Three students from the Berea City School District have been named National Merit Finalists: Abby Richard (Midpark), John Cary and Paul Switlyk (Berea) in the 2013 Merit Scholarship Competition. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during their junior year. Abby, John and Paul were among 15,000 students in the nation who were officially named as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program. Less than one percent of the U.S. high school seniors in each state are named as finalists. Students who achieve finalist status are eligible for National Merit scholarships, corporate and college-sponsored scholarships.

District National Merit Finalists

From left: Paul Switlyk, Abby Richard, John Cary

Tressel Grindstone Award Winner

Congratulations to Board of Education member, Dave Tressel, for being selected as the 2013 Berea Grindstone Award Winner. The 46th Berea Chamber award will be presented on April 23rd at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.
Inspiring Academic Achievement

Berea High Academic Achievement Awards

Midpark Academic Letter Awards

2013 Midpark National Honor Society Inductions

The 2013 Education Foundation Auction
The Cleveland Clinic’s eXpressions™ Program is an interdisciplinary program that uses art, written communication, and math to engage high school students in the world of scientific research. Through project-based, peer-to-peer learning, students produce interpretations of research conducted by Cleveland Clinic summer interns. This year the eXpressions™ Program received the highest number of art and language submissions they have received in the 8-year history of the program. As a result, the competition was the most rigorous yet.

Congratulations to Berea High students Emily Truong (Blue Ribbon & White Ribbon) and Erica Truong (Red Ribbon) who won awards in language, and to Christina Harris (Honorable Mention) and Brianna Zahir (White Ribbon & Legacy of eXcellence™ Award for winning awards four years in a row), who won awards in art, along with Midpark student Abigail Richard (White Ribbon), who is taking art at Berea High this year. Both Emily and Abigail were also previously selected for Creative Learning Internships through the summer internship program. The students worked with Gifted Services teacher Jane Darrow and art teacher Jim Bycznski, and they were honored at a special reception in February at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Engaged with Cleveland Clinic: Designing Emergency Rooms

In January, eleven program students designed and presented five different scenario-based emergency rooms for the following settings: rural, urban, military abroad, military out-to-sea, and an international remote location. These students were required to design an emergency room model that included the following specifications in each of their designs: physical layout, innovation in equipment, devices organization, staffing and connections with other departments. Students were also asked to look beyond the physical layout and create a model that would positively impact the global delivery of patient-centered health care.

An esteemed panel of Cleveland Clinic emergency room and design experts- John LeCastre, Emergency Services Institute, Joseph Strauss, Construction Management, and Brian Smith, Construction Management - evaluated student presentations and provided mentorship to contribute to student learning.

The Office of Civic Education Initiatives was established in 2005 to fulfill the Clinic's commitment to promote education throughout Northeast Ohio. Through the Office's innovative programs and partnerships, the Cleveland Clinic is able to contribute to what they consider our most precious resource and our best and brightest hope for the future.
Experiences Shared Across Our District

A Mathematics/Art Field Trip

A Chinese New Year

A Great Gatsby Gala

A Unique Turkey Trot

Athletic Letters of Intent

An All-District Pre-School Open House

Select photos submitted by Kathy Wood, Midpark Athletic Secretary
Second Annual Dash for Dignity May 11 at Roehm

Frederick Roehm Middle School jumped into 2013 with a one-of-a-kind initiative that promotes fitness, improves student achievement and supports two important causes. The community-supported project includes organizing the 2nd Annual Dash for Dignity, a 5K race to be held in Berea on May 11.

"This initiative is a great way to emphasize the importance of fitness and connect learning targets to real world experiences, while also supporting community causes," said 8th grade teacher, Amanda Prok. "Our students will not only organize and participate in the 5K event, but they'll also engage in a fitness and dietary-related study. They will top-off the initiative with a donation to two charitable causes."

