

Akron's Best 2009-010

We are pleased to present some of the thousands of awards received by our students and staff. Please join us in congratulating the hard-working students and staff who represented our district in competitions and events across the city and across the country. To view the different award sections, use the links below.

Links:

- State and national award-winners – State**
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State and national award-winners – State (back to top)

■ The following senior dental assistant students passed the Ohio Dental Assistant Certification Exam: **East** – **Tameka Bayless, Katelyn Goodwin, Dominique Mingo** and **Ciara Morris**; **Ellet** – **Brooke Haggard**; and **Garfield** – **Erna Becirovic**. Junior **Alexandra Ulrich** (Ellet) passed the exam as part of the SkillsUSA dental assisting competition in April. These students qualified for their x-ray certificate from the Ohio State Dental Board. The instructors are **Teresa Gadomski** and **Michelle Johnson**.

■ **Buchtel** restaurant management student **Leon Evans** earned gold honors at the district and state levels of FCCLA's Dining Room Attendant event and won second place overall in the state competition. He also received scholarships from Connecticut Culinary and Hocking College.

■ The APS 87-bus fleet passed inspection and received decals on the first scheduled inspection for the 2009-10 school year. This is the 27th consecutive year that the Ohio State Highway Patrol inspectors approved the fleet. APS buses traveled 729,000 miles last school year. The transportation coordinator is **Kathryn Kiehl**.

■ In the SkillsUSA state competition, **Ellet** students **Alexander Hawks, Branden Simone, Ashley Wisberger** and **Rakia Wolfe** were rated in the top 10 for video production team.

■ Twelve students from **Buchtel, Ellet** and **Firestone** advanced to state BPA competition, and 10 placed in the top ten for the state. The clubs involved included Buchtel administrative office technology; Ellet administrative office technology and high school of business; Ellet information technology; and Firestone administrative office technology and business finance.

■ The following schools and teachers earned the Governor's Award for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities from the Ohio Academy of Science for their accomplishments in the 2008-09 school year: **East** – **Charles Armstrong, John Guidubaldi, Joshua Oldham, Linda Olson, Johnna O'Neal, William Stone** and **Robin Tidrick**; **Firestone** – **James Cauffield, Matthew Cochran, Jerusha Dean, Cassandra Hanna, Linda Kakish, Christine Milcetich, Nadia Niknafs, Daniel Spak, Scott Westphal** and **Diana Williams**; **Goodrich** – **Jane Arendt, Patricia Belcher, Christopher Carzoo, Patricia Falls, Damaris Gibbons, Charlene Panovich** and **Melanie Salyer**; **Hyre** – **Jennifer Berkheimer, Adriana Eidom, Christopher Gruska** and **David Hardwick**; **Innes** – **Cheryl Arnold, Kristy Campbell, Robin Clark, Annmarie Crofoot, Tina Daniels, Stephanie Davis, Anthony Gotto, Christine Justiss-Simon, Katie Marsh, Traci May, Tonia Merlo, Charles Morrison, Keith Rawling, Margaret Ruppert, Terri Smith** and **Beth Vincente**; **Jennings** – **Elizabeth Collins, Susan Hall, John Kishton, Michael McBennett** and **Christopher Schleich**; **Kenmore** – **J. Len Davidson, Stephanie Fassnacht, Martha Godward, Cynthia Johnson, John Lundgren, Maginel Natof, Felicia Partee** and **Joseph Porco**; **Roswell Kent** – **Steven Frantz, Barbara Greig, Kristy Johnson, Tiffany Lundy** and **Dolores Whaley**; **Litchfield** – **Ryan Boyd, Holly Brunswick, Lisa Cerosky, Kathleen Chicoine, Adam Grom, Carol Hendrickson, Stephanie Leonardi, Dorothy Lewis, Judith Moon, Brian Neugebauer, Penny Pletikapich, Gail Schlossberg, Linda Tedesco** and **Susan Vesalo**; and **Miller South** – **Sarah Core, Julie Demangeont, Wendy Duke, Laura Feltman, Louise Heydorn, Adrienne Kalaitsides, Jeannette Loretitsch, Robert Marxen** and **Gloria Russo**. The award recognizes schools and teachers who stimulate student scientific research and extend science educational opportunities beyond traditional classroom activities. The science learning specialist is **Katrina Halasa**.

■ **Firestone** was named a Buckeye Best Healthy School for its improvement in school nutrition, increasing opportunities for physical activity and providing tobacco prevention/cessation programming.

■ The Ohio Department of Education named **King** one of 24 Schools of Promise in Northeast Ohio. These schools are among 134 schools statewide whose students show high achievement based on test scores, despite the fact that 40 percent or more are from low-income families.

- **Child study** psychologist **Kathryn Rodocker** earned an F. Peter Gross Best Practices Award from the Ohio School Psychologists Association for her work with the Pyramid of Learning at Innes CLC.
- Retired **child study** coordinator Elizabeth Bard received an R.A. Horn Honorary Life Membership from the Ohio School Psychologists Association for her work in school psychology.
- The following **Ellet** students competed in the Business Professionals of America state competition: *top ten* – **Evan Faidley** and **Alissa Miller** (team economic research project); and **Mikayla Goode, Christine Green, Joshua Phillips** and **Amanda Rowe** (small business management presentation); and *second place* – **Rachael Kovalchin** (individual economic research project). Kovalchin qualified for the nationals. Other students competing included **Jocelyn Petron** (legal procedures event) and **Caitlin Sutherland** (administrative office technology research project). Their adviser is **Tracy Ebner**.
- **Glover CLC** principal **Rebecca Cacioppo** was named an Outstanding Educator/Administrator 2010 by the State Support Team Region 8 (Medina, Portage and Summit counties). Other award-winners included intervention specialist **Valerie Croghan** as an Outstanding Educator and fourth-grader **Taylor Ellis** and fifth-grader **Michael Bronner** as academic achievers.
- **North's** marketing students competed in state DECA contests: **Rebekah Huber** placed in the top 10 for marketing management; and **Megan Kane** and **Sierra Nowak** placed first in the travel and tourism team event. Megan and Sierra qualified for the internationals.
- **East** marketing students were among 2,000 contestants in the Ohio DECA Career Development Conference Competition. The following students were top ten state finalists: **Kelsey Curtis** and **Adam Malone** (business law and ethics team management decision making); **Athena Powell** (entrepreneurship participating); **Stefany Huber, Kandice Saulsberry** and **Diamond Yates** (Ohio/national chapter management program); and **Mennyon Davis, Iris Edmondson** and **Sasha Reid** (financial literacy promotion project). The East DECA chapter earned gold-level status and recognition at the national level. The financial literacy promotion project team placed second in the state and will compete internationally. Their adviser is **Susan Schutte**.
- **North** students **Kala Camacho, Diamond Fricke, Shanaé Jennings** and **Emily Rogers** participated in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America competitions in Columbus. In addition, students **Thien Dang** and **Margaret Denholm** competed in the SkillsUSA Competition.
- The Ohio Black Women's Leadership Caucus hosted its 29th annual Salute to Black Women and Scholarship Luncheon. The theme was "Women of This Century: Serving Our Community." One of the 21 women honored was **Crouse CLC/Stewart** math coach **Tanya Robinson**.
- The following Family, Career and Community Leaders of America students from **Ellet** competed at the state level: *gold* – **Katrina McCormick** (teacher resource kit event); *silver* – **Catherine Blakney, McCormick, Chad Putnam** and **Ashley Thomas** (early childhood team event); **Melissa Black** (early childhood star event); and **Black, Lexie Chandler, Brice Henry** and **Stormi Poling** (early childhood team event); and *bronze* – Putnam (job interview). Their adviser is **Linda Dillon**.
- **Firestone** senior **Joshua Miller** won a Torch Ambassador Award from the Business Professionals of America. Miller had to amass 70 points in several categories of community service to qualify for the award. He also finished first in the state on his fundamental accounting test and will go on to the nationals. APS finished first in the state for the first time at the BPA's Torch Awards.
- Four **Hyre** teams competed in FCCLA state competition: *gold* – **Aleshia Fisher** and **Ashley Ross** (chapter showcase display); and *silver* – **Emily Hughes, Shelby Mills** and **Kayla Williams** (chapter service display); **Gabrielle Lewis** and **Kerah Morris** (chapter showcase manual); and **Kayla Hutchens** and **Allison Smith** (illustrated talk). Fisher and Ross will compete at the nationals. Their adviser is **Deborah Firtha**.
- Three **Litchfield** students won first place in state FCCLA competition for their chapter service project scrapbook presentation, based on collecting uniform clothes for Project RISE. The students will compete at the nationals. Their teacher is **Jane Smith**.
- **North** heating, ventilating and air conditioning students earned awards in the state HVAC competition: *fourth place* – **Jake Miller** (\$2,000 scholarship); and *sixth place* – **Cherelle Weaver** (\$1,000 scholarship).
- At the 58th annual Ohio SkillsUSA Championship, the following students earned silver medals: **East** – **Thien Dang** and **Emily Jack** (web design; teacher **Kay Dreslinski**); **Firestone** – **Anthony Craiu** (technical math; teacher **Daniel Spak**); and **Garfield** – **Bobbi Jo Vaughan** (medical assisting; teacher **Lois Gardner**). East student **Willie Reddick** (teacher Dreslinski) designed this year's Ohio SkillsUSA T-shirt, selected from 200 entries to represent Ohio at the national conference. Other participating students included: **Buchtel** – **Ryan Boyer, Leann Osinski, SirVonte Rice, Michael Sharp, Ashley Stephens** and **Daishani Williams**; **East** – **Felicia Bagley, Jacob Carmichael, Margaret Denholm, Paige Headley, James Mast, Nicole Merzweiler, Cory Mitan** and **Matthew Schertz**; **Ellet** – **Mark Pirogowicz, Ashley Wisberger** and **Rakia Wolfe**; **Firestone** – **Louis Ray**; **Garfield** – **Sha'Quanna Hooks, Joseph Lovelace, Krysti May, Cameron McNair, Estachia Rodgers, Sara Sekulic, Michael Taylor, Ahmad Thomas, Christopher Tracy, Gino Trinh** and **Vaughan**; **Kenmore** – **Travis Rider** and **DeJhon Solomon**; and **North** – **Jacob Miller** and **Cherelle Weaver**.
- Congratulations to **Sheena Smith** and **Lynn Stovall**, competitors at the Northeast Region B Bus ROAD-E-O. Stovall won first place and will compete at the state bus rodeo. Smith won rookie of the year.

