

## GEAR UP Counselor Newsletter

Volume 2/Number 5, Monday, October 09, 2006

### Sara's Side.....

**Fall Greetings!—there are far too many good things going on in the schools for me to waste your time here, so please read on for what is GREAT about GEAR UP!**

### Highlight on Best Practices.....

Clark-Moores Middle School's GEAR UP program hosted the stone carving duo, Al and Penny Nelson to help our students with a unique and creative project. On September 26, 27, and 28<sup>th</sup> almost 1/3 of the student body participated in carving a limestone sun dial/time capsule that will be permanently displayed outside of the school. The students also made jewelry out of the pieces that they had carved themselves. The time capsule, which was placed inside the carved monument, was signed by all the students who worked on the project and many faculty and staff. On Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. we invited students, parents and faculty to a dedication where we showed a power point of the student's hard work. We also put significant items in the time capsule. Mr. Nelson then sealed the capsule which will be opened on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2021. *See you then!*



*CLARK-MOORES MIDDLE SCHOOL'S COMPLETED PROJECT—*

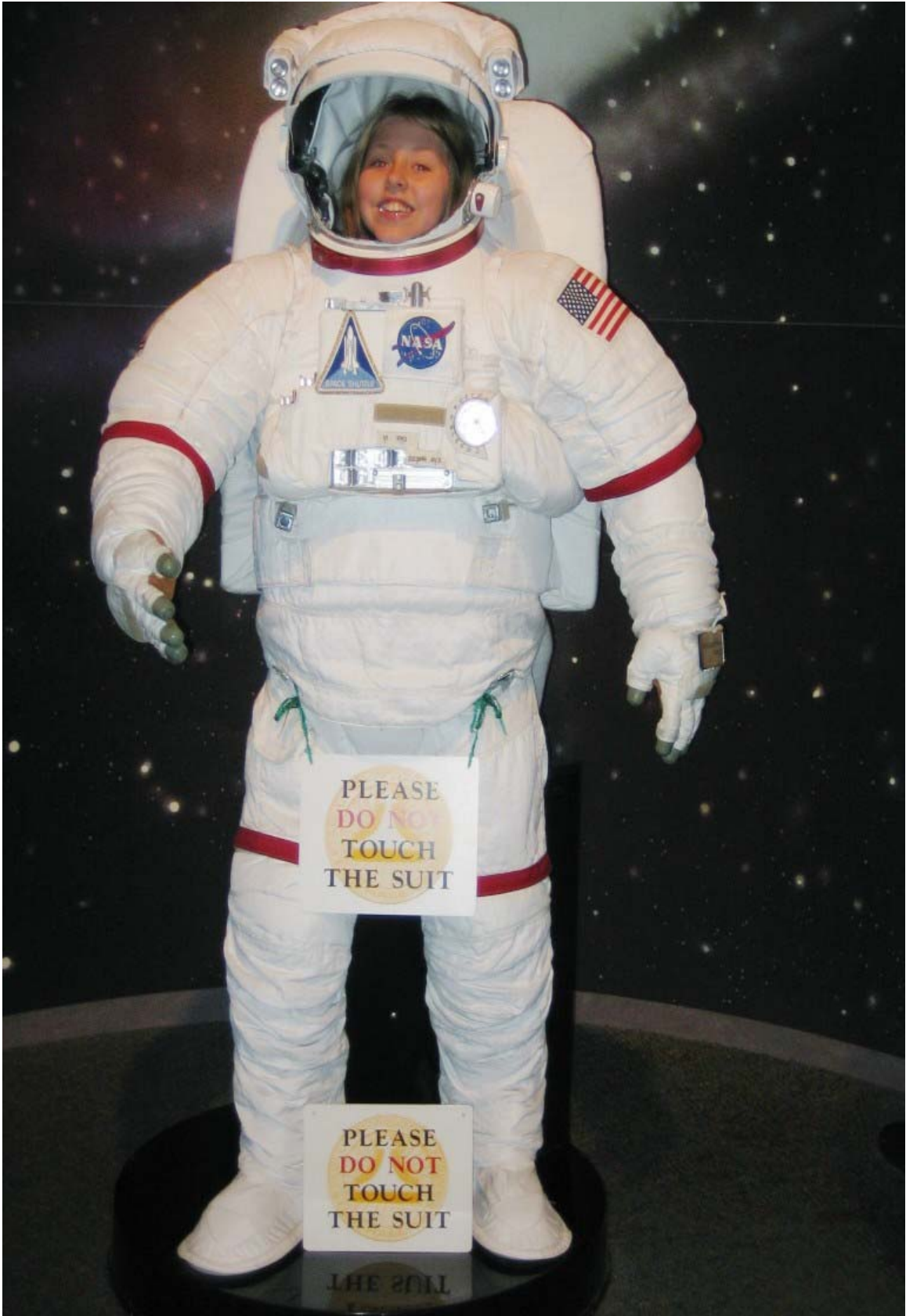


*AWESOME JOB ZAC WRAY AND THE CLARK-MOORES TEAM!*

***LINDA TAYLOR AND THE BEREA COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCOVERED COOL THINGS ABOUT FLY-GUYS AND FLY-GIRLS!***

Early in the school day, on September 28, eighty-four eighth graders and their chaperones ran through a downpour to board charter buses bound for Dayton, OH. Their mission on this rainy day was to visit Wright Patterson Air Force Base and the National Museum of the Air Force. Upon arrival, the students were treated to an IMAX film called "The Magic of Flight". Then, the group dispersed to begin an aviation history scavenger hunt created by Mr. John Masters, the middle school/high school principal. As the group strolled through the 17 acre complex (under roof), they were able to learn about man's earliest flights, and then follow the history of flight through modern day.





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Sarah Evans from the EKU Arts and Humanities Collaborative was also at the **Berea Independent Schools** in September. **Debbie Borders and the elementary school staff hosted** the storytelling program –Tell Me a Tale! Sarah says, “*We had a wonderful program with the Berea students being very knowledgeable and enthusiastic participants.