Beyond funding fitness education, proceeds from the “Dash for Dignity” will be donated to the SADS Foundation and the Stan Bugarcic Memorial Fund. The mission of SADS is to save the lives and support the families of children and young adults who are genetically predisposed to sudden death due to heart rhythm abnormalities. The Stan Bugarcic Memorial Fund will contribute to a young widow and her children, after the tragedy of her husband’s death while competing in a local triathlon last year.

“Our Dash for Dignity committee is looking to local businesses and community leaders for support. We need products and services for Race Day, along with financial donations to help make this event a success,” said Prok.

Roehm students have been training weekly for this event, and they also designed the T-shirts and logos that will be given on race day, along with posters and brochures. They are also looking for runners to participate. To register for the run or to donate, visit: http://www.speedysneakers.com/DashforDignity2013.aspx
The Last Winter Sports Events

Berea High and Midpark

Ford and Roehm
New coach, new system, same result....The Midpark girls basketball team, under first-year head coach, Tom Thompson, brought home the Southwestern Conference Championship Title for the FOURTH year in a row! The team traveled to second-place Amherst Steele High School to wrap up the championship and came away with an exciting overtime victory to seal the title. The next week, after their final home game ever, the Meteors celebrated by cutting down the nets for the very last time.

The team was made up of seniors Korie Maryo, Meghan Stornes, Michelle Gable, and Sam Neric; juniors Jessica Barnes, Stasha Carey, Becca Ziska, Tianna Moody, Maria Carney, and Kyla Johnson; and sophomore Gretchen Albright. Coach Thompson, assisted by his son, Chad, came to Midpark to finish out the last year of their recent basketball “dynasty” after previous head coach Stephanie Mentz moved on to coach at Notre Dame College. Coach Thompson’s steady guidance of the team led to his selection as Conference Coach of the Year.

On March 2, the Midpark girls won their third straight District title by defeating North Royalton 62-48. Congratulations also go to Midpark’s Stasha Carey, who was named to the 2012-13 Division I FIRST TEAM Associated Press Northeastern Lakes All-District for girls basketball.

Congratulations to the Polaris Chef Training team of students who competed in the 2013 ProStart Invitational Culinary competitions in Columbus. This annual contest, presented by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF), allows students from programs around the state to showcase their culinary talents. For the fourth straight year, Polaris took top honors in the Culinary Team event and will represent Polaris and the state at the national competition in Baltimore this spring.

Members of the championship team are Allison Shoemaker (team captain), North Olmsted High School; Alec Bahrizcuk, Midpark High School; Travis Hawk and Katarina Liska, Strongsville High School; and Elijah LaBoy, Berea High School. As state champions, each student was awarded scholarships from several renowned culinary schools ranging from $8,000 to a full tuition scholarship to the Chef’s Academy worth over $70,000. The team scholarship earnings totaled $500,000 from Johnson & Wales University, the Culinary Institute of America, the Chef’s Academy, Columbus Culinary Institute, International Culinary Schools at the Art Institute, Mountain State University, and Sullivan University.

Congratulations to Intervention Specialist Andrea Bockmore (Snow School) on being selected as a winner of the prestigious Plain Dealer Crystal Apple Award™, sponsored by Bryant & Stratton College for the 2012-2013 school year. Andrea was nominated by Administrative Assistant Bonnie Zeiger, who wrote “her energy, perseverance and patience with her students is more than commendable.” All winners, their nominators, and their administrators will be recognized at a special banquet to be held in May.
BPM Hospice & Ford FOR Homeless Projects

Ford, Roehm, and BPM Honor Sandy Hook
Select photos submitted by Maria Bartch, Ford PTA President

Ford, Big Creek, and BPM Celebrate Veterans Day

Berea High Cafe Harambee: "Light of My Life"
The Diversity Committee at Grindstone Elementary School celebrated Diversity Week with the theme, “Dare to be Different: Dare to be Dr. King.” The students worked on daily activities in the classroom that went along with the theme. In addition, the students shared their “dreams” on bricks that were used to create a Diversity Bridge as a school-wide display in the main hallway. The bridge not only shared each child’s individual dream but represents the hard work of Martin Luther King, Jr. in “bridging the gap.”