- **Buchtel's** Future Educators Association students attended the state conference and competed in various events. **Akil Gregory** was elected president of FEA Ohio, and **Vonae' Brown** was a "Top 5" for her T-shirt design. Students and their areas of competition included **Jasmine Adams** and **Myeishia Harrison** (display board); **Kayla Brown** (impromptu speaking); **Shavonda Johnson** (prepared speaking); and **Alexus Walker** (scrapbook). Other competitors were **De'Erik Brooks**, **Ashley Clark**, **Briana Collins**, **Purniesha Lake**, **Abigail Loraditch**, **D'Antonio Parmer**, **Candace Roper**, **Chelsea Scott**, **TaSheema Thomas** and **Allison Woods**. The program's adviser is **Linda Glover**.
- **Roswell Kent** students competed in the State Science Fair. Seventh-graders **Kimberly Flight** and **Katherine Lee's** project was titled "Soil Temperature Between Short Grass and Dirt." Eighth-grader Rebecca Vang's project was titled "Landsat 7's Surface Temperature Accuracy Compared to a Fluke 63 Infrared Temperature Reader." Their teacher is **Steven Frantz**.
- **Project RISE** program manager **Debra Manteghi** received the Outstanding Professional Award from the Ohio Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Two **STEM School** students earned honors for their projects at the State Science Fair. Sixth-grader **Conner Seitzinger** received a "superior" rating and a perfect 40-out-of-40 score for his project titled "Fact or Friction" (effects of lubrication on the ease of hammering nails). Fifth-grader **Kyle Fertig** earned an "excellent" rating for his project titled "Addition and Cancellation of Sound Waves" (testing sound waves). This was the first year that students in grades 5-6 could compete. Judging was based on knowledge achieved, scientific method, clarity of expression, and originality and creativity. Their learning coaches are **Sam Crews**, **Susan Hall**, **Christine Justiss-Simon**, **Aaron Merz** and **Perkins Pringle**. The engineer-in-residence is Sam Landers.
- The following **Garfield** cosmetology students passed their state board licensing examinations: **Desiree Clayton**, **Ashley Miller**, **Natashzia Powell**, **Jenae Rollins** and **Uniquia Sykes**. Their instructor is **Marla Duvé**.
- **Forest Hill CLC** physical education teacher **Kristy Cook** earned a Silver Award from the Buckeye Best Healthy School Awards Program for implementing health initiatives focusing on physical fitness and healthy lifestyles.
- In a study by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, titled "Needles in a Haystack: Lessons from Ohio's high-performing, high-need urban schools," **King** was named one of eight Ohio schools with challenging pupil populations that beat the odds and showed real and persistent academic achievement.
- **North** won LightsOut Ohio's Student Energy Saver grant drawing, earning \$5,000 from Sierra Club's Portage Trail Group. The funds will be applied toward energy efficiency improvements for the school. The effort was organized by special education teacher **Kristy Mazey** and her team.

State and national award-winners – National (back to top)

- For the fifth year in a row, **Firestone** was named one of Newsweek's top 1,500 U.S. high schools, based on the number of advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses offered to students. The IB coordinator is **Judith Harrison**.
- **Firestone** student **Chanique Perry** was selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars.
- Ask **Gilby®** has been nominated for a regional Emmy Award, the highest award given in the television industry. The APS children's television program is a past recipient of a Telly Award recognizing excellence in the category of children's programming and was awarded the Parents' Choice Approved designation by the Parents' Choice Association, the nation's oldest nonprofit guide to quality children's media and toys.
- **Mason CLC** teacher **Ann Marie Rushanan** presented at the 2009 National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference. The topic was "Using Children's Literature to Teach Economics for Early Learners."
- **King** teacher **Janet Lippincott** presented at the 2009 National Council for the Social Studies Annual Ohio Center for Law Related Education Conference. Her presentation was titled "Making Government Branches Interesting and Relevant."
- **Amy Rudd**, **Rankin** literacy coach, had a picture of her literacy resource room's CAFE Bulletin Board published in the Weekly Tips Newsletter on the Daily CAFE's Web site. CAFE is an acronym for "Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary."
- **Roswell Kent** GLOBE students **Brian Brown**, **Kimberly Flight**, **Alina Francesconi**, **Katherine Lee**, **Alicia Lindsey**, **Twanjah Logan**, **Aicha Traore** and **Rebecca Vang** attended, presented at and competed in the fourth annual SATELLITES Conference. Vang won the People's Choice Award and trophy. Their teacher is **Steven Frantz**.
- Sixty **North** seniors participated in the 2010 High Schools That Work student assessment and survey. The following 10 students earned the HSTW Award of Educational Achievement: **Ryan Brogan**, **Ivory Bush**, **Angelica Canankamp**, **Thien Dang**, **Garrett Sonntag**, **Jordan Taylor**, **Gregory Terhesh**, **Michael Uy**, **Kenetra Wade** and **Bethany Woznicki**.
- **East** students **Mennyon Davis**, **Iris Edmondson** and **Athena Powell** advanced to the finals at the DECA International Career Developments Conference. They represented Ohio in the financial literacy promotion project. Their adviser is **Susan Schutte**.
- The **communications department** earned seven national awards this school year. These awards include recognition for the district's new state-of-the-art website and an Emmy nomination of Best Children's program for Ask Gilby®. APS-15 TV earned two Telly Bronze Awards for Ask Gilby® – *Boats* and the *Akron Public Schools – Visual and Performing Arts marketing video*. The Ask Gilby® show on "Water" won Telly Bronze and was nominated for a regional Emmy

award. The Telly is one of the most sought-after awards by industry leaders, from large international firms to local production companies and ad agencies. The APS print communications team earned four national marketing awards this school year. The department won three National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Excellence Awards (for the website, the Programs & Possibilities brochure and the Parent Connect e-newsletter) and one APEX Award for Publication Excellence (for the Focus on Achievement – 2010 State-of-the-Schools Report). The NSPRA Publications and Electronic Media Awards program recognizes outstanding education publications and electronic media programs. The APEX awards are presented to businesses and organizations that provide excellence in graphic design, editorial content and overall communications excellence.

