

# THE PIRATE



We care.  
We communicate.  
We continuously improve.

West Carrollton School District

## WCSD's levy request lean, value rich

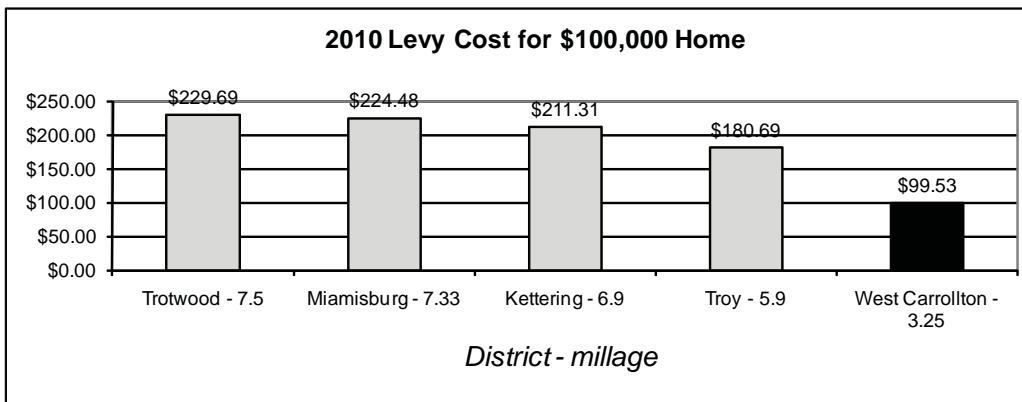
On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> West Carrollton Schools will be on the ballot with a three year 3.25-mill operating levy request. The lowest request in district history is a result of two factors: 3.3 million dollars in budget cuts made in three of the last four years and the utilization of House Bill 264 funds totaling 4.8 million dollars for school building renovation, improvement, and rejuvenation.

"We've been effective stewards of taxpayer's dollars," said Superintendent Rusty Clifford. "We run lean. All school districts in Ohio are on fixed incomes and being asked to do more with less. That's why schools are more reliant than ever on locally voted millage."

Area districts asking for operating levy support this May also include Trotwood, Miamisburg, Kettering and Troy.



Mrs. Dorn's fifth grade class at Harry Russell Elementary



The WCSD levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$99.53 a year. "Our kids are worth \$8.29 per month," said Carol Madera, parent of a WC Middle School student.

A renewal request of the 6.5-mill operating levy passed in May of 2007 will also be on the May 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. Passage of the renewal equals a zero increase in taxes.

Continuous improvement is an institutionalized habit in the WCSD. Even as 3.3 million

dollars in cuts were being made, the district started key educational initiatives that continue to directly impact student achievement, including Professional Learning Communities, a district-wide literacy effort, all-day kindergarten, and an intentional Asset building movement that has resulted in motivating students to give back to their schools and the community.

These initiatives are unique to West Carrollton Schools and support the district's Core Beliefs: Leadership is not a person – it is personally involved; the fundamental purpose of school is learning, not teaching; and relationships are the basis for building assets.

## What's covered

District's 3.25 millage request, lowest in history

Election Day  
May 4, 2010

WC High School's Cultural Celebration

Voter Information

Power of Assets, C.F. Holliday

21st Century Skills, Technology in WCSD Classrooms

Pirate Announcements

Check Progress Book for your student's grades

Spring Break for all school buildings  
March 29th-April 2nd

Fourth Quarter Begins on Monday, April 5th

## Voting information for May 4th, 2010

### Do you need to register to vote?

You can find out in less than a minute.

Go to [www.westcarrolltonschools.com](http://www.westcarrolltonschools.com).

Click on the Voter Information icon. You'll be taken to the Montgomery County Board of Elections site.

Select "Voter Information". Then click on the "Am I Already Registered to Vote?" option.

### If you need to register to vote for the May Election, what's the deadline?

The Board of Elections must receive your voter registration form by Saturday, April 3, 2010.

### How can I get a voter registration form?

You can pick one up at any WC School Building or Central Office or complete the on-line form on the Montgomery County Board of Elections site. You will need to print the form and mail it in by the April 3<sup>rd</sup> to participate in the May election.