As a culminating activity, 80 third and fourth grade students attended “The Say It Summit” after school. High school students from both Midpark and Berea High Schools facilitated groups of students in activities that involved role-playing, discussions, and reflections about being a peace maker just like Dr. King.

Grindstone’s PTA was one of only five PTA’s in Ohio to win the “Take Your Family To School Week” $500 grants. Grindstone had a full schedule of activities planned in February including Muffins with Mom, Appreciation Wall and Playground Safety, Berea Police Officer Lages speaking about safety in the community, and Principal Grimm speaking about school safety. They finished off the week with a Family Dance/Safety Fair/Book Fair.

Lemony Snicket Author and Illustrator Visit Grindstone Elementary

On April 3, the students at Grindstone Elementary School were visited by guest award-winning author, Lemony Snicket, and illustrator Jon Klassen. Both shared their talents in a dynamic all-school assembly. Students were thrilled to hear Lemony Snicket read the duo’s 2013 Caldecott Medal book, *This Is Not My Hat*, and simultaneously watch Jon Klassen interactively illustrate the story for the audience. School principal, Mrs. Teri Grimm, was grateful to the Cuyahoga County Branch Library and branch manager, Pam DeFino, for providing this opportunity for the entire school. Mrs. Grimm shared, “Seeing all students engaged as the authors entertained with their wit and humor was rewarding.” Over 500 guests from Berea and several surrounding communities were treated to an encore evening performance at Berea High School. Parents and children praised the event as entertaining and fun!

Midpark Baseball vs Fire Department

The Midpark Varsity baseball team joined with members of the Middleburg Heights Fire Department in April to entertain the seniors at Emeritus at Brookside Estates in Middleburg Heights. The two squads faced off in a “Wii Home Run Derby Challenge,” organized by Christine Gipson, director of Brookside. The Midpark team edged out the firefighters and won Pizza Hut coupons and a handsome trophy. The residents had a great time cheering and encouraging the sluggers. Afterwards the teams’ shared stories with the residents on their baseball season. The decorated room was then turned into a mini Progressive Field with a wide screen TV for everyone to watch the home opener, Indians vs. Yankees, hotdogs, warm pretzels, and soda was served. Go Midpark! Go Firefighters! Go Tribe!
The Cleveland Browns Visit Big Creek

Song Dog Jay, BPM, & Artists in the Schools

Guest Conductor Dr. Rebecca MacLeod Inspires Young Musicians During the District Orchestra Festival
Two Fall Plays & a Winter Musical

Berea High - “The Crucible”

Midpark - “The Butler Did It”

Big Creek - “The Music Man Jr.”
District Again Recognized for Music Excellence

The NAMM Foundation has once again recognized the Berea City School District for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education designation. Our district joins 307 districts across the country (out of more than 2,000) in receiving the prestigious distinction this year. In its 14th year, Best Communities for Music Education affirms school districts that have demonstrated exceptional efforts toward maintaining music education as part of the schools’ core curriculum.

The annual survey requires districts to answer detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. It also measures opportunities to learn music, the presence of highly qualified, certified music teachers, and adherence to state and national standards. To make the “Best Communities,” a community must be committed to high standards for music education in all areas.

“We are extremely proud to be ranked among the Best Communities for Music Education in the nation once again,” said Superintendent Michael Sheppard. “We strongly believe in the importance of music and the arts in helping to build a solid foundation for success with all our students.” A recent Gallup Poll showed that 94 percent of Americans consider music to be part of a well-rounded education. What makes music in school so important? Research has shown that music...

- Develops skills needed for the 21st century workforce: critical and analytical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, teamwork and more.
- Keeps students engaged in school and less likely to drop out.
- Helps students increase performance in other academic subjects like math, science and reading.
- Helps communities share ideas and values across different cultures and generations.

Studies also show that playing music improves the atmosphere for learning and is correlated with better grades and test scores in other areas. Young children who received a year of musical training showed brain changes and superior memory compared with children who did not receive the instruction. To learn more about the program, visit www.nammfoundation.org.