Regional award-winners (back to top)

■ The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation recognized these APS teachers as 2008-09 Jennings Lecture Series Scholars: **Irene Adler, Sharon Brooks, Rachel Chaplin, Gayle Davis, Steve Deitrick, Ruth Hotchkiss, Norma James, Sara Leffler, Debbie Lower, Nancy Plavan, Curtis Smith, Constance Smith-Clemens, Janet Whitney and Diana Williams.**

■ **Martin Drexler, Buchtel** math teacher, recently published a collection of jokes titled “Almost Joke Book.” It was the subject of a July 31 article in the Canton Repository.

■ **Firestone’s** career education pre-engineering program won the following awards: *second place* – engineering logs, Northeast Ohio Robotics competition; and *fourth place overall* – Summit County Bridgebuilding competition.

■ **Garfield** IT students **Jeremy Armocida** and **Brandon Billings** placed second in computer animation in a Business Professionals of America competition.

■ These **career education** students qualified for University of Akron pre-engineering internships: **Alex Darkow, Anna Dorfi, Katie Graham, Shammal Malik, Parker Miller, Angel Pay, Bruce Perry and Zachary Schroeder.**

■ **Project GRAD Akron’s Jacqueline Silas-Butler** was chosen for one of only two Athena Awards presented in Northeast Ohio. The award honors individuals who achieve professional excellence, give back to their communities and create leadership opportunities for women, sponsored by Inside Business.

■ **Special education** psychologist and Pyramid coach **Aimee Kirsch** was recognized as the regional School Psychologist of the Year by the Kent Akron Association of School Psychologists. She was nominated by fellow psychologists **Stacey Ambrose** and **Robert Kubick**. Aimee served as the area’s nominee to the Ohio School Psychologist Association annual conference.

■ The following Seniors to Sophomores students made The University of Akron Dean’s List for the first semester: **Ellet – Danelle Fink, Julianna Hamad and Brian Williams; Firestone – Elise Burnett, Matthew Davis, Hanne-Lore Fisher, Mirko Mandic, Connor Mathis and Trista White;** and **Kenmore – Katie Lamson.** These high school seniors attend college full-time and received a 3.5 over-all GPA from UA.

■ The following **Miller South** students competed at the Power of the Pen tournament: **seventh grade – Caroline Chelovitz, Melanie Darrah, Hallie Heffernan, Benjamin Hook, Dana Mietus (alternate), Tess Powers and Erin Siegfert;** and **eighth grade – Joshua Bellis, Jennifer Cook, Reilly Dougherty, Elizabeth Gross, Gavin Markowitz and Morgan Matthews.** The seventh-grade team earned first place. Individually, Powers won fourth place and a Best of Round; Siegfert won ninth place for the seventh grade; and Cook won eighth place for the eighth grade. Their teacher is **Bonnie Wachter.**

■ **Garfield’s** NJROTC drill team placed second out of eight teams in the James Ford Rhodes High School drill meet. Their commander is **Frank Zink.**

■ Sixth-grade **STEM School** student **Victoria Clay** was recognized as one of the Urban League’s MLK 2010 essay winners. Her essay was submitted by counselor **Dreama Mason Whitfield.**

■ Four **Akron Digital Academy** students were on the principal’s list (a 4.0 or better for their quarterly grades): **seventh grade – Poseidon Landry and Evan Morckel;** and **eighth grade – Kathleen Considine and Alexis Ihrig.**

■ At the regional Business Professionals of America awards banquet, the following **Ellet** students earned first-place awards and qualified for state competition: **Adam Braham** (financial math and analysis); **Evan Faidley** and **Alissa Miller** (team economic research project); **Mikayla Goode, Christina Green, Joshua Phillips and Amanda Rowe** (small business management presentation); **Rachael Kovalchin** (economic research project); and **Caitlin Sutherland** (administrative support research project). **Jocelyn Petron** earned a second place in legal office procedures and will also compete at the state level. Their adviser is **Tracy Ebner.**

■ At this year’s Business Professionals of America Region 10 competition, the following students earned the right to progress to state competition: **Ellet** (teachers **Tracy Ebner** and **Tari Nockengost**) – **Evan Faidley/Alissa Miller** (economic research project team); **Mikayla Goode/Christina Green/Joshua Phillips/Amanda Rowe** (small business management team); **Rachael Kovalchin** (economic research project individual); **Jocelyn Petron** (legal office procedures); and **Caitlin Sutherland** (administrative support research project); and **Firestone** (teachers **Christopher Pashke** and **Rose VanValien**) – **Christopher Knepper** (Web design); **Joshua Miller** (fundamental accounting); and **Destiny Threatt** (advanced accounting). Students from Summit, Medina and Portage counties competed.

■ The following **Ellet** early childhood education students earned honors in the FCCLA Northeast Region 3 skill events: **seniors – Catherine Blakney** (gold in early childhood star event); **Blakney/Katrina McCormick/Chad Putnam/Ashley Thomas** (gold in team event); **McCormick** (state qualifier in teacher resource kit); **Putnam** (state qualifier in job

interviewing); and **Cassandra Tolbert** (silver in focus on the children); and *juniors* – **Melissa Black/Lexie Chandler/Brice Henry/Stormi Poling** (gold in ECE team teaching event); Black (gold in early childhood star event and state qualifier); Chandler (silver in concept curriculum); Poling (silver in job interview); **Lauren Rasnick** (silver in language and literacy); and **Brittney Sullivan** (bronze in teacher resource kit). **Linda Dillon** is the ECE instructor.

■ The **Garfield** NJROTC drill team placed second out of six schools at the Penn Hills drill meet. Individual awards included: *first place* – **Donell Auston** (armed exhibition), **Bobbi Brown** (advanced color guard) and **Joey Chounramany** (armed platoon drill); *second place* – **Natikka Lewis-Williams** (unarmed squad drill) and **Tyrese Mitchell** (first year color guard); and *third place* – **Cadet Simmons** (platoon drill). Their instructors are **Joseph Grieco** and **Frank Zink**.

■ **Litchfield** eighth-graders **Hannah Earlenbaugh**, **Anastasia Otto** and **Christopher Sickels** earned a silver medal and an 87% in a service manual contest and will compete at the state-level FCCLA conference. Their project involved collecting uniforms for **Project RISE** homeless students.

■ **Glover CLC** fourth-grade student **Loi Ha** will be featured in the May edition of Akron Life and Leisure Magazine as an exceptional student. His teacher is **Julie Paulus**.

■ At the regional HVAC competition, **North** students **Sean Barber** and **Cherelle Weaver** earned honorable mentions. **Jacob Miller** won first place in the brazing portion of the contest, competing against 39 other students. Their teacher is **Kevin Cook**.

■ Five APS physical education teachers were selected to present at the Canton City Schools'-sponsored workshop titled "Games That Work": **Dale Landenberger**, **Barber CLC**; **Sandra Wells**, **Case**; **Claudia Grimes**, **King**; **Debra Biagetti**, **Leggett**; and **Kathleen Saxon**, **Resnik CLC**. The selection was based on submitting activity lesson plans, and the plans were chosen from approximately 70 submissions.

■ At the Northeast Ohio science fair, two **STEM School** students qualified for state competition. Fifth-grader **Kyle Fertig** and sixth-grader **Conner Seitzinger** received superior ratings. Kyle's project is titled "Addition and Cancellation of Sound Waves," which involves testing sound waves. Conner's project is "Fact or Friction," which measures the effects of lubrication on the ease of hammering nails. Judging was based on a 40-point scale involving four categories: scientific method, presentation style, scientific knowledge gained and whether inquiry-based learning was present. Their coach is **Christine Justiss-Simon**.

■ The following students competed in the Regional SkillsUSA contests: **Buchtel** – **Leann Osinski**; **East** – **Felicia Bagley**, **Katie Chandler**, **Margaret Denholm**, **Jasmine Good**, **Paige Headley**, **Cory Mitan**, **Deshanetia Payne**, **George Smith**, **James Smith** and **Brandon Soohy**; **Ellet** – **Clayton Crowe** and **Stephan Finnicum**; **Firestone** – **Anthony Craiu**, **Angel Pay** and **Louis Ray**; **Garfield** – **James Bieri**, **Jasmine Brown**, **Mon Chan**, **Brieonna Gaiter**, **Andrew Gray**, **Frances Hernandez**, **Sha'quanna Hooks**, **Joseph Kleinwechter**, **Anthony Maul**, **Christina May**, **Cameron McNair**, **Estachia Rodgers**, **Sealonda Smith**, **Sarah Suleiman**, **Christopher Tracy**, **Lucia Vargas** and **Bobbi Jo Vaughan**; and **Kenmore** – **Tyler Blackert**, **Kenneth Christner** and **DeJhon Solomon**. Students who earned medals and advanced to state competition were: *gold* – Bagley, Denholm and Mitan (East); and McNair (Garfield); *silver* – Osinski (Buchtel); and Craiu (Firestone); and *bronze* – Ray (Firestone); Rodgers (Garfield); and Solomon (Kenmore).

