suggestions to design the school around the needs of students and staff.

Groundbreaking for the new Wogaman is scheduled to begin by early fall of 2004. The new preK-8 school is scheduled open its doors to students in 2006.

Wogaman is one of seven schools to be constructed in the first segment of the district's 10-year, \$627 million construction program. Segment one will include four preK-8 schools, two new high schools (serving grades 9-12), and renovations and additions to Stivers (7-12).



## Dayton Art Institute honors DPS teacher



*Standing next to a plaque bearing her name, Virginia Burroughs (right) displays the hand-blown glass bowl she received from the Dayton Art Institute for being the 2004 Pamela P. Houk Award for Excellence in Art Education recipient.*

The Dayton Art Institute has selected Dayton Public Schools teacher Virginia Burroughs as the recipient of the museum's fourth annual Pamela P. Houk Award for Excellence in Art Education. The award recognizes individuals in the Miami Valley who provide excellence and innovation in art education.

As the teacher coordinator of the New Visions Museum at Edison Elementary School, Burroughs developed a program for Dayton Public Schools called *The Latin American Exhibition*. The purpose of the initiative was to expose DPS first- and fourth-grade students and their teachers to the art and culture of Latin America. Burroughs organized an exhibition and compiled a handbook of classroom activities to assist educators in developing follow-up projects for their students.

"Virginia Burroughs has made students and faculty more aware of the history, influences and rich artistic value of the Latin American culture," said Alex Nyerges, director and CEO of The Dayton Art Institute. "She has also provided Latino students and staff with a sense of pride and an opportunity to share their culture with their peers. By using the visual arts as a vehicle to create a positive experience for students, Burroughs has planted the seeds for a continuing appreciation and understanding of the Latin American arts and culture that will remain with these students for years to come."

Nominated by Joyce Cannarozzi, teacher coordinator of Edison's Who Am I Museum, Burroughs was also recommended for the award by Mike Shaffer, associate director of fine arts, and local artist Bing Davis. Burroughs received a hand-blown glass bowl designed by glass artist Peter Houk and her name was added to a plaque located in the Experienter, an interactive gallery for children and families.

Burroughs previous honors include being named the Secondary Language Arts Teacher of the Year in 1993-1994 and was one of 14 Ohio photographers featured in the Image Ohio exhibition in Columbus in 1999. She earned a master's degree in humanities from Wright State University and teacher certification in art, humanities and social psychology from the University of Dayton.

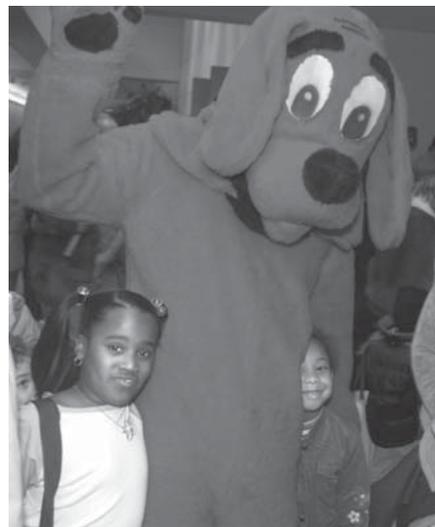
"One of the ironic factors that make this award so special to me is that Pam Houk worked at the DPS Living Arts Center, where she developed the Who Am I? Museum before she went to DAI and developed the Experienter," said Burroughs, a DPS teacher of 27 years.

The Experienter, an area of the DAI designed with the thought that people learn more effectively and gain a better understanding of the creative process by being actively involved, provides both formal and informal learning activities for children and their families. Pamela Houk originated and served as curator of the Experienter for 23 years. In appreciation of Houk's achievements, The Dayton Art Institute created the Pamela P. Houk Award for Excellence in Art Education. The award is presented to individuals who have successfully planned, implemented, managed and evaluated a program that has contributed to the advancement of art education in the Miami Valley. Nominees must work within a 100-mile radius of Dayton, and the program or initiative must be no less than 18 months and no more than five-years-old.

