



Continental Local Schools



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419-596-3671

January, 2016

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Elementary Principal: Tracy Potts

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Respect Needed for Officials

By: Joel Mengerink, Superintendent

One of the many issues facing sports these days is the lack of qualified officials to cover athletic contests. This isn't just a basketball issue, a soccer issue, a football issue, or a baseball issue. It is an issue that encompasses every sport and at all levels of interscholastic athletics.

Men and women choose to don the black and white stripes as a way to stay connected with sports. Not only do officials have a responsibility to know and enforce the rules, as a matter of safety they must also be on the lookout for student-athletes that may be injured as well. Making split-second decisions and judgment calls for an hour or more is not an easy task, nor is it taken lightly by those who choose to become an official. Sure they get paid a nominal paycheck, but remember it is not their full-time job. They are also doing this while sacrificing time away from their families in the evenings and weekends so that these sporting events can take place. Officiating is not an easy job and if you think it is you should give it a try, I have.

Sure officials are an easy target for the reason we lose a game on the scoreboard. Instead of insisting if the official made that one call that they "missed" we would have won the game, try cheering our athletes on more instead. There are literally hundreds of "what if" scenarios during the course of a game that have an impact on the outcome, and its not all just the officials. Athletes and coaches make decisions and perform just as well.

Everyone knows some officials are better than others, just as some coaches are better than others, and some players are better than others. Does it really matter? If you are one of the "better" officials, where are you more likely to return to officiate next year, a place where you were harassed and berated the whole game or a place where the fans just leave you alone and let you do your job – that's an easy one to answer.

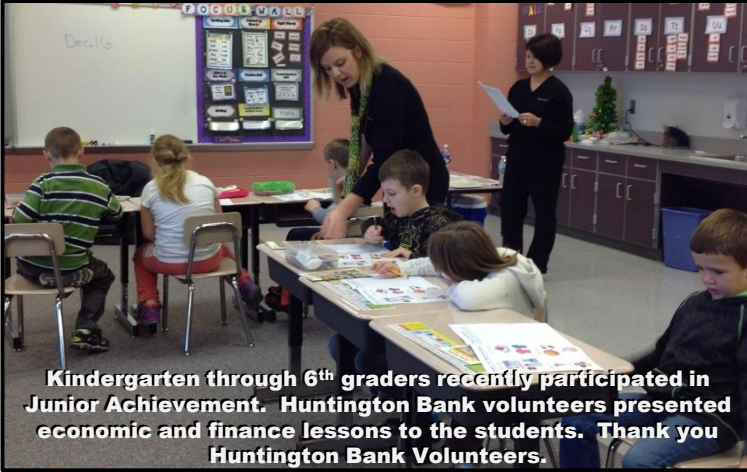
Instead of looking for the negatives and making sure everyone in the gym or on the field knows about it, how about being more positive or encouraging towards those involved. Not everyone in the stands is negative – I have gotten to hear my share of encouraging comments from some fans at games and I love that. Unfortunately it is the negative comments that you hear the loudest.

It seems the days of attending a sporting event to simply cheer on your team have come and gone. Now, spectators seem to feel that paying admission to a contest gives them the authority to berate and verbally abuse anyone involved in the game. This includes not only the officials, but also the players and coaches involved. As adults, we should be setting the example for our students to follow. Unfortunately, the example that we are setting for them is not a positive one in this aspect.