* Sarah also wants everyone to know that in October the Arts and Humanities Collaborative will have several programs going into GEAR UP schools. **Berea Independent** will host the Hands On Latin Style Concert for their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. **Madison County** is hosting the Latin Dance Quartet, Hands on Latin Style music concert and the Classical Beat concert. **Lee County Middle** will be having the Hands On Latin Style music concert and the African Dance concert in early November. Please note also, there are a few openings for the Latin and Classical Beat music concert during the first week of November as well as the It’s Greek to Me performance—this is an Ancient Greece to Medieval theatre program. Also a reminder to schedule your 8<sup>th</sup> grades for the Arts Jeopardy spring review program. This is a free program for members of the Collaborative and excellent testing review. To schedule your school for any of the performances, contact Sarah Evans at sarah.evans@eku.edu or call 859-622-8488.

Rochelle Garrett recognizes **Madison Middle School’s** Margert Soto’s hard work planning and hosting Conservation Day for their students. *Conservation Day is a field day to heighten student’s awareness of the environment. Every year I develop the program around the topic that the Courier Journal Newspaper proposes. These topics rotate each year but Kentucky is always the focus. It’s not a nationwide event—actually it is not even a recognized day. I call it Conservation Day and the most important thing is that all the people who join us are involved with conservation in one aspect or another. They come all day and volunteer their time and energy for the sake of teaching our students an awareness of Kentucky’s environment. It takes a lot of time to put together AND a lot of prayer . . .but it is worth it, don’t you think!?* —Margaret Soto

Madison Middle School GEAR UP is also partnering with community businesses and local programs to highlight careers. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade MMS students learn about a different career every month. By highlighting careers, GEAR UP hopes to spark the student’s career interest or assist students in focusing on a career that he/she had never considered as an option. Last month nursing was the highlighted career. Lloyd Jordison RN and Ava Wright RN from the Madison County Health Dept. were the speakers. They talked about the field of nursing and the diverse roles that nurse’s play—from a school nurse, the hospital emergency room nurse to the nurse who flies in a helicopter transporting patients for care. EKU College of Health and Sciences Dept. Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing collaborated by providing MMS students with information on a Baccalaureate in Health Education and a Baccalaureate Nursing Curriculum Plan.