### Did you know a qualified Ohio voter does not have to state a reason to vote by an Absentee Ballot?

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is already accepting absentee applications for the May 4, 2010 election. The Board of Elections will mail absentee ballots to applicable voters 30 days prior to Election Day. If you wish to complete an absentee ballot application, you can access the form from [www.westcarrolltonschools.com](http://www.westcarrolltonschools.com) or pick up a form from any WC school building or Central Office.

If you have questions about voting, please call the Montgomery County Board of Elections at (937) 225-5666.

## WC High School students perform at Sinclair Community College

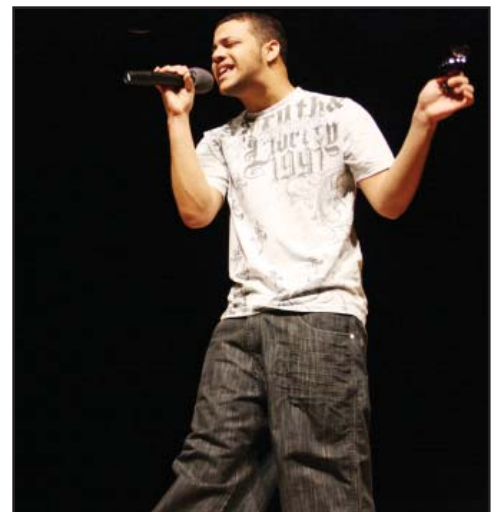
On March 4th members of the WCHS Cultural Celebration Club performed at the National Conference for Community and Justice at Sinclair Community College. The students were invited to participate after their skit was observed by Susan Sibbings, program coordinator of the NCCJ Youth Conference. Sibbings was in the audience of the Cultural Celebration Assembly held at WCHS in February.

Students performed a skit called "Maury Pirate." Maury Pirate (Senior Clint Payne) guided his guests through their various phobias (fear of cotton and fear of tomatoes) until the final guest revealed her fear of "people who are different." Maury, the other guests, and Dr. Fraud (Senior Drew Garrison) scolded this guest for having a fear of people and delivered the final message that differences in people are what make America great. The audience's response was electric.

The Cultural Celebration Assembly included performances by the Jazz Band who played the swing song, "Sing, Sing, Sing," a group of students that danced the

Salsa, a dance battle between two seniors, a country line dance, and a choreographed group dance that featured club members.

It may be one of the best kept secrets of WCHS. Held since 1983, the Cultural Celebration Assembly is the brainchild of WCHS language arts teacher, Kathy Lakes. "The club was formed with the goal of intentionally helping all WC students to feel a sense of belonging, and this feeling comes from learning about and celebrating all cultures," said Lakes.



## CF Holliday examines power of assets

Holliday Principal Chris Price is a 14-year veteran educator who has participated in community projects throughout his career. “None of these experiences is anything like the work we do with the 40 Developmental Assets. Obviously, parents want their children to go to school and be successful academically. We want that too. That’s why we offer unique programs and services to meet and exceed the needs of our students. That’s not enough for WC teachers and staff though,” said Price.

“Our Asset building work is resulting in something special for our students. They’re developing the ability to make good decisions in life. I observe this daily, said Price. “A student decides to make a different choice, and it results in a whole new way of approaching life and its challenges. It’s exciting to see the kids take this knowledge and share it with each other.”

Holliday’s January Asset Builder of the month and the district-wide asset building champion, Wesley Porcelli, is “the unknowing leader”, according to his teacher. Wesley was observed helping a

second grader with his math and decided to use the opportunity to talk with him about why being a role model is important. Wesley said, “You know you’re a leader to the first graders”. The second grader asked “How?” Wesley answered, “First graders look up to you, so when they see you make good choices, they will do the same and when you do bad things they will think that is what they should do. You need to do good things”. Wesley made a difference in the life of that second grader.

“We are giving our students the skills to become healthy, successful adults in ways they will take with them long after they leave Holliday,” said fourth grade teacher Tara Tarziers. Her favorite asset is # 25 (Reading for Pleasure). Tarziers started a book club this school year that meets over her lunch and whose membership includes 20 fourth graders who would rather discuss the book they read this month than have recess time.

The Asset rich culture within the district impacts every aspect of the learning environment. Academic goals and projects in this district frequently become something

more when the purpose of the work is linked to one or more of the 40 Developmental Assets. Holliday’s Computer Lab Coordinator, Della Fassett started the school year with a desire to capture student work through a calendar project. Students took a hands-on approach to the task and soon it became a calendar of academic and service-related success stories. Fassett said, “Our students are demonstrating their understanding of Asset #8 (Youth as Resources)”. She will apply for a Project 40 grant this year to offset the cost of the calendar to students and families.

