

# Success Starts Here

## Crooksville Exempted Village School District

December, 2011

Issue IV

Administrative Center \* 4065 School Drive \* Crooksville, OH 43731 \* 740-982-7040 \* FAX 740-982-3551

Due to a change in the "Ad Bag," there is no cost effective way to distribute the district newsletter to the community. We will now provide paper copies to our students and local businesses as well as posting the entire newsletter on our district website [www.crooksville.k12.oh.us](http://www.crooksville.k12.oh.us).

### A Note From the Superintendent

As the holiday season is upon us, it reminds us of the importance of our friends and families. It also marks the midpoint to our school year and prompts us to start planning for next year. As a district we have gone through many changes over the past two years. These changes have been a result of educational and financial needs. I am extremely proud of how our staff, students, and community have worked to make these changes into points of strength.

As we look forward to next year, I anxiously wait to see what the state legislature and governor will put in place for school funding. As I have stated in the past, the majority of Crooksville Schools' funding is provided through state aid. This year we lost \$200,000 in state aid, and currently the level of funding we will receive is not known. This makes planning very difficult. Even with this uncertainty, it is our goal to improve the quality of our students' education and move forward with providing our community with a school they can be proud of.

I do hope this season brings joy and happiness to your family and friends.



### Curriculum & Instruction

Mrs. Alea Barker, Director

#### CALAMITY DAY CHANGES COMING FOR CROOKSVILLE

Even though we have not seen any snowflakes fly as I am writing this article, we know that they will soon be on their way. Therefore, I find it necessary to explain some changes in our calamity day policies at Crooksville Schools. Recent law changes from the state of Ohio have promoted several calamity day changes in the past few years, and another change is on the horizon. Previously, Ohio had determined that school districts would be granted five calamity days that could be excused, then last year the lawmakers changed that to three, but at the last minute granted to give the two back that were lost making the total excused five.

This school year, the lawmakers have granted the initial five days and have added to the law what they are calling "snow lessons" and "blizzard bags." **What are snow lessons and blizzard bags?** Our teachers have developed snow lessons during

their professional development time for the possible occurrence of cancelling school after the initial five granted calamity days. These snow lessons will be placed on our district website, [www.crooksville.k12.oh.us](http://www.crooksville.k12.oh.us), for student access and must be completed in a timely manner. In the case that a student does not have access to the internet, blizzard bags will be copied and sent home with students for the same completion of the lessons. **The state has granted an additional three calamity days using this format for the make-up of instruction for students.**

Our teachers have done an outstanding job of preparing high quality lessons that students will be able to complete during the three additional calamity days. **Finally, we will only utilize the snow lessons and blizzard bags upon missing the sixth, seventh and eighth day of school.** **Students will NOT have access to the lessons until the decision is made to cancel school on the sixth, seventh and eighth day.**

Perhaps, we will have a mild winter and the birds will come back early, but reality says that we must be prepared. If you have questions regarding calamity days, please contact the school your child attends.

I hope that you get a chance to enjoy the Christmas season with your family and friends. God bless & Merry Christmas!!



## Crooksville High School

Mr. Casey Coffey, Principal

Happy holidays from our Crooksville High School family! December will go very quickly and it is important that academics remain priority number one during the rush of the season. In preparation for inclement weather and potential snow days, please make sure you are paying attention to the detail of organization and accountability for your grades. Remember the semester comes to an end on the last day of school before the holiday break. Scheduling for classes for next school year will begin when we return to school in January.

Thank you to all parents who attended parent-teacher conferences. If you were unable to attend conferences and you would like to set up a time to meet with your son or daughter's teacher, call the high school office at 982-7015.

Please see the activity page of this newsletter for important dates for the high school.

## Crooksville Intermediate School

Mrs. Terri Caton, Principal

\* *Character*

\* *Involvement*

\* *Scholarship*

How many of you have had this experience? Your child comes in after school and you ask, "What did you do at school today?" I would bet you are all hearing the response in your head! "Nothing." I would stand at the door of my classroom as students left to remind them of what we had done so they might actually answer! I can guarantee you that "nothing" is NOT what they did at school today or any day! I encourage you to read to see what your child has been learning during the past couple

of weeks.

In fourth grade, students have been learning about the Revolutionary War in Ohio. This follows up their study of Ohio Indian tribes (always a favorite topic). In science, they completed a great technology wall showing what they would invent to make the world a better place! Ask your child to explain KPP! In language arts, we are preparing to write personal narratives about something exciting. It would be a great help to brainstorm about a topic with them. In math, we are heavily into multiplication in various forms. By the way, one of my favorite tools for working on basic facts is masking tape. *Most* children know *most* of the facts. For the few that they find tricky, try writing the problem (not the answer) on a piece of masking tape in a place where they will see it often, such as on the fridge or by the light switch in their room. When you have the opportunity, point to the problem. I guarantee that fact will move into the "mastered" column quickly! In reading, no matter what the subject, we work on finding the main idea and supporting details as well as learning new vocabulary.