■ **Glover CLC** fourth-grader **Loi Ha** (teacher **Julie Paulus**) was featured in the May 2010 issue of Akron Life & Leisure. He is a top classroom reader, a member of the school's Safety Patrol and a Student Council representative.

■ Two APS employees were scheduled presenters at The University of Akron's "Families and Community: Issues in the Current Economy" program, featuring keynote speaker Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland. **Student services and security** director **Karen Ellerson** talked about juvenile issues. **Project RISE** program manager **Debra Manteghi** discussed the effects of foreclosures and housing issues.

■ Congratulations to **Firestone** student **George Turner** (teacher **Christine Milcetch**) for being named an Honor Junior for the Cleveland Technical Societies Council. Turner will be eligible for a council scholarship next year.

District award-winners (back to top)

■ King's May Citizens of the Month were: **Cheyenne Burkett** and **Caleb Garchar** (room 3), **Mark Earl** (room 4), **Sydney Zulich** (room 5), **Madison Miller** (room 6), **Sydney Moshier** (room 7), **Carletta Mobley-Williams** and **Ashley Strub** (room 101), **Martin Whitley** (room 103), **Quinn Toth-Cseplo** (room 106), **Bria Hatcher** (room 107), **Lauryn Dies** (room 108), **RaJanae' Brown-Fryerson** (room 201), **Lauren Spring** (room 202), **Matthew Pittman** (room 203), **Alexandra Wainwright** (room 204), **Hannah Petras** (room 205), **Shane Scott** (room 207) and **Kevante White** (room 208)

■ The following **Akron Early College High School** students made the Dean's List for the spring semester: **Aries Brown**, **Beau Brown**, **Olin Clay**, **Heather Fikes**, **Delshawn Kirksey**, **Maya Mendoza**, **Hoang Nguyen**, **Markayla Powers**, **Candace Thomas** and **Uy Tu**. As juniors move to full-time status, they have the opportunity to make the Dean's list.

■ Forty-one **Bettes** students passed all parts of their OATs last spring. They were awarded "I passed my OATS!" T-shirts and "OATmeal" packages.

■ **Garfield** student **Bobbi Brown** was presented with a Minorities in Technology Award by Mayor Don Plusquellic.

■ **Ellet** students **Richard Hickman**, **Joseph Nicolino** and **David Tell** received Best Buy gift cards for submitting the winning PSA on how to get and keep good credit.

■ North Akron Chamber of Commerce sponsored the 18th annual career education TOPS Awards program at **North**, where 216 students were honored. Congratulations were offered by NACC treasurer Leonard Falcone, Superintendent

David W. James and Board president **James Hardy**.

■ The following personnel presented at the APS Literacy Colloquium, held at the **Ott Staff Development Center**: **Mary McGraw** and **Rilinda Rodgers-Knott**, **Helen Arnold CLC**; **Cynthia Hina**, **Barrett**; **Sandra Forejt** and **Levonias Swails**, **Crouse CLC**; **Brenda Costarella** and **Betty Zager**, **East**; **Aryiro Spithas-Miner**, **Findley**; **Margaret Oliver**, **Leggett**; **Sandra Kolar**, **Litchfield**; **Laura Valendza**, **Miller South**; **Charles Burger**, **Emily Parker** and **Niculove Vintila**, **North**; **Tamara Casalinova**, **Perkins**; **Ann Chapman**, **Kathy Guarino** and **Amy Rudd**, **Rankin**; **Bernadette Boddie** and **David Skelton**, **Seiberling**; **Judith Gray** (data/pyramid coach), **Sharon Hall** (TAG coordinator), **Aimee Kirsch** (pyramid coach), **Keith Leichty** (instructional technology specialist), **Debra Oddo** (PBS coach) and **Paula Shafer** (world languages/ESL learning specialist). The conference-style professional development event highlighted the district's literacy efforts.

■ The following APS students were named Outstanding High School Science/Math Students at the Akron Council of Engineering and Scientific Societies annual honors banquet: **Buchtel** – **Johnathon Coleman** and **Cherie McNeil**; **East** – **Jacob Carmichael** and **Paige Headley**; **Ellet** – **William Boling** and **Cara DeAngelis**; **Firestone** – **Stephen Campbell** and **Allison Latham**; **Garfield** – **Alyssa Sayre** and **Neal Woods**; **Kenmore** – **Merri Fasick** and **LaMonte Graves**; and **North** – **Duaa Almahd** and **Ivory Bush**.

■ **Glover CLC** student **Alexandria Wallace** is the 2010 winner of the Akron Urban League's MLK Essay Contest. She will be recognized at the Urban League's annual breakfast.

■ The following APS schools were "winners" in the United Way drive: **Forest Hill CLC** - *highest percentage collected over goal* = 106.82%; and **Resnik CLC** - *highest dollar increase from 2008* = \$445 in 2008 to \$1,275 in 2009. Staff from these two schools will receive a pancake, sausage and bacon breakfast, cooked and served by Superintendent **David W. James**.

■ The following **Stewart** students were selected to participate in African drumming during the Gospel Meets Symphony intermission: **Donald Azeriette**, **Camron Bowden**, **Daeshon Coppinger** and **Demetrius Herring**.

■ The following schools and students were winners in the Akron Public Schools first bridge competition coordinated by the **science department** (learning specialist **Katrina Halasa**): *first place* – **Firestone** (**Jenna Baker**, **Elizabeth Gegick** and **Kevin Meisner**); *second place* – **Firestone** (**Anthony Craiu** and **Claire Lentz**); *third place* – **North** (**Samuel Moore** and **Pathana Xaysouvanh**); *fourth place* – **Ellet** (**Trisha Carpenter**, **Victoria Pfautz** and **Jelena Topalovic**); *fifth place* – **Firestone** (**Anne Noel** and **Gretchen Von Koenig**); *sixth place* – **Firestone** (**Casey Engelhart** and **Nicholas Hafner**); *seventh place* – **Firestone** (**Marvin Cook**, **Shayla Gibbs** and **Luke Williams**); *eighth place* – **East** (**Jacob Carmichael** and **Mark Walter**); *ninth place* – **Firestone** (**Samantha Clarke**, **Alexandra Gaston** and **Nathaniel Shaffer**); and *tenth place* – **Firestone** (**Andrew Knops**, **Joshua Palan** and **Matthew Rivoire**). These winners will advance to University of Akron competition. In addition, the following entries were judged on aesthetics by Justin Rufener of Palmer Engineering Company: *first place* – **Firestone** (**Clarke**, **Gaston** and **Shaffer**); *second place* – **Firestone** (**Bryan Bates**, **Kaitlenn Brewer** and **Abigail Freitag**); *third place* – **Kenmore** (**Tyler Liggett** and **Joseph Marchand**); and *fourth place* – **Ellet** (**Justen Bischoff**, **Luis Magalhaes** and **Timothy Mills**). Science teachers involved in the project were: **Stephen Kemp**, **Buchtel**; **Linda Olson**, **East**; **Stephen Gambaccini**, **Ellet**; **Christine Milcetic**, **Firestone**; **Karen DeLaCroix**, **Garfield**; **Cynthia Johnson**, **Kenmore**; and **William Alkire**, **North**. **Career education** teachers who were involved included: **Daniel Spak**, **Firestone**; **Steven Carter**, **Garfield**; and **David Blankenship**, **Garfield/Kenmore**.

■ The **STEM School** held an awards ceremony for the second grading period. More than 150 awards were presented to fifth- and sixth-graders for straight A's, Honor Roll, Merit Roll, perfect attendance and improved GPA. Newly appointed ambassadors who participated in a presentation of learning were also recognized. A full list of awardees is posted on the display board outside the school's main office. The honored students received gift certificates for Friendly's Restaurant and Midway Bowling and a University of Akron engineering department backpack.