## Reading Jamboree is success



*Students take time out to examine their new books and other goodies at the second annual DPS Reading Jamboree. The event, planned in partnership with Project READ, drew an estimated 4,500 children and families.*



*Clifford, the Big Red Dog, was one of the storybook characters that came to life, much to the delight of young readers at this year's Jamboree.*



*Superintendent Percy Mack pauses for a photo with some of the event's young attendees. Free food, family activities, parent sessions, and exhibits kept visitors occupied throughout the day.*



# Sky is limit for Colonel White academy students

(continued from page 1)

Seventy-six AMA students gathered at Jackson Science and Math Center on February 11 and 12 for the first of four monthly hands-on enrichment sessions to prepare for the big event in May. The students are working in two teams, the Latitude Team and the Longitude Team.

Lessons taught during the first enrichment session included Archimedes' principal of buoyancy and an overview of the age in which the scientist/mathematician lived. Before the culminating balloon launch, students conducted experiments to test the principles they had studied.

Down the hall, the other team focused on world maps and the history of map making through research on the internet. In that first session, the students began to develop the skills necessary to track and record the latitude and longitude of balloon recovery locations.

At the end of the sessions the teams came together to release dozens of red, white and blue balloons into the winter sky with tags instructing the finders to contact the Colonel White AMA. The students will be tracking the locations of the balloon recoveries as a dress rehearsal for tracking and mapping their launch in May.

During the unit, students will propose and develop their own class experiments, which must fit into half of a ping pong ball to be carried by the weather balloon. (Students may want to investigate, for example, the effects of altitude on a seed.)

The class must then calculate the balloon's lift capabilities, based on the weight of the experiments, and apply lessons learned about velocity and buoyancy. Teams will also compile and analyze data to track the hot air balloon, which could travel from 40 to 100 miles from the launch site.

The students will continue to study everything from Archimedes to Apollo 13. The "Air Mail" study unit integrates science, math, language arts, and social studies and is team-taught by DPS teachers, in partnership with Augustus Morris, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Central State University Department of Manufacturing and Engineering.

Members of the DPS teaching team are Sylvia Moyer (math), John Mitchell (technology), John Smith (science), Traci Davis (language arts), and Sharon Goins (social studies). Program organizers are Shirley Cooper, associate director secondary math, and Cassie Marshall, secondary science resource teacher.



Chris Hartley

It's not unusual to hear that a radio personality has passed a station's Transmitter Qualification Test, a test with 100 essay questions that you can retake only twice, which covers FCC rules and regulations and Emergency Alert Systems procedures.

It's not unusual for the radio operations director at WHIO, the largest market radio station in the Miami Valley, to work a 16-hour weekend alone, having no one to rely on but himself if something goes wrong.

But it is unusual for that person to have accomplished all this when he is only 18 years old.

Patterson Career Center senior, Chris "Hippie" Hartley, has done all of this, and so much more.

Since the third-grade at Kemp Elementary, Hartley has dreamed of becoming a radio disc jockey. While his friends were reading "Goosebumps" stories, Hartley was reading books on radio engineering.

"I didn't understand half of what I was reading," Harley explained, "but I thought it sounded interesting and I became familiar with it. At night, I would make paper radio stations, listen to the radio, and pretend I was a DJ."

As Hartley prepared for high school, the staff at Patterson Career Center recognized his talent and sent him a letter asking him to attend their school.

Excited to attend the only school in the Miami Valley with a 6,000-watt non-commercial radio station that featured student programming, Hartley decided to attend Patterson. He was certain he made the right decision.

He later became the radio operations director at WDPS, where he programs the station and schedules student workers. Patterson then led him to an internship with WHIO-radio.

When Hartley was a junior, the seniors in the radio and television program were offered internships. Two were offered internships at WHIO, but they turned them down because it was not a paid position. Hartley saw the opportunity and snatched it. Although he wasn't getting a paycheck, he was

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# Superintendent's



## Nomination Form

**GUIDELINES:** The A+ Award recognizes Dayton Public Schools employees whose exemplary performance exceeds what is expected of persons in similar positions.