Fifth graders are coming to the end of their study of U. S. regions. We had a good discussion about where they might choose to live (a great topic for family conversation). In science, students continue to learn about the Earth and its resources. Ask your child to tell you about how they made recycled paper and to show you their 3-dimensional model of the water cycle. Reading lessons are focusing on understanding the difference between fact and opinion and on making good predictions about what will happen next based on the text. You might also like to hear the part your child played in our Reader's Theater production of *Thanksgiving with the Tappletons*. Students are writing stories and essays and are learning to

judge the quality of their own writing using rubrics. Fifth graders are tackling multiplying and dividing with decimals. Next stop-algebraic expressions!

In sixth grade, students have been tackling challenging earth science topics. Could you "Summarize the effects of carbonic acid on limestone"? Our students can! They have learned many things about Asian cultures and are now studying Japan. To connect subject areas, students are reading *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes*. Encourage them to tell you the plot of the novel. In language arts, students are working with *millions of kinds* of figurative language. Let them tell you about that phrase! Sixth grade math is also focusing on decimals, especially in using them logically and in real-world situations.

Seventh graders have been immersed in the study of ancient Greece. They are focusing on "big ideas" that play out again and again over time. Ask your student to tell you one! In science class, we are in the middle of a genetics unit so your child might be asking to see your earlobes or if you can curl your tongue! Math lessons using algebraic expressions and equations are in full swing. Mr. Hill is also getting ready to recruit students for his Math Counts team which competes against other students in the region. In reading, students are hard at work identifying aspects of fiction and in language arts, grammar central is set to become writing central!

Whew! That is just a small sample of what is happening for your kids at CIS. It's a fun, busy place to be with great teachers and great students. Thank you for supporting their learning at home and have a wonderful holiday season.



**Crooksville Primary & Preschool**  
Mr. John Toeller, Principal

There is excitement in the air at the preschool as thoughts turn toward Christmas. Christmas parties will be held Tuesday, December 20 and Wednesday, December 21 in the preschool classrooms. Students will also have a music program on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 pm in the high school commons. For more information about the preschool contact Mr. John Toeller, principal at 982-7010.

On Tuesday, December 19 primary students will enjoy a performance by ventriloquist Mark Wade. His performance this year will be entitled "Personal Choices." Mark's performances are both entertaining and educational.

The staff at Crooksville Primary and Preschool wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

**Crooksville Intermediate School Student Council**

The C.I.S. Student Council is really working hard to create positive change in our school and our district as a whole. Students have looked critically at our district mission statement, and have added their own flair to create a statement of their own that reflects the feelings and aspirations of their intermediate school peers. All of our representatives agree that bullying is an issue that warrants significant consideration from the student leaders of our building. Sixth grader Abigail Hampton, our Climate Secretary, recently created a survey to gather anonymous

**Art Students Celebrate Fifth Annual Art Extravaganza**

On November 6, 2011, thirty-three students from first to twelfth grade gathered at Ohio University's Kennedy Art Museum, along with their families, friends, and staff members of the Crooksville School District to celebrate the Fifth Annual Art Extravaganza. The students each had artwork for sale and the proceeds are split between the student who produced the artwork and the school's art department. The program raised approximately \$1,400.00. Thank you to everyone who attended and bid on the student artwork. Pictures of our students who attended and participated in the art extravaganza may be seen on the school website.



data from all students. The student council will then tabulate this data and use it as a springboard for discussion groups that will serve as problem solvers in our school.

We would also like to express our overwhelming thanks to all of the Crooksville community members who donated canned food for the Iliff Church food pantry drive! It was incredible! We hope to recreate this type of drive soon in the primary building as well. A picture with our students passing the food from the intermediate building to the church door is on the school website.





## Art Students Celebrate Fifth Annual Art Extravaganza

Pictured from bottom row left to right:

Jaelynn White, Allison Baughman, Hanna Brown, Thomas Russell

Row 2: Dillion Darling, Kierstin Richards, Arden Gillette, MacKenzie White

Row 3 Blake Blau

Row 4: Peyton Binkley, McKenzie Bowen, Dylan Storts

Row 5: Kristen Hunt, Kaitlyn Cannon, Trevor Piccone

Row 6, OU Dean of Education, Renee Middleton, PhD., Storm Smith

Row 7 Corey Gibson, Thomas Slayton, Alyssa Swingle, Ronald Creech

Row 8, Tasia Kern, Ashly Clark, Tanner Dalrymple, Stella Sampson

## Crooksville Intermediate School Student Council

The Iliff Church food pantry drive! It was incredible! Our students passing the food from the intermediate building to the church door.





Ashly Clark, Grade 10



Tasia Kern, Grade 11



Ronald Creech, Grade 10



Stella Sampson, Grade 10



CHS Art Students at the 5th Annual Art Extravaganza—OU Kennedy Art Museum