The work of the Assets goes beyond seven WC school buildings. Price added, “This community continues to provide a strong support system for our students, and it’s making a difference.” Just four months ago, the Zion Lutheran Church members started tutoring students at Holliday to help them prepare for the Ohio Achievement Assessment. Price said the volunteers work with his students weekly. “The by-product of the tutoring is a mentorship and connection that is sure to leave a positive mark on each of the students in this program.”

According to the Search Institute, Assets have power for all young people, regardless of their gender, economic status, family, or race/ethnicity. Furthermore, levels of assets are better predictors of thriving and high-risk involvement than poverty or being from a single-parent family.



Holliday second grader, Buddy Herd reads with fifth grader, Wesley Porcelli

## 21st century learning, technology in WCSD classrooms



Mrs. Toadvine's fifth grade class identifies mountains

WC Schools are on the cutting edge with technology and are proud to be a leader in the region and the state, according to Superintendent, Dr. Rusty Clifford.

WC technology supervisor, Lu Ann Saunders said, "We are constantly analyzing how to cost effectively provide and support technology in the classroom." The technology team maintains and supports 3,500 pieces of equipment (hardware, software, servers, and phones). WCSD classrooms continue to evolve and change. "One very obvious change to parents is fewer chalkboards in classrooms than when they were in school," said Middle School Principal, Doug Mescher. "Now what you hear and see is everything to prepare our students to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

A WC teacher is a facilitator and a guide that helps his/her students problem solve and think critically. Infusing technology into instruction is essential for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. "It's amazing to watch students

of this generation excel with technology," said Harold Schnell fifth grade teacher, Korrine Toadvine.

Clifford added, "Our 21<sup>st</sup> century technology tools provide us with the resources to engage our students' minds, muscles and imaginations."

### Shade ECC registration

Walter Shade Early Childhood Center will be offering tuition-free All-Day Kindergarten for the 2010-2011 School Year.

All-Day Kindergarten registration packets will be available beginning Monday, April 5th. All-Day Kindergarten Registration will be April 19th and 20th.

Preschool Applications are available through March 24th. Preschool at Shade is a tuition-based, five-day a week program. Tuition is based on family size as well as total family income. Students are chosen by a lottery system. To be eligible for the preschool lottery a child must be three by September 30th. Families of the children who are enrolled will be notified by April 15th.

## Contact Information

<b>Board Members:</b>	
President, Pam Gillette	436-3715
Vice President, Tom Wolf	435-2307
Deborah Bobbitt	294-3104
Lee Cyr	479-7287
Leslie Miller	268-6091
West Carrollton Schools	859-5121
<b>Superintendent</b>	
Rusty Clifford, Ph.D.	ext. 1117
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Ryan Slone	ext. 1111
<b>Assistant Superintendent</b>	
Larry Campbell, Ph.D.	ext. 1119
<b>Business Manager</b>	
Dana Green	ext. 1115
<b>Special Education/Intervention Programs Director</b>	
Melissa Theis	ext. 1122
<b>Food Service Supervisor</b>	
Shirley Behm	ext. 1121
<b>Elementary Curriculum/Gifted Services Supervisor</b>	
Monica Butcher	ext. 4455
<b>Literacy Leader</b>	
Sarah Domingus	ext. 7757
<b>Information Management Supervisor</b>	
Frank Groach	ext. 1135
<b>Operations Supervisor</b>	
Jack Haag	ext. 8901
<b>Technology Supervisor</b>	
Lu Ann Saunders	ext. 1144
<b>Communication Supervisor</b>	
Neej Shockley	ext. 1133
<b>Transportation Coordinator</b>	
Belinda Cox	ext. 8960

What's new at  
[www.westcarrolltonschools.com](http://www.westcarrolltonschools.com)

**Voter registration information and forms**

**Video of the week**  
"A Pirates Life for Me"

**School levy information**

**E-newsletter sign-up**



## West Carrollton Schools

430 E. Pease Avenue  
West Carrollton, OH 45449

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Dayton, Ohio**  
**Permit No. 584**  
**ECRWSS**

To Postal Customer

**DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver before March 18, 2010**