To nominate someone for this award fill out the form below and attach reasons the nominee deserves the award. Please include specific examples.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a:
- School Employee
  - Student
  - Parent
  - Community Member

For the reasons listed below, I wish to nominate:

\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's title: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's dept/bldg. \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form to:  
Public Information Office, Suite 115  
Attn: Erika Daggett  
115 South Ludlow Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1812



## From the Employee Assistance Program

For at least 10 years or more, companies and managers have been aware of the reality of workplace violence. Most companies have policies and procedures to deal with threats of violence. The U.S. economy and downsizing can worsen this problem. It becomes a challenge for companies and organizations to keep threats like these from escalating into acts that can result in tragedy.

There are two key aspects to the problem of workplace violence: Assessing the likelihood that a person who makes a violent threat could act on it; and responding in ways that defuse the threat while protecting vulnerable people as the company puts in motion appropriate job actions or other protective procedures.

Opening a dialogue in a manner where the individual feels heard and understood is of optimal importance. Communication should be an important assessment and defusing component of the organization's Threat Response Team's tool kit.

Here's a good standard operating procedure in response to workplace violence:

- use a multi-disciplinary team approach for threat management using trained and skilled people
- think actions through. What will you do if (exactly) if the subject escalates the situation? Think tactically if you have decided to fire him or her. What room will you use? Who should be present? Should security be alerted and nearby? Cover all "what if" questions.
- document your decisions and actions in a defensible manner and maintain those records through the direction of your attorney.

Finally, you cannot prevent disturbed people from making threats of violence. However, you can carefully analyze the nature of every threat and the propensity to violence of everyone who makes a threat. If you do this, you can prevent disaster and preserve your organization's three most important assets – your people, your finances and your reputation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

Priscilla Loba  
Employee Assistance Program Coordinator

*"Workplace Violence – Assessing and defusing clear and present danger"* by Bruce T. Blythe and Terri Butler Stivarius.



# Retiree dinner scheduled

The Superintendent's Retiree Recognition Dinner will be held May 24 at 6:00 p.m. in Building 12 on the Sinclair Community College campus.

For retirees to be recognized at this dinner, they must submit a letter of intent to the human resources office by April 30. Otherwise, the retirement will not be recognized until next year's event. The letter should be addressed to:

**Ed Sweetnich**  
**Human Resources**  
**Administration Building**

Tickets are available through the human resources office for those wishing to attend the dinner, but who are not retiring.

For further information, call human resources at 542-3135.

# Proficiency rally debuts



*Dunbar High School choir members lead the audience in a chorus of "I Know I Can" at the district's first Proficiency Rally on February 29. The event drew more than 300 people to Sinclair's Ponitz Center, where students and community leaders gave a big vote of confidence to students who will be taking the Ohio Proficiency Tests in March.*

# SOUNDBITES

- Dayton Public Schools closings and school delays due to weather conditions are based on concern for the safety of students and staff. If a winter storm is developing, transportation, operations, safety and security, and other departments work together to make a decision on the safety of road conditions by checking with the National Weather Service and with local forecasters. After conferring with operations to see if schools can be accessed in time for a normal school opening, a course of action will be recommend to the superintendent. If schools are delayed or closed, transportation will notify RTA of the decision.
- On March 26, April 23, and May 28, Dayton Public Schools employees and their families can have their blood pressure checked on the Mobile Health Unit, parked outside of the Administration Building from 9 a.m. until noon. Blood pressure checks are free and staff will be on-hand to offer tips on how to keep your blood pressure at the correct level. For more information, call Mobile Health Programs at 542-3255.
- Brandon George, a senior at Stivers, recently had the honor of playing a concert at Carnegie Hall in New York. George, who plays flute and piccolo, was one of only 77 high school and college students nationwide selected for the eighth annual National Festival Orchestra. Now planning for graduation, George is applying to the Chicago College of Performing Arts, Ohio State University and Oberlin College.
- On St. Patrick's Day (March 17), DPS Radio (WDPS 89.5 FM) will present an special day of programming devoted to Irish music. "A Right Song & Dance: Soundtrack for St. Patrick's Day" will begin at 9:15 a.m. and will end at 4:30 p.m and will consist of traditional and contemporary Irish music. WDPS DJ's Bill Flint and Mike Reisz regularly host "A Right Song & Dance" every Friday from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.
- DPS graduation dates are as follows:
 

