

# CONTINENTAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

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January, 2013

Joel Mengerink – Superintendent  
Joyce Howell – Supt. Secretary  
Kathleen Schmitz - Treasurer  
Tim Eding – Dean of Students  
Carol Sullivan – HS Secretary  
Deb McIntyre – Guidance  
Marie Bidlack – EMIS/Secretary  
Brian Gerdeman – Elem. Principal  
Vicki Wagner – Elem. Secretary

## ***New Year Brings About Administrative Changes***

Continental Schools is under new leadership as of January 1. Mr. Gary Jones retired as superintendent on December 31 after 40.5 years in education. Mr. Jones' retirement prompted the Continental Board of Education (BOE) to hire Joel Mengerink as his replacement. Mr. Mengerink has served the last five plus years as high school principal. In a move to help save the district money, the BOE decided to combine the superintendent and principal positions. They have also named Mr. Tim Eding as dean of students/athletic director.

Mr. Eding's role as dean of students will deal primarily with discipline related issues, but he will also be responsible for other student related issues. This may include special ed. meetings, working with Vantage, scheduling, etc. Mr. Mengerink's role as principal will mean he is still responsible for teacher evaluations, curriculum, and the oversee the high school building as a whole.

### **COSI on Wheels to Visit Continental Elementary**

COSI on Wheels will be coming again to Continental Elementary on February 26th. This year the theme will be *Exploring Ecology*. Students will get to enjoy an assembly put on by the COSI educational team. The students will then get to enjoy some hands-on science activities. We will be looking for some parent volunteers to help out with the many activities that day. The students will have an enjoyable day learning about science.



### **High School Building Exams to take place January 10-11.**

Students in grades 7-12 are busy preparing for the upcoming end-of-semester exams. These exams will take place on Thursday and Friday, January 10-11. Exams for these students are comprehensive, meaning they will be tested over everything they have learned so far this school year. The same thing will take place at the end of the year for students. Any encouragement you can give your son/daughter to study for exams would be appreciated.

## ***Homecoming Quickly Approaching at CHS***

The 2012-2013 Homecoming festivities will be taking place the first weekend in February. The homecoming dance will take place on Friday night, February 1. Introductions of the court, along with the naming of Queen and King will take place beginning at 6:30 pm in the high school auditorium. Parents and the public are welcome to attend this portion of the dance. The dance itself will begin at 7 pm. The court will be introduced at the game on Saturday night vs. Columbus Grove. Freshmen attendants are Machalei Lowe and Terry Dockery; sophomore attendants are Makenzie Mansfield and Joey Swager; junior attendants are Emily Bowers and Matt Bracken; senior male attendants are Dalton Bradford, Cody Coleman, Tyler Dockery, and Brandon Schmidt; and senior female attendants are Casse Aversch, Sara Deken, Cattie Donaldson, and Vanessa Koppenhofer.

## *Junior & Senior News and Information*

Now is the time for juniors to start taking the ACT. ACT scores influence scholarship and college admission decisions, so students will want to take the test seriously. They may also wish to take it more than once. Seniors should have taken it by now but can still do so in attempting to improve scores. Students may register online for the February 9 test by the January 11 deadline at <http://actstudent.org/>.

Sophomore and junior students will be receiving information in the mail in the next week about an ACT Boot Camp that the county is hosting at the end of January. This one-day event will help prepare students for taking the ACT.

Senior parents should be making plans to attend a Financial Aid Night. This night will give parents the information they need in order to complete the FAFSA for financial aid. Financial Aid personnel will be available to answer questions that you might have. Continental will be hosting a Financial Aid Night on January 24 at 7 pm in the high school media center.

### *News from the Columbus*

Just prior to the Christmas vacation began, Mr. Mengerink and the other school superintendents in Putnam County had the opportunity to travel to Columbus for a meeting with the Governor's Office. They met with Dr. Dick Ross, the Director for the Governor's Office of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education; Barbara Mattei-Smith, the Assistant Policy Director for Education; and Sarah Dove, Ohio's Teacher Liaison between the Governor's Office and the Ohio Department of Education.

During the meeting, the superintendents were enlightened as to some items that will be coming out of the Governor's Office in the near future. They were also able to share some successes and struggles that our schools are facing, and discuss some budget related concerns.

Something that was signed by the Governor about the time of the meeting was Senate Bill 555. This bill changes the rating system for schools from Excellent, Effective, etc. to letter grades (A-B-C-D-F). Most educational leadership venues are warning schools that they will see drastic drops in scores based on the new method being implemented.

## *Penton to Speak to High School Students*

Residents will want to mark their calendars for January 14 at 7 pm. The night will kick off with a concert by Ryan Holliday in the Casteel Auditorium, and then feature Joel Penton as special guest speaker. Joel is recognized as one of the nation's leading youth motivational speakers. Joel will also be speaking to high school students earlier in the day during a school assembly. This will mark Joel's second appearance at Continental High School. He previously spoke to students back during the 2007-2008 school year. Joel is a Van Wert High School graduate and was a member of the Ohio State football team from 2002-2007, capturing three Big Ten Titles and was a member of the National Championship team.

