

# fact\$ *in a backpack*

September 2006

News from West Carrollton Schools ♦ Quality Schools, Quality Community

Welcome to the new *fact\$*! West Carrollton Schools launched *FACT\$: Fiscal Accountability and Communication for Taxpayers* in January 2004. Our primary goal remains unchanged. We want to communicate CANDIDLY with you about district finances. Got a question about money? Send it in and we will answer it.

If you've been receiving *FACT\$* by email or U.S. Mail, you still will! If you haven't been receiving *FACT\$*, welcome! The reinvented *fact\$* will be appearing in your student's backpack or newsletter each month.

Oh, and those letters -- they can stand for lots of things. Fiscal Accountability and Communication for Taxpayers is fine but so is Finances: Accessible, Candid and True. The bottom line is, we're giving you *fact\$*. Let us know what you think and send us your questions!

## School lunch costs subsidized by federal program

West Carrollton Schools offer healthy lunches and breakfasts on a budget funded by federal subsidies and customer payments.

WCSD lunch prices are \$1.75 at elementary buildings and \$2 at the middle school and high school. Once a week this year, middle school and high school students will be offered a "premium lunch" for \$2.50, said Food Services Supervisor Shirley Behm.

All WCSD schools will be participating in the National School Lunch Program this year. This makes all students eligible to apply for free or reduced lunches. Students who qualify can receive lunch for free or at the reduced price of 40 cents per lunch.

West Carrollton High School had left the National School Lunch Program in the late 1980s. The open lunch concept at that building created a need to offer more competitive choices, Behm said, which didn't meet the program's nutritional rules.

Behm said the need for free and reduced lunch is increasing in the area because of layoffs and economic uncertainty. These

conditions led to changes: high schoolers can now apply for help and all buildings will offer breakfast.

The National School Lunch Program is operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and funds are distributed through the Ohio Department of Education. Benefits of the program include:

- \* Reimbursement for a portion of the cost of every meal served.

- \* Reduced prices on commodity foods such as poultry, beef, cheese and some canned goods.

Participants are required to meet dietary guidelines, however, Behm said.

The federal subsidies and the parent-paid fees fund the entire WCSD lunch program: all employee salaries, food, supplies and equipment, Behm said.

For menus, visit [www.westcarrolltonschools.com](http://www.westcarrolltonschools.com).

### Do you qualify for help? Get it anonymously!

If you are a family of four with an annual income of \$25,155 or less, your children are eligible for free meals.

If you are a family of four with an annual income between \$25,155 and \$35,798, your children are eligible for reduced price meals.

In WCSD, a computerized system is used to pay for lunches. Students use a PIN number and carry neither cash nor anything identifying their eligibility for the program. No one will know if your child is receiving assistance.

To apply, or for more information, call Shirley Behm at 859-5121, ext. 1121.

### WORD FILE

*fact: [fakt] n 1. a thing that has actually happened or is really true; 2. reality*

## How does WCSD compare?

West Carrollton's lunch prices were raised last year (2005-2006). This year (2006-2007), only the price of milk was raised by a dime.

<u>District/School</u>	<u>Elem.</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>High</u>
Beavercreek	1.75	2.00	2.00
Bishop Leibold	2.40	NA	NA
Brookville	1.85	2.10	2.10
Centerville	1.85	2.10	2.10
Fairborn	1.75	2-2.75	2-2.75
Franklin Monroe	1.85	2.00	2.00
Huber Heights	1.75	2.25	2.25
Kettering	1.95	2.20	2.20
Miamisburg	1.95	2.75	2.75
Northmont	2.05	2.25	2.25
Springboro	1.90	2.00	2.00
Valley View	1.80	2-2.15	2.25
Vandalia-Butler	1.75	1.75	2.00
<b>West Carrollton</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>

## No lost lunch money

West Carrollton School District students don't have to carry lunch money.

WCSD uses Cafe Terminal, a computerized system, to track lunches and make payments. Every student has an account and receives a PIN number.

Parents can send money -- clearly labeled -- to school for a child to give to his teacher. Or parents can mail money directly to Food Service Supervisor Shirley Behm at 430 E. Pease Ave., West Carrollton, OH 45449.

Many buildings will stamp a child's hand when her account needs more money. Parents can also call Behm at 859-5121, ext. 1121 or email her at [sbehm@wcsd.k12.oh.us](mailto:sbehm@wcsd.k12.oh.us) to check account balances.

The computer system prevents loss and theft as well as providing privacy for students. Students receiving free or reduced meals can do so without anyone's knowledge.

Parents can also note dietary restrictions, food allergies and other limitations such as "no snacks" (i.e. potato chips, etc.).

Behm can also create reports for parents that show how often their child has bought lunch and what exactly was purchased.

At the end of each school year, any leftover funds are automatically rolled over or transferred to the child's new school, Behm said. Families transferring out of the district can be issued refunds.

## Summer full of projects in WCSD

West Carrollton Schools accomplished several major projects this summer thanks in part to the voters' support of a dedicated pool of money for capital improvements.

Last fall, voters converted a 2.5 mill capital improvements levy to continuing status, meaning the district will not have to renew it again. The levy currently generates approximately \$900,000, but that number is expected to drop as changes in the state tax code take effect over the next 10 years. Some funds for projects and repairs came from the district's general fund.

Major projects included:

- New roof at Nicholas: \$267,669
- Fire alarm and emergency lighting at WCHS: \$204,950
- Asphalt and concrete work throughout the district: \$77,508
- WCHS office remodeling: \$25,700
- Sound baffling in band and choir rooms at WCHS: \$22,784
- Remodeling of Family Consumer Sciences Room at WCHS: \$22,590
- Safety renovation to visitors' stands at All Sports Stadium: \$18,800
- Replacement of some 20 to 30-year-old carpet at Central Office: \$11,233
- Electrical upgrades to computer labs at WCHS: \$10,485
- Ceiling fans in classrooms at Russell: \$9,613

Business Manager Dana Green noted that projects were combined wherever possible so the district could get better prices. Several projects, including the Family Consumer Sciences room, used internal labor which also kept costs down.

The district also purchased two new school buses in January. The buses were available earlier than normal, Green said, and taking delivery at that time saved the district more than \$5,000. Cost of the two buses was \$116,500.

**Got a question?  
Still think the  
pieces don't fit?**

**TELL US ABOUT  
YOUR CONCERN!**

Call Sharon Naragon,  
community relations  
coordinator

and editor of **fact\$**

at 859-5121, ext. 1133

or email her at

[snaragon@wcsd.k12.oh.us](mailto:snaragon@wcsd.k12.oh.us).