



“Inside the Yellow Jacket”

Calendar of Events

February 1	Middle School PTO Meeting
February 3	East/Twin Oak/Wiggin Street Yearbook Sale Ends Wiggin Street Jump Rope Team Performs at Kenyon
February 4	Middle School PTO Event - Skateland
February 6	Middle School PTO Event - Fiesta Mexicana
February 8	Solo & Ensemble Recital @ MVHS
February 9	Dan Emmett/East PTO Meeting
February 10	Pleasant Street Yearbook/Activity Pictures Twin Oak Math-a-Thon Fundraiser Middle School Valentine Dance
Week of February 13	Interim Reports Sent Home
February 17	Dan Emmett Father/Daughter Dance
February 20	Holiday - No School
February 21	Middle School Winter Band Concert
February 22	Columbia Spring and Group Pictures
February 23	Middle School Orchestra Concert Mount Vernon Science Fair
February 29	District Early Dismissal - one hour early
Weeks of March 5 & 12	Second Grade ITBS/CogAT (Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Cognitive Abilities Test)
March 6	Wiggin Street Spring Pictures Wiggin Street Author Visit High School Band/Choir Concert
March 7	Wiggin Street Author Visit
March 8	Dan Emmett Spring Pictures East PTO Meeting Twin Oak Spring Pictures
March 11	Daylight Saving Time (set clocks ahead one hour)
March 12-16	High School OGT Testing
March 13	Middle School Choir Concert
March 14	Dan Emmett PTO Meeting
March 15	District Battle of the Books
March 19-23	High School OGT Testing Make-up
March 21	End of the Third Grading Period

March 22	High School FFA Banquet
March 27	High School National French Test
March 28	High School National French Test Make-up
March 29	District Early Dismissal - one hour early Middle School Talent Show - HS
March 30	Elementary Report Cards Sent Home Middle School Talent Show - HS
Week of April 2-6	Spring Break - No School
April 9	Classes Resume after Spring Break East PTO Meeting
April 10	Twin Oak Kindergarten Registration (by appointment only) Middle School PTO Event - Ron's Pizza
April 11	Columbia Donuts for Dad Twin Oak Kindergarten Registration (by appointment only)
April 12	East Kindergarten Registration East PTO Meeting
April 13	Columbia Kindergarten Registration East Spring and Group Pictures Middle School Spring Dance
Week of April 16	Middle School Spring Book Fair
April 16	Wiggin Street Kindergarten Registration
April 17	Pleasant Street Kindergarten Registration
April 18	Pleasant Street Kindergarten Registration High School Real Money/Real World
April 19	Dan Emmett Kindergarten Registration
April 20	District Kindergarten Registration Make-ups at Dan Emmett Wiggin Street Fun Festival Tops-N-Pops - at the Middle School
April 21	Destination Imagination Middle School Solo and Ensemble
Week of April 23	Interim Reports Sent Home
April 26-28	High School Musical

Columbia Elementary School

Columbia Elementary has many strong connections to the local community. Mrs. Erin Humphrey and Miss Stacy Suarez, second grade teachers at Columbia, presented to the school board in December and outlined many of the wonderful community initiatives that are taking place with Columbia Elementary and its local community.

The first update they shared was the community garden project. Columbia Elementary has a rich and flourishing garden. Students have the rewarding experience of gardening. Columbia families and individuals from the neighborhood have benefited from having fresh vegetables to pick from the garden. The community garden project has also expanded by the establishment of a greenhouse. The greenhouse was made possible by a generous donation from the Rock family and was installed by students from the Knox County Career Center.

The second annual Columbia clothes drive took place

in August and was a great success. The school's gym was filled with gently used clothes and families from the Mount Vernon community were invited to find items for back to school. The summer reading program was another initiative that took place. The reading program was expanded so that it was offered to all kindergarten, first, and second grade students. This summer, forty students attended on a regular basis. The goal for next summer is to continue the program's expansion by offering it also to third grade students.

In November, Columbia Elementary once again hosted a Pint Size Hero Blood Drive. The drive was very successful as 49 pints of blood were collected during this month.

Columbia students passed out carnations to veterans on the town square during the Mount Vernon Veterans Day ceremony.

Columbia Elementary has also formed a strong partnership with the Mount Vernon Nazarene University. The M25:40

initiative collected over \$3000 to support Columbia Elementary with educational supplies, assemblies, and field trips. The school also benefited from a Vision Grant that provided all first and second grade students with a year subscription to Scholastic News. Another great benefit of this collaboration is the twelve Mount Vernon Nazarene University Bookworm students who tutor students on a weekly basis. The University has also supported Columbia students by collecting over 600 books that are available to students to take home for their home libraries.