■ **Litchfield** seventh-grader **Leo Spinos** placed first in the school's first Geography Bee, sponsored by National Geographic Magazine. Leo also qualified for state-level competition. Litchfield's competition was supervised by teacher **Elizabeth Bocian**.

■ The fifth annual Black History Academic Challenge held at **Stewart** resulted in the following awards: **Crouse** – first place for grades 4-5 and third place for grade 3; **Essex** – first place for grade 3 and third place for grades 4-5; **Findley** – second place for grades 4-5; and **Stewart** – second place for grade 3.

■ Keep Akron Beautiful's Arbor Day contest challenged fourth-graders to create a slogan expressing why planting one tree at a time is important in fighting the impact of climate change. The winners were: *first place* – **Joanne Yarnall's** class at **Leggett** ("Plant a tree and make the world a cooler place."); *second place* – **Catherine Foote's** class at **Rimer CLC** ("One tree, one earth, one hope for all."); and *third place* – **Linda Underwood's** class at **Betty Jane CLC** ("One tree at a time to make our environment shine!). These schools will receive donated trees to be planted on the school grounds. As the winning school, Leggett will hold a ceremony at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 30, attended by Mayor Plusquellic or his representative. KAB and the City of Akron's service department selected 2,500 Red Bud seedlings, one for every public, charter and private school fourth-grader to commemorate Arbor Day. These seedlings will be delivered on Thursday, April 29.

■ The City of Akron named **Innes CLC** student **James Duckworth** an outstanding volunteer among 12-to-13-year-olds. Innes CLC will receive \$150 for his help with the school's paperwork and counseling schedules.

■ The following students are 2010 H. Peter Burg Scholarship winners: **Buchtel** – **Terrean Bryant** and **Andrea Smith**; **East** – **Camari Lewis** and **Marquise Wallace**; **Ellet** - **Raymond Davis** and **Cara DeAngelis**; **Firestone** - **Anika Gupta**

and **Marissa Hirsch**; **Garfield** - **Alexandra Adniskey** and **Michael Tudor**; **Kenmore** - **Sabrina Cable** and **Jamie Patterson**; and **North** - **Socorro Morgan** and **Symphonie Mosley**.

■ **Kenmore** Army JROTC cadets **Dylan Adkins** (freshman), **Cody Rogers** (sophomore), **Zandra Solomon** (junior) and **Derrick Montgomery** (senior) received the Superior Cadet Award during the annual JROTC awards ceremony. The award is given annually to one cadet from each class. Cadet **Taylor Dunkley** (freshman) earned the Daughters of American Revolution Award.

■ **Hatton** and **Windemere** were honored as being the top two schools in the district in First in Math, a Web-based math program that supplements classroom and at-home work.

■ **Barber CLC** students **Cameron Carrington**, **Elicia Enriques**, **Amanda Sabo**, **Gabrielle Vang**, **Tyree Williams** and **Quantae Wright** were winners in a poetry contest held in the library and organized by LRC technician **Pamela Laatsch**. Winners of the bookmark contest were **Ariyuana Lewis**, **Sabo** and **Nia Wemmer**.

■ **North** won the 2010 Seat Belt Challenge (Click It or Ticket) and earned an Emidio's pizza party. The Seat Belt Challenge increases awareness about seat belt usage among high school students. Other participating high schools included **Ellet**, **Firestone**, **Garfield** and **Kenmore**.

Arts (back to top)

■ **Miller South** student **Zoe Dong** won the Best of Show and the Blue Ribbon Award from the Cleveland Clinic for her artistic interpretation of art and wellness. Her artwork was displayed at the Great Lakes Science Center.

■ The United Way of Summit County held its fifth annual Youth Initiative Creative Arts Contest under the theme "How We LIVE UNITED." These APS students earned awards: *Best in Show* – **Mai Xiong**, **Garfield**; *Grand Prize, Middle School* – **Kamaria Veal**, **Litchfield**; *Runner-Up, Middle School* – **Mercia Stephens**, **Litchfield**; *Grand Prize, High School* – **Stacey Beasley**, **Garfield**; and *Runner-Up, High School* – **Breonna Alexander**, **Garfield**. They received prize packs and gift certificates for art/craft supplies. The Riverfront YMCA in Cuyahoga Falls, the Main Library, Summit Mall and Chapel Hill Mall displayed their contest entries.

■ The following students were winners in Project EverGreen's Art of Green Spaces Competition: *First-Place Middle School Drama Team* – **Kierra Dunkley**, **Alexis Hanson**, **Hallie Heffernan**, **Erin Siegferth** and **Tailashay Thornton**, **Miller South** (teacher **Wendy Duke**); *First-Place Middle School Art Team* – **Myah Dozier** and **Tiara Thornton**, **Litchfield** (teacher **Stephanie Leonardi**); *Second-Place Art Team* – **Amanda Lang** and **Lucien Milford**, **Miller South** (teachers **Julie Hogarth** and **Susan Yingling**); and *Team* – **Karla Dawson** (first place), **Zana Phairr** (second place) and **Anesa Harris** (third place), **Litchfield** (teacher **Leonardi**). The students were challenged to use art, music, writing, dance or drama to express the importance of green spaces. First-place winners received \$100; second-place, \$75; and third-place, \$50.

■ The **Buchtel** teacher academy rated excellent at the state level in the banner and scrapbook categories. The banner students were **Kayla Brown**, **Ashley Clark**, **Briana Fields**, **Akil Gregory**, **Ayanna Johnson** and **Abigail Loraditch**. The scrapbook students were **Damarah Chapman**, **Latoya Hollinshed**, **Destiny Kimbrough**, **Keneasha Pitts**, **Diamond Sadler**, **Chelsea Scott** and **Paula Thomas**.

■ The **Firestone** marching band (director **Thomas Weaver**) won first place in Class Double A, first place in music, first place in visual effect, first place in percussion and first place in auxiliary all, as well as finishing as the grand champion runner-up, at the Norton "Art In Motion" Ohio Music Education Association competition. The band was one of four to qualify for the state finals.

■ **King** fifth-grader **David Herr**'s original artwork was selected for exhibit in the seventh annual Ohio Association for Gifted Children Susan Faulkner Fine Arts Exhibition and Auction. David's piece, titled "Snowy Owl," was selected from more than 90 entries statewide.

■ The **Firestone** marching band (directed by **Thomas Weaver**) performed at two Ohio Music Education Association marching competitions recently. In the Nordonia Festival of Bands competition, the band finished third in Class Double A and third overall. In the Revere High School competition, they won first place in Class Double A Colorguard, first place in Colorguard Overall, first place in Class Double A Percussion, Best Overall Music and Overall Grand Champion.

■ The following **Firestone** theatre students are working in their field outside of school: **Ian Bolden** taught a musical theatre camp at Weathervane Playhouse; **Jeremy Clarke**, **Shamara Costa** and **Alexandra Culbertson** appeared in "Rent" at the North Canton Playhouse (Clarke also appeared in "Godspell," and Culbertson is currently assistant director for "Monster in the Closet"); **Dred Geib** crewed for the New World Performance Lab; **Jonathan Bozeka** and **Tessa DiTirro** worked backstage for "The Andrews Brothers" at the Western Reserve Playhouse; **Stephen Carder** and **Hayley Hineline** did some one-act plays with the Ginny Morrison Players (Hineline is currently in "The Secret Life of Girls" with the Magical Theatre Company, as is **Jessica Askew**; and Carder will appear in "Beauty and the Beast" at the North Canton Playhouse); and **Allyssa Freel** was in "Bye, Bye Birdie" at the New Trumbull Theatre in Niles.

■ The following **Hyre** students were winners in the Summit County Prosecutors' 2010 Safety Calendar Contest: *grand prize* – **Joseph Misleh**; *first place* – **Alyssa Ferguson**, **Cheyenne Miller**, **Mackenzie Puzakulics**, **Brianna Rowe**, **David Smethers**, **Mary Stetzik**, **Hannah Thornton**, **Linda Tran** and **Gabriel Weyand**; *second place* – **Natalee Brodie**, **Catelynn Rickenbacker** and **Justine Sutter**; *third place* – **Megan DeLong**; and *honorable mention* – **Brittany Black** and **Stephen Currie**. Out of almost 1,500 entries, Hyre students won 16 of the 48 prizes awarded. The top 13 winners' posters

are published in the 2010 safety calendar; and Hyre student artwork will be showcased on 13 of those pages, including the cover (by Misleh). The Hyre students' artwork will also appear on Akron billboards. Their art teacher is **Patricia Bodine**.