June 1	Stivers	7 p.m.
June 2	Belmont	7 p.m.
June 3	Meadowdale	7 p.m.
June 4	Dunbar	7 p.m.
June 5	Patterson	10 a.m.
June 5	Colonel White	3 p.m.
June 5	Adult Basic Education	7 p.m.
- The January-February *Intercom* contest question was, "Which DPS building is the oldest and how old is it?" Sargeant Rice from Greene Academy gave the correct answer of "Longfellow," which was built in 1882. The next question is: *Name one of the two DPS employees who were selected as one of the 2004 Top Ten African-American Males by Parity, Inc.* The first person to call the Public Information Office at 542-3052, with the correct answer, will win a DPS prize package. Calls will be accepted beginning March 15 at 10:00 a.m. and should be directed to Erika Daggett, *Intercom* editor.



## Class Act

(continued from page 5)

meeting all the on-air personalities, and working in the WHIO studios.

WHIO management took notice of Hartley, and his internship led to a paid position at the station, while still a high school student. Hartley is the youngest paid employee at WHIO, the youngest employee to pass the station's Transmitter Qualification Test, and he is in charge of monitoring K-99, The Point, WZLR and WHIO.

Yet, with all he has accomplished, Hartley remains grounded.

"Patterson changed my whole life," claimed Hartley. "It's a great place to start if you want to go into radio and TV. Everyone helps you get an internship and experience. I'd do anything for my teachers. They did everything for me."

Now, as Hartley prepares for his high school graduation, he must plan his next step.

"I'm going to Wright State University to earn a degree in mass communication and a minor in business administration. Hopefully, I can stay at WHIO and eventually be hired full-time."

These are dreams that are attainable for the 18-year-old who is used to hard work. In addition to his WDPS radio and WHIO responsibilities, he is an honor roll student, works at the Dayton Metro Library, and has been playing drums for eight years.

"Hard work gets you what you want. If you are willing to learn everything you can, stay longer hours, talk to teachers and do whatever you can, you'll get where you want to go," stated Hartley. "People that slack off in life will live pay check to pay check for the rest of their lives. I want to start building my future now. I don't want to end up lost in life. I want to know where I'm going and how I will end up."

According to his teacher Mike Reisz, Hartley will end up accomplishing whatever he sets his mind to. "He is one of the most goal-oriented students I have come across in 26 years of teaching."



## Important Dates

- MAR 1-12** Ninth-grade Proficiency Tests
- MAR 8** Kindergarten Registration begins  
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Administration Building, Student Assignment Office
- MAR 8-26** Fourth- and sixth-grade Proficiency Tests
- MAR 9** Dayton Board of Education finance committee meeting  
6:00 p.m., Jackson Center
- MAR 10** Dayton Board of Education business meeting  
6:00 p.m., Jackson Center, Auditorium
- MAR 11** Student Senate meeting  
11:00 a.m., Jackson Center, Room 120
- MAR 18** Dayton Board of Education/City of Dayton meeting  
10:00 p.m., Jackson Center
- MAR 24-  
APR 9** Spring Intersession  
Year-round school students not in attendance
- MAR 30** Dayton Board of Education Ohio School Facilities Commission meeting  
6:00 p.m., Jackson Center
- APR 5** Dayton Board of Education policy committee meeting  
7:30 a.m., Administration Building, 3N400
- APR 9** Good Friday  
Administrative offices closed
- APR 9-16** Spring Break  
Traditional school students not in attendance
- MAY 10** Superintendent's Middle and High School Scholars Reception  
6:00 p.m., Sinclair Community College, Building 12, Great Hall
- MAY 17** Superintendent's Elementary Scholars Reception  
6:00 p.m., Dayton Convention Center
- MAY 24** Retiree Dinner  
6:00 p.m., Sinclair Community College, Building 12

For a full district calendar, visit the DPS website:

[www.dps.k12.oh.us](http://www.dps.k12.oh.us)

All dates subject to change.