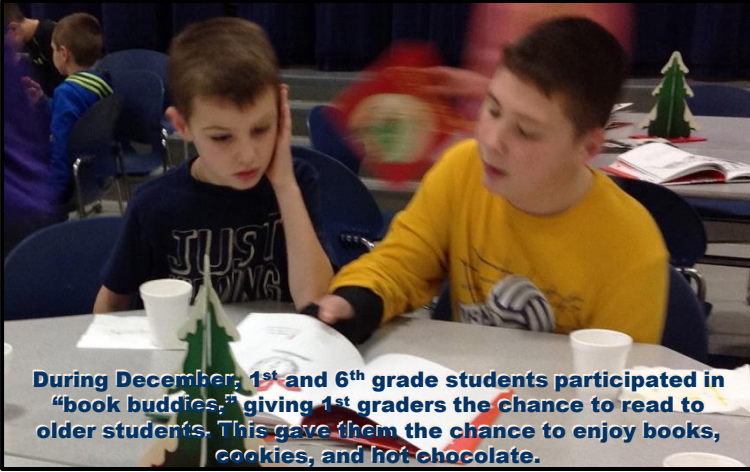
To steal a line from the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), we need to do a better job of respecting everyone involved in athletic contests, and *Respect the Game*.

Happenings Around Continental Local Schools

- 1/4 Classes Resume
- 1/5 Mini-Cheer Camp
- 1/6 Quiz Bowl Home w/OG
- 1/7 Vantage to meet with Sophomores @ 8:15 am
- 1/8 Jr/Sr Meeting w/Rhodes St & Whirlpool
Mini-Cheer Camp
- 1/9 Mini-Cheer Camp/Game
- 1/11 Elementary Before & After School Program Begins
- 1/13 Quiz Bowl @ Miller City
- 1/14 HS Exams – Periods 1-4
- 1/15 HS Exams – Periods 5-8
End of 1st Semester
- 1/18 No School – MLK Day
- 1/19 Jrs – Buckeye Boys/Girls State Presentations
- 1/20 Navy Recruiter @ HS Lunch
Quiz Bowl Home w/Leipsic
- 1/27 Quiz Bowl @ Kalida



Kindergarten through 6th graders recently participated in Junior Achievement. Huntington Bank volunteers presented economic and finance lessons to the students. Thank you Huntington Bank Volunteers.



During December, 1st and 6th grade students participated in "book buddies," giving 1st graders the chance to read to older students. This gave them the chance to enjoy books, cookies, and hot chocolate.

Kindergarten Registration Gets Underway

Kindergarten registration for the 2016-2017 school year is now in full swing. Children must be five years old by September 30, 2016 to be eligible for Kindergarten. Registration forms will be sent home with all students and should be filled out and returned to the elementary office. If you have a child or know someone who is eligible, please have them stop by the elementary office or call 419-596-3860. All students should be registered by March 1, 2016 so students can be assigned a date and time for kindergarten screening.

Students Give in Big Way to Food Drive

Student Councils from the elementary, junior high, and high school sponsored the 9th annual food drive in December. Over the course of a week, students competed against other classes and as a whole building to strive for goals that were established. Between the two buildings, students brought in more than 4,300 goods. Goods included canned foods, paper products, boxed goods, and some personal hygiene products. Items from the food drive were split between the food pantries at the Dupont Church of the Brethren and the Continental United Methodist Church.



Students were in the giving spirit this holiday season as students make a delivery of goods to the local food pantries.

Early Discovery Preschools 2016-2017 Pre-Registration

Early Discovery Preschools operated through the Putnam County Educational Service Center, will begin pre-registration for next school year on February 1, 2016. Early Discovery Preschools are located in the elementary buildings of the following schools: Columbus Grove, Continental, Fort Jennings, Leipsic, and Miller City-New Cleveland.

Beginning February 1st you may call 419-523-5951, press zero and ask for Ann or Marcie to receive your pre-registration form. Due to the size of the program, space is limited.

In accordance with State of Ohio Department of Education, children with disabilities and children who are 3 and 4 years of age from families with limited income (see scale below), will be given priority. Free and reduced fees are available based on family income.

Household Size	Gross Monthly
1	\$1,962 or below
2	\$2,656 or below
3	\$3,348 or below
4	\$4,042 or below
5	\$4,736 or below
6	\$5,428 or below
7	\$6,122 or below

Based on Poverty Guidelines for 2015

Preschool