Members of the South Vernon United Methodist Church have also had a positive impact upon the school. In August, they provided school supplies for students. They have also supported the school by providing hats, gloves, scarves, and coats for this winter. The church continues to provide an after school program on Thursdays, in which nearly twenty students regularly attend.

Ohio Achievement Testing

Reading	Third Grade	April 23
Math	Third Grade	April 24
Reading	Fourth Grade	April 25
Math	Fourth Grade	April 26
Make-ups		April 27
Reading	Fifth Grade	April 30
Math	Fifth Grade	May 1
Science	Fifth Grade	May 2

East Elementary School

Last Spring, Mrs. Heidi Hanna and Mrs. Marilyn Nagy, second grade teachers at East Elementary, created a great opportunity for their students. In order to save costs, these teachers decided not to take their annual field trip to the Columbus Zoo. Instead, they employed a camping theme to teach their students about the environment and subsequently provided them with a unique and memorable experience.

The camping experience took place on June 2nd and June 3rd. The teachers named their activity Camp Skeeter. East Elementary and Phillips Park served as the principle sites for the camp. The experience was enhanced by the creation of t-shirts that had the logo of Camp Skeeter printed on the front. The students and teachers wore their shirts during the camping experience.

Each day of Camp Skeeter began at the flagpole. The students conducted roll call and also received mail. Parents were encouraged to write two

letters before the event. These letters provided parents with an excellent opportunity to let their children know about how special they are to them. On the first day of camp students ate lunch at school. The students had a cookout and picnic on the second day.

The two days were filled with activities. Fifth grade students showed them how to construct and launch canister rockets. The teachers, parents, and community members led the students through a variety of enriching activities. The students went to stations that lasted about 25 minutes. Each station covered a variety of activities such as recycling, llamas, bird beak adaptations, plate tectonics, and an erosion table. The students were also led through a river study. The camp experience concluded with boat regalia and boat races.

The first Camp Skeeter was a great success enjoyed by students, parents and teachers. Plans for the second camp are already underway.

Driveway and Parking Improvements at Wiggin Street

If you have driven past Wiggin Street School recently, you would have noticed that we have an improved driveway/parking area. This project was made possible by the very generous efforts of individuals in our community.

Mark and Denise Ramser (their children attended Wiggin Street) provided the needed property adjacent to Wiggin Street through a 50-year lease at not cost to our school district. In addition, Mark had the land that he has provided for this expansion leveled for our use. Scott Shremshock (his children also attended Wiggin Street) provided the architectural drawing and supporting information for the initial planning. Knox County engineer, Jim Henry, provided support information. Jim and summer engineering intern, Ryan Applegarth, also found a grant that provided funding for the previous concrete to be used in this project. Gambier Village Council was supportive in assisting with the final input and steps necessary to move forward.

We are appreciative to these individuals for their help in making our drive/parking area an improved and safer area for our parents, students and staff.

Mount Vernon City Schools

300 Newark Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Phone: 740-397-7422, Extension 6025
Fax: 740-397-4174
Email: sshort@mvcasd.us

2012 Board of Education Meeting Dates

January 10
February 13
March 12
April 16
May 4
June 11
July 9
August 20
September 10
October 8
November 19
December 10

Mount Vernon Board of Education
Dr. Margie Bennett, President
Mrs. Jody Goetzman, Vice President
Mrs. Paula Barone
Mrs. Cheryl Feasel
Mr. Steve Thompson
Mrs. Judy Stahl-Reynolds, Treasurer

Administration
Mr. Stephen J. Short,
Superintendent
Dr. Mitch Emmons,
Director of Teaching & Learning
Mrs. Pam Rose,
Director of Student Services

"Inside the Yellow Jacket"

Website—www.mvcasd.us

Wiggin Street School to Host Author, Michael J. Rosen

On March 6 and 7, Michael J. Rosen will be visiting Wiggin Street School. Rosen is the acclaimed author of more than 75 books for children and adults, including picture books, YA novels, cookbooks, humor, anthologies, and 15 philanthropic books that benefit childhood hunger efforts and animal welfare organizations. Preparation for Michael Rosen's two days at Wiggin Street is underway and we look forward to hosting his visit.

Wiggin Street School's Literacy Coordinator, Vicky Lambert says, "Author visits become powerful educational tools when combined with the Ohio Standards for the English Language Arts **and** the adopted Mount Vernon City School District's method of delivery of those standards." Mount Vernon City Schools, grades K-5 use the Ohio State University's research based model of Literacy Collaborative.

The author visit is at no cost to the Mount Vernon City School District. Funding was made possible through:

Grants from Ariel Foundation and The Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County,
Private donations to *Gayle's Corner*, a fund dedicated to increasing literacy through the purchase of books set up in memory of Wiggin Street teacher, Gayle Geiger,
Wiggin Street Teachers,
The Wiggin Street Parent Organization.