■ Congratulations to the following students who earned gold (G) and/or silver key awards (and their art teachers) for their performance in the 56th Annual Scholastic Art Awards contest: **Firestone** (**Stephen Csejtey, James Dauphin and Stewart Langenbeck**) – **Edwin Akers, Hannah Daneshvar** (G), **Marisa Espe, Chad Gipson** (G), **Rachel Grenley** (G, Portfolio), **Simone Griffiths** (G), **Nicholas Hafner** (G), **Cory Hartline, Leslie Johnson, Tineke Klaassen** (G), **Adam Laston** (G), **Claire Marks** (G), **Henry McCoy, Katelin Michalec, Jessica Peyton** (G), **Jordan Smith** (G), **Lauren Smith** (G), **Zachary Spannbauer and Stephen Steffensen**; **Garfield** (**Patrick Dougherty**) – **Sara Hamad** (G, Portfolio), **Eboni Harris, Mariana Juarez, Dezmond Love and Lai Lia Xiong** (G); and **Miller South** (**Malia Milec and Susan Yingling**) – **Aaron Byrd, McKenna Carder, Caroline Chelovitz** (G), **Melanie Darrah** (G), **Jihad Dennis** (G), **Grant Foster-Davis** (G), **Elizabeth Garner, Benjamin Gfell** (G), **Noah Gfell** (G), **Shelia Jenkins** (G), **Martinez Lee** (G), **Joanne Lutman** (G), **Isabella Maguire, Demetrius McGhee** (G), **Lucien Milford** (G), **Richard Milford** (G), **Tess Powers, Samantha Sebree** (G), **Kevin Staley, Madison Starks, Annie Tsai** (G), **Matthew Wilson** (G), **Ashton Wood** (G) and **Megan Zanin** (G). The gold-key winners can submit their work to the national competition. Yingling is one of the event's co-chairs.

■ In this year's Child and Family Awareness Poster Contest, **Miller South** students earned six of the 11 top prizes: *grand prize* – **Allison Simon** ("A Family is the Spice of Life"); and *honorable mention* – **Natalie Barone, Kathryn Cox, Frances Kapper, Jordyn Rohm and Jessica Wong**. Their art teacher is **Susan Yingling**.

■ Here are the winners of the county's Child Abuse/Family Awareness Month contests: *posters/slogans* – **Allison Simon** (**Miller South**, grand prize for "A Family is the Spice of Life"); and **Natalie Barone, Kathryn Cox, Frances Kapper, Jordyn Rohm and Jessica Wong** (**Miller South**, honorable mention); *public service announcement* – **Cameron Harris** (**Litchfield**, third place); and *storybook* – **Aris Holmes** (**Litchfield**, first place); **Brian Schultz** (**Litchfield**, second place); and **Graham Sell** (**Litchfield**, third place). Allison's artwork will appear on all of next year's publications for Child Abuse Family Awareness month, WZIP is broadcasting the PSAs during March, the storybooks are to be printed and bound by the KSU Press with copies to each storybook winner, all winners will be the guests of "Alley" the Kid Host from WBNX and honored at an awards ceremony, and the Main Library is displaying all winning entries during March.

■ Following are the Jazz Festival award-winners: *reeds* – **East** (first), **Miller South** (second) and **Ellet** (third); *trumpet* – **Firestone** (first), **East** (second) and **Miller South** (third); *trombone* – **Firestone** (first); *rhythm* – **East** (first), **Firestone** (second) and **Ellet/Miller South** (tied for third); *sax solo* – **Devin Simmons**, **Firestone** (first), **Brendon Phelps**, **East** (second), and **Ian Hughes**, **Ellet** (third); *trumpet solo* – **Logan Eisenhart**, **Firestone** (first), **Gregory Terhesh**, **North** (second), and **Chane'I Patterson, Garfield** (third); *trombone solo* – **Zachary Nagi-Schehl**, **Firestone** (first), and **Robert Jerig**, **North** (second); *guitar solo* – **Samuel Vang**, **North** (first), and **Jack Brady**, **Firestone** (second); *drumset solo* – **Dinereo Hill**, **Garfield** (first), and **John Chenevey**, **Ellet** (second); and *keyboard solo* – **Trisha Blum**, **East** (first), **Joshuah Farrance**, **East** (second), and **Tyler Hawes**, **Firestone** (third).

■ **Adreonna Hickman** is the winner of the first **Sam Salem CLC** dance scholarship. She was chosen from more than 300 students in 19 APS schools for the Pointe West Performances "Infinite Legacy Project" award. Adreonna is a first-grader in **Sheila Mosteller's** class.

■ The Ohio Music Education Association hosted two large-group adjudicated events, with the following results for APS groups: *Class AA Superior* – **Firestone**, symphonic band and symphonic choir (**Thomas Weaver**, director); *Class A Superior* – **Firestone** women's choir and men's choir (**Sally Schneider**, director); and *Class B Excellent* – **Ellet** concert band (**Adam Grom**, director); and **Kenmore** symphonic choir (**Barbara Bellamy**, director). The groups with a Superior rating will advance to state competition.

■ Three **Firestone** students had winning entries in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition competition: **Kevin Burand, Claire Marks and Kristina McCoy**. In Ohio, 2,500 high students were selected for the state judging; 300 were exhibited; and 25 were awarded the Governor's Award of Excellence. Burand finished among the top 25. The art teachers are **James Dauphin and Stewart Langenbeck**.

■ The Children's Concert Society gave five first-place awards to **Resnik CLC** classes in the Scholastic Composer's Contest: *group instrumental* – **Susan Silver** (grade 1); **Penny Sengpiel** (grade 3); **Kluuni Ohls** (grade 4); and **Carole Heck** (grade 5); and *group vocal* – **Rhonda Abrams** (grade 2). The students will perform their original composition at a 6 p.m. premiere on Wednesday, April 28, at **North**. Their music teacher is **Candace Minchin**.

■ **Firestone** students **Jessica Askew and Jeremy Clarke** appeared in the All-Ohio production of "Indian Blood," to be presented at the State Thespian Conference. Students **Amelia Britton, Joshua Mansfield and Zoe' Sapienza** were in the Weathervane Playhouse production of "Pride and Prejudice."

■ Four **Garfield** student artists had their artwork purchased by Children's Hospital for its permanent collection. **Topister Bonyo, Fantaysh'a Jones, Mariana Juarez and Mercedes Mazey** each received a \$75 savings bond. Their art teacher is **Patrick Dougherty**.

Sports (back to top)

■ Congratulations to the following 2009 spring sports winners:

- high school baseball regular season co-champions are **Ellet** (coach **John Sarver**) and **Kenmore** (coach **Joseph Nauer**); playoff champion is Ellet (coach Sarver); player of the year is **Ryan Harris**, Kenmore; coach of the year is Sarver, Ellet
- high school softball regular season and playoff champion is **Ellet** (coach **Charles Shuman**); player of the year is **Taylor Charles**, Ellet; coach of the year is **Bruce Clough, Firestone**
- high school tennis regular season champion is **Firestone** (coach **Craig Sampsell**); player of the year is **Bradley Minrovic, Ellet**; coach of the year is Sampsell, Firestone
- high school female track champion is **Buchtel** (coach **John Scott**)
- high school male track champion is **North** (coach **Thomas O'Neil**)
- **Firestone** student **Sara Hardman** was named a 2009 Academic All-Star in the Akron Beacon Journal's Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year competition. The following Firestone students were awarded honorable mention: **Katherine Alkire, Elizabeth Aronhalt, Alysse Bryson, Jordan Reilly, Andrew Scott** and **Jessica White**.
- **Firestone** senior **Christine Coffman** is the #1 seed in the Northeast tennis sectional for the second year in a row. She qualified for the state tennis tournament by capturing the #3 seed in the Oberlin District Tournament. Her coach is **Craig Sampsell**.
- Congratulations to the following 2009 fall sports winners:
 - middle school soccer champion: **Hyre** (coach **David Hardwick**)
 - middle school softball champion: **Hyre** (coach **Robert Mosher**)
 - high school male cross-country regular season and city champion: **Firestone** (coach **Matthew Cochran**); runner of the year: **Joshua Clemence**, Firestone; coach of the year: **John MacLean, East**
 - high school female cross-country regular season and city champion: **Ellet** (coach **John Cochran**); runner of the year: **Cara DeAngelis**, Ellet; coach of the year: John Cochran, Ellet
 - high school golf regular season and tournament champion: **Ellet** (coach **Lonnie Kammer**); player of the year: **Bradley Minrovic**, Ellet; coach of the year: Lonnie Kammer, Ellet
 - high school football regular season winner: **Buchtel** (coach **Ricky Powers**); offensive player of the year: **Tyson Gulley, Garfield**; defensive player of the year: **Kevin Brewton**, Garfield; coach of the year: Ricky Powers, Buchtel
 - high school soccer regular season champion: **Firestone** (coach **Michael Householder**); co-players of the year: **Matthew Davis** of Firestone and **Michael Massaro** of **Kenmore**; coach of the year: **Roberto Flores, North**
 - high school volleyball regular season and city champion: **Firestone** (coach **Stacey Myers**); player of the year: **Kayla Dadich, Ellet**; coach of the year: **Francine Blake, Buchtel**
- **Buchtel** became the first APS school in 30 years to win an Associated Press state poll championship in boys basketball, thanks to its 75-66 victory over Dayton Dunbar. Central-Hower was the last APS school to win the Division I crown in 1980.
- Congratulations to the **East** boys' basketball team – Division I District champions.
- Congratulations to the following 2009-10 winter sports winners:
 - middle school boys' basketball champion: **Litchfield** (coach **Scott Armstrong**)
 - middle school girls' basketball champion: **Hyre** (coach **Debra Firtha**)
 - middle school volleyball champion: **Hyre** (coach **Debra Firtha**)
 - middle school wrestling co-champions: **Innes** (coach **Eugene Calvin**) and **Litchfield** (coach **Robert Conley**)
 - high school male basketball regular season and playoff champion: **Buchtel** (coach **Stephen White**); player of the year: **Charles Hearn, Kenmore**; coach of the year: White, Buchtel
 - high school female basketball regular season and playoff champion: **Firestone** (coach **Audley McGill**); player of the year: **Imani Gordon**, Firestone; coach of the year: McGill, Firestone
 - high school City Series dual meet wrestling champion: **Kenmore** (coach **Lee Thompson**); wrestler of the year: **Cody Lambert**, Kenmore; wrestler of the tournament: **Anthony Bable, Firestone**; co-coaches of the year: Thompson, Kenmore; and **Michael Laktash, Ellet**
- Thirty **STEM School** students competed in the 46th annual Age Group Track Program held at Firestone, and 27 placed in their events. Students from 30 elementary and three middle schools participated in six events (two field and four running). Results are posted at www.akron.k12.oh.us/dept/050. The STEM school students' coach is **Aaron Merz**.
- **North** students in rooms 110, 118, 126, 218 and 420 earned a trophy for their bowling performance at the Riviera Lanes tournament. The trophy is on display in the school's main office.
- The following students were named WAKR's Student Athlete of the Week: **Buchtel** – **Johnathan Coleman** (football) and **Jason Pitts** (basketball); **East** – **Jalisa Gavin** (basketball) and **Gerald Gregory** (football); **Ellet** – **Jeffrey Cockerham** (golf) and **Cara DeAngelis** (cross-country); **Firestone** – **Samantha Cardarelli** (volleyball); **Garfield** – **Sheldon Spaulding** (basketball); and **North** – **Jesse Unk** (track).
- **Akron Digital Academy** freshman **Jackson Harris** won two gold medals in speed skating at the Special Olympics. He also lettered in bowling and baseball this year.

Grants and Revenue (back to top)

- APS received a \$50,000 Burton Morgan Foundation grant for the development and delivery of six workshops on incor-

porating an entrepreneurial mindset into **NIHF ... STEM School** curriculum and school culture.

■ Four 21st Century Learning Center grants totaling \$800,000 were awarded to APS by the Ohio Department of Education. The funds will provide extended-day and extended-year programs in 11 elementary and one middle school. Approximately 100 students will be served at each site, including tutoring services and recreation and enrichment activities from various community organizations.

■ A \$2,000 grant from OMNOVA Solutions Foundation will fund a “Let Me Learn” Program at **Lawndale**. The grant provides training for third- and fourth-grade students/teachers to help raise students’ test scores on the Ohio Achievement Test.

■ **Career education** is the recipient of a \$5,000 High School of Business (HSB) Implementation Grant for **Ellet**.

■ Galen and Ruth Roush (GAR) Foundation grants totaling \$77,936.38 were awarded to the following schools: **Bettes** (“The World Cafe: Connecting Children, Content, Computers and Cultures,” \$15,000); **Firestone** (“Firestone Freshmen Soar,” \$5,000); **Garfield** (“RAP – Reaching Academic Potential,” \$10,000); **Leggett** (“Traveling Thematic Trunks: The Art of Writing,” \$15,000); **Litchfield** (“Enhancing Math Achievement Through Technology and Curriculum,” \$6,700); **Portage Path** (“A, B, C, D – Good Books, Good Choices For Me,” \$15,000); and **Seiberling** (“Focusing on Math Through Art and Music,” \$11,236.38). The grants will support the goal of increasing student performance in the core content areas

■ The Ohio STEM Learning Network awarded up to \$160,000, for three years, to the **NIHF ... STEM School**. The grant will support the hiring of two staff members, a hub-embedded staff member and a school-embedded staff member to gather information about partnership and school practice. This support is funded by the Gates Foundation and the Battelle Memorial Institute to launch and connect five Ohio STEM schools.

■ **Jennings CLC** received a two-year \$53,000 Enhancing Education Through Technology grant. The funds will be used to improve student academic achievement through technology use (technology literacy by the end of the eighth grade) and integrate technology with teacher training and curriculum development.

McEbright received a \$138,000 grant from the eTech Ohio Commission and the Ohio Department of Education. The grant’s goal is to improve student academic achievement through technology by the end of the eighth grade.

■ **91.3 The Summit (WAPS-FM)** received an \$18,100 Digital II Radio Conversion Fund Grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

■ The Ohio Department of Education authorized \$148,000 for the APS **early childhood education** program, to be used to provide a developmentally-appropriate preschool experience for 48 children.

■ **McEbright** received a \$138,000 grant from the eTech Ohio Commission and the Ohio Department of Education. The grant’s goal is to improve student academic achievement through technology by the end of the eighth grade.

■ Lockheed Martin provided \$15,000 to the **National Inventors Hall of Fame® School ... Center for STEM Learning**. The funds will be used for student programming, transportation, field trips, registration fees, equipment, materials, food and supplies.

■ **Resnik CLC** received a \$4,900 grant from the City of Akron Neighborhood Partnership Program. The grant is in support of a collaboration between APS, NASA, Resnik CLC and local community members to strengthen and encourage elementary students’ interest and skills in math and science. Students and parents will learn about “Living in Space” and the benefits of space exploration. This evening program allows students and parents to work through guided math and science activities developed by NASA, including a family packet for extended learning at home once the program has been completed.

■ **Rankin** received \$4,000 from OMNOVA for the school’s Reading Alive program. Each month, Leo’s Ark provides interesting guest speakers and hands-on learning about animals, their habitats and the food chain that affects them. Students will be writing monthly about these visits.

■ APS will receive a \$70,000 grant from the State Action for Education Leadership Project. This funding allows the “Big 8” Ohio school systems to continue working with the Wallace Foundation and the Ohio Department of Education in developing district- and building-level school improvement teams and practices.

■ The following APS teachers earned \$500 grants from the Akron Council of Engineering and Scientific Societies: **ACCESS/OMNOVA grants** – **Carolyn Hofer** and **Stephen D’Attoma, East** (“Animal Ecosystem Exploration”); and **Edwin Cauffield, Firestone** (“Competitive Rocketry With Mr. Newton”); and **ACCESS/ExxonMobil grants** – **Elizabeth Terrill, Buchtel** (“Hang on Sloopy: A Natural Balance in the Buckeye State I”); **Joshua Oldham, East** (“Using Forensic Science Problems as Teaching Tools”); **Steven Remenaric, Ellet** (“Pinewood Derby Cars in the Science Classroom”); and **Penny Pletikapich, Litchfield** (“Personal Care Chemistry”).

