

CONTINENTAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

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March, 2013

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Elementary Students Complete Bottle Cap Mural

In just five afternoons, Continental Elementary School art students collaborated on creating a 96-square-foot Monet-inspired bottle cap mural using around 13,000 bottle caps. For the last five months, students have collected bottle caps of all colors and sizes and saved them in boxes in the art room. Art teacher, Jennifer Hopps, drew the mural on birch plywood and a few high school students helped paint it. Elementary students then filled in all of the areas with bottle caps, according to what color the mural was painted.



When all of the bottle caps were placed in the correct spots, they were glued down using construction adhesive. Students began working on Monday afternoon with the first class of the day, and where they left off the next class took over. This went on with every class until the entire mural was finished.



There were three separate wood panels set up with groups of 5 to 8 students working on each panel at a time. This way, all students in a given class were kept busy during the entire project. The mural was designed to decorate a wall in the elementary cafeteria and involved all students creating artwork out of recyclable materials.

Thank you to everyone who saved bottle caps. You can see the mural at our first annual Continental Spring Art Show on Friday, April 26, from 4:30pm-7:00pm, in the elementary cafeteria!

Three Students to Participate at District Science Fair

Eighth grade students recently competed in the Putnam County Science Fair. Two students received a “Superior” rating – Kelsey Miller and Ashley Mansfield. Several students received “Excellent” ratings for their projects. They include: Jaylen Arme, Briley Collier, Alec Murphy, Kacie Quigley, Wade Stauffer, Tyler Vogt, and Melody Weaver.

The county also recognized several students with special awards. Kelsey Miller received the “Perfect Score Award,” Ty Johnson received the “Blanchard River Water Quality Award,” Paige Lawhorn received the “Outstanding Water Quality Award”, Deborah Shepard received the “Veterinary Award,” and Jacob Williams received the “Outstanding Medical Award.”

Paige Lawhorn, Kelsey Miller, and Ashley Mansfield will be competing at the District Science Fair at Ohio Northern University on Saturday, March 23. Good luck to them!

Governor's School Funding Proposal Leaves Many with Unanswered Questions

Prior to releasing his formal biennial budget proposal, Ohio Governor John Kasich met with superintendents from around the state to give them a preview of what that budget might look like. He stated during the speech, "This is not hard to figure out: If you're poor, you're going to get more. If you are rich, you're going to get less. If you have gifted students, you're going to get more. If you have disabled students, you're going to get more." However, when the Kasich administration's school funding proposal was released it outlined a distribution nearly opposite to what the governor had stated.

60% of Ohio's school districts are scheduled to receive NO additional funds. This includes the poorest districts in Ohio's Appalachian counties – the one's who filed the initial lawsuit against the state that ultimately declared Ohio's school funding "Unconstitutional." It also includes every district in Putnam County, and most in Northwest Ohio. So once again, the state has refused to address the issue of how school funding discriminates against low-wealth districts such as ours.

The governor's proposal also does not make up for the money that was taken away during the current biennial budget. Continental was dealt with the loss of approximately \$560,000 over the last two years. While the current budget proposal doesn't take additional monies away, it doesn't help with the recovery over the last two years.

The other area of concern that we need to keep a watch on is the Guaranteed Funds. These are funds that basically sustain districts that would otherwise lose revenue or state aid. For Continental Schools, this is a large amount of money on the proposed biennial budget. This amounts to roughly \$1.76 million over the next two years. Loss of this money would be very detrimental to our district.

If you look at the current proposal along with the current budget that we are in, I think the governor is saying two things by his budgets. First, his main concern is for highly populated areas throughout the state. Secondly, I feel that the governor is trying to make a push for school consolidation. At first I feel this will be in the form of consolidation of services by schools.

New Concussion Legislation

The governor recently signed into law new legislation dealing with concussions. As a part of this new legislation, parents and student-athletes will be given a "Concussion Information Sheet" for their review. This information was developed by the Ohio Department of Health. Upon reviewing the form, parents and student-athletes will be required to return a signed copy of the form. Additionally, parents and student-athletes are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course.

Upcoming Events

- March 5 – Early Dismissal @ 1 pm
- March 5 – PESO Meeting for Parents (Media Ctr)
- March 11-15 – OGT Testing
 - Elementary Book Fair
 - Right to Read Week
- March 14 – Book Fair Family Night 3:30 – 6:30 pm
- March 18 @ 6:30 pm – Winter Sports Banquet (Auditorium)
- March 22 – Grandparents Day
- March 27 – Elementary Easter Egg Hunt

Elementary Students Celebrate *Random Acts of Kindness Week*

Students at Continental Elementary celebrated "Random Acts of Kindness Week" the week of February 11th. The week had such themes as: "Go Back in Time with Peace and Love," "It's What is on the Inside That Counts," "Be a Superhero and Stand Up for Kindness," "Team Up with Good Sportsmanship," and "Be Warm and Fuzzy to Others." The week was meant to teach the students about promoting kindness to others and randomly doing something kind for other people. Pictured below are some of the students promoting kindness during the week.



First Grade Students Perform Play

First Grade students in Mrs. Krutsch's class recently performed the play called "The Stolen Heart." The story begins with someone stealing the princess' heart and ends happily ever after when her heart is returned. The students also performed "The Money Rap" and "Skid-a marink-a-dink" songs for the audience. Pictured below is the cast of "The Stolen Heart."



Continental Schools Officially Recognized as Excellent

After months of delay due to an on-going investigation by Ohio's Attorney General into attendance practices by schools throughout the state, ODE has finally declared Continental an Excellent District. This marks the third consecutive year for this honor.

It also ranks the district as 173 out of 942 districts based on performance index scores. The high school is ranked 82 out of 911 high schools, the middle school is ranked 378 out of 688, and the elementary is 582 out of 1953.