■ The **Akron Young Scholars Program** received an \$800 grant from The Ohio State University’s Office of Minority Affairs. The program has 52 students enrolled in APS middle and high schools. These African-American, Hispanic, Appalachian, Native American and other under-represented-minority students are given year-round educational opportunities and personal support beginning in the spring of their sixth-grade year through the completion of the 12th grade, when they will receive a guarantee of admission to The Ohio State University with appropriate need-based financial aid.

■ The City of Akron is providing \$185,000 in APS after-school program funds at 16 elementary schools. The programs include tutoring followed by recreation and enrichment activities.

■ APS received \$76,134.72 to support the School Psychology Intern Training Program. Three school psychology interns will complete their nine-month residence training in Akron schools.

- A \$600 OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring Program grant will provide funds for training and tutor materials.
- **Portage Path** fifth-grade teacher **Karen Grindall** received a \$2,968.45 Martha Holden Jennings Foundation grant. The grant will provide data collection integration into math, social studies and science.
- **Ritzman CLC** third-grade teacher **Kathy Devus** received a \$640 Akron Community Foundation Millennium fund grant. The grant will fund field trips to Akron's historical sites.
- **East** marketing/DECA students received an H&R Block grant for a Virtual Business Personal Finance Simulation Competition. The students are working through the lessons and will compete with students from around the country.
- The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation awarded APS a \$211,000 planning grant to develop a community engagement process. The process, titled "Partnerships for a Learning Community," will plan and prepare for full implementation of community dialogues in targeted CLC neighborhoods in order to develop CLCs into neighborhood activity hubs.
- The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators provided \$5,000 to support the Governor's Summit for the Ready Schools Initiative at **Leggett**. The grant will cover the costs of identifying and coordinating professional development materials, registration, conference hotel expenses, substitute costs and teacher stipends for the year-long initiative. A Ready School team will be selected to serve in advisory meetings, aggregate data and report to ODE.
- A \$6,000 eLearning Module Professional Development grant was awarded to APS by the Ohio Department of Education. The eLearning program will train staff through The University of Akron.
- APS received a \$10,964 Service Learning Resource and Development Unit grant from Cleveland State University for the **Akron Early College High School**. The grant will support the Students Paying It Forward Program, which gives students the opportunity to give back to the community while developing work skills and networking. AECHS students will provide elementary and middle school tutoring.
- **Forest Hill CLC's** PTA received a National PTA® grant for its participation in Take Your Family to School Week. Forest Hill CLC is among 32 PTA schools from 23 states to receive this special recognition. The grant was awarded by the National PTA's CEO Byron Garrett.
- **Career education** received a \$1,000 Career Tech Prep grant for the **Buchtel, Ellet, Firestone, Garfield and Kenmore** programs from The University of Akron's Tech Prep Consortium.
- **Career education** received a \$2,500 Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation grant for **Firestone**. The funds will update Project Lead the Way equipment.
- APS received a \$6,000 Ohio Department of Education grant from its Office for Safety, Health and Nutrition for **Forest Hill CLC, Rankin and Resnik CLC** (\$2,000 per school). The funds will provide a Parent Academy to address the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables in students' daily diets, decreasing portion sizes, finding hidden fat and sugar in foods, and increasing daily physical activity.
- APS received an \$18,000 sub-grant from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Refugee Children School Impact Program. The grant provides supplemental educational services to refugee students and will fund a week-long English immersion summer program focusing on listening, speaking and reading skills.
- **Ritzman CLC** received a \$600 Master Gardeners of Summit County grant to create a butterfly garden in front of the school. The garden will be prepared by third-graders, designed by fifth-graders, planted by fourth-graders and populated with butterflies by second-graders. The grant was obtained by **Katherine Devus**.
- APS received a \$170,778.79 21st Century Learning Center Grant from the Ohio Department of Education to provide extended-day and extended-year programs in 27 elementary and one middle school to benefit approximately 100 students per site. Summer programs will combine academic and enrichment activities. APS provides tutoring, and community organizations provide recreation and enrichment activities. Parent activities are included.
- APS was awarded a \$95,600 grant to fund the purchase and installation of Engine Control Systems Diesel Oxidation Catalysts on 49 buses. The grant is funded through a federal grant awarded to the Ohio EPA by the U.S. EPA under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act State Clean Diesel Program in 2009.

Scholarships (back to top)

- Cargill Inc. awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship to **Lauren Barnes** of **Firestone**. As part of the Cargill Community Scholarship Program, Firestone received \$200 in Barnes' honor to support the school's library.
- The following **career education** students received \$1,500 renewable W.B. Snow Scholarships: **Elizabeth Aronhalt, Alex Darkow, Tazo Harper, Felton Shropshire, Tylan Stone, Usaaman Taugir** and **Martezz Williams**.
- The following **career education** students were selected as Students of the Year and earned a \$200 Rotary scholarship: **Buchtel** – **KyEsha Brown** (pre-nursing); **Ellet** – **Ashley Goodwin** (animal management), **Courtney Kelley** (early childhood education), **Katie Spinks** (information technology) and **Peter Strawman** (construction technology); **Kenmore** – **Christopher Commings** (marketing); and **North** – **Diem Nguyen** (marketing) and **Jordan Spinks** (administrative office technology).
- The following Outstanding **Career Education** students earned \$100 Rotary scholarships: **Buchtel** – **Veniece Harris** (marketing) and **Shatorra Portis** (information technology); **East** – **Eric Cosey** (commercial art), **Mariah Hood** (dental assisting) and **Samuel Palmer** (electronic engineering); **Ellet** – **Nashay Bailey** (administrative office technology), **Stefanie**

Swan (marketing) and **Alyssa Williams** (information technology); **Firestone** – **Barry Stormer** (marketing) and **Zachary Schroeder** (pre-engineering); **Garfield** – **Justin Carter** (pre-engineering), **Dezira Starcher** (administrative office technology) and **Jennifer Ziegler** (restaurant management); **Kenmore** – **Monique Bingham** (information technology) and **Nicholas Overstreet** (computer-aided manufacturing); and **North** – **Armin Cvoric** (HVAC).

■ The Akron Council of PTAs' Student Recognition Night will award scholarships to the following students: **Buchtel** – **Alexia Autry, Diamond Gattis, Dean Neal and Tasha Taylor**; **East** – **Allyson Isaak, Camari Lewis, Kristen Lockhart and Marquise Wallace**; **Ellet** – **Melanie Baker, Taylor Baker, Tonnie Beal, Daniel Calvin, Jeffrey Campano, Thomas Chenevey, Zachery Curet, Cara DeAngelis, Margo Faidley, Amanda Hamrick, Emily Jack, Lacie Oden, Danielle Parker, Thomas Shaub, Branden Simone, Dillon Tribble, Ashley Wisberger, Christine Wurtz and Sarah Yakubik**; **Firestone** – **Elizabeth Allread, Julie Botnick, Samantha Cardarelli, Jamie Costello, Hannah Daneshvar, Juanita Dennis, Anna Dorfi, Monica Edgerton, Marisa Espe, Steven Farmer, Leah Friedlander, Andrew Gatti, Jennifer Harris, Anna Herr, Katelin Michalec, Joshua Miller, Angel Pay, James Ray, Carlie Shaughnessy, Brandon Shields, Anne Trahey, Colin Warner and Chloe Welch**; **Garfield** – **Samantha Barrios, Dava Butler, Elizabeth Haas, Emma Hershey, Latoya Higginbottom, Morgan Johnson, William Shimko, Lindsey Stanek, Neal Woods and Susan Xiong**; and **Kenmore** – **Maryah Addie, Beau Anderson, Sabrina Cable, Merri Fasick, Destiny Jamison, Kathrine Koons, Katie Lamson, Matthew Massaro, Michael Massaro, Shane Moses, Jamie Patterson III and Heather Rohrbaugh**. Sixty-six scholarships totaling more than \$35,300 will be presented.

■ **Akron Early College High School** junior **Olin Clay** earned scholarship recognition from the National Merit Scholarship program based on his fall 2009 PSAT test results. His name will be entered into semi-finalist competition.

■ **North** heating, ventilating and air conditioning students earned awards in the state HVAC competition: *fourth place* – **Jake Miller** (\$2,000 scholarship); and *sixth place* – **Cherelle Weaver** (\$1,000 scholarship).