Over at **Lee County Middle School**, Willie Addison asks, “*Is it Friday already?*” *We have had the most wonderful two days here at Lee County Middle School with Amy McLoney from KHEAA....She is wonderful. The kids love her.*

*She always goes that extra mile for us. We have been working on the Go Higher Kentucky web site. These are some of the comments overheard from students during the last two days:*

***"I didn't realize I could make this much money if I become a....I'm going to school!"***

***"This helped me to get more focused. I know what I want to be!"***

***"Animal Science is for me and I can go to college here in Kentucky."***

***"I want to be a lawyer, Do you realize I can be a millionaire in 10 years!?"***

**What a great way to end our Friday!**



### **Remember.....**

\***School Based Staff Meeting** Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Lee County Middle School Library. TOPIC: Best Practices to Involve Parents, Michelle Scarberry has scheduled Chuck Moore to speak with us.

**NOTE: The meeting will begin promptly at 8:30. This will allow the buses the time they need to unload and move on and give the students a chance to settle. A light breakfast will be served during a morning break and we are having lunch with the folks at Lee County. The meeting should end by 1:00 p.m.**

\***Mom and Dad Go to College** event (The Traditional Music Festival at Berea College) for Jackson, Estill and Lee Counties on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> (*Contact Michelle Scarberry for more details.*)

\***Middle School Principal's Walk-Throughs** the week of October 30<sup>th</sup>. (*Contact Kim Gardner for more details.*)

\***Individual Learning Plan (ILP)** trainings occurring throughout the region. (Please let me know if you are not on your school's team.)

\***Kentucky Association of Financial Aid Administrators (KASFAA)** trainings occurring throughout the region. (Please let me know if you have not scheduled.)

## **Information for All .....**

*More opportunities from the Arts & Humanities Collaborative at EKU!* We just received word that Collaborative members will again receive reduced prices for at least 8 Chautauqua programs. If you are not familiar with these programs, they are historical figures from Kentucky that visit schools for a 60 minute program. There are many to choose from and THEY ARE AWESOME—in Sara's opinion! Student audiences can be up to 150. The price has been reduced from \$400.00 to \$150.00 and THIS IS A STEAL—in Sara's opinion! Some historical figures for you to consider are:

- HENRY CLAY
- GEORGE ROGERS CLARK
- DR. THOMAS WALKER
- SIMON KENTON
- MISS DANNIE THOMPSON
- ANN MAE CLARKE
- LUCY MAE LEDFORD
- ADOLPH RUPP
- SALLIE WARD

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR TEAMS AND TEACHERS ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY. You can contact Sarah Evans directly through her email ([sarah.evans@eku.edu](mailto:sarah.evans@eku.edu)) or call 859-622-8488.

## **Good Reads:**

SORRY CUPCAKE, YOU'RE NOT WELCOME IN CLASS The days of the birthday cupcake -- smothered in a slurry of sticky frosting and with a dash of rainbow sprinkles -- may be numbered in schoolhouses across the nation. Fears of childhood obesity have led schools to discourage and sometimes even ban what were once de rigueur grammar-school treats. "They can bring carrots," said Laura Ott, assistant to the superintendent of Orange County's Saddleback Valley Unified School District, which this month started allowing non-nutritious classroom treats only three times per year. "A birthday doesn't have to be associated with food." Such nutritional dictates have ignited a series of mini cupcake rebellions across the country, and Texas has led the way. The Texas Legislature last year passed the so-called Safe Cupcake amendment, which guarantees parents' right to deliver unhealthy treats to the classroom -- such as sweetheart candies on Valentine's Day and candy corn on Halloween. Rep. Jim Dunning sponsored the legislation after a school in his district booted out a father bringing birthday pizzas to his child's class. "There's a lot of reasons our kids are getting fat," said Dunning, a Democrat from Waco. "Cupcakes aren't one of them." Whether cookies, cakes and other birthday treats at school are the culprits or not, writes Seema Mehta, the nation's children are definitely packing on the pounds. <http://www.latimes.com/news/education/la-me-cupcake27sep27,1,3733448.story?coll=la-news-learning&ctrack=1&cset=true> Sara's note: You can't read this article without registering (for free) at the LA Times, but I just had to put this excerpt in—I still remember fondly some of my elementary school classroom parties!

GETTING TEACHERS OUT FROM BEHIND THEIR DESKS Lee Dorman, a middle school teacher, calls herself "a walker and a stalker," as she teaches not from behind a desk but by walking throughout the classroom. "I just never figured out how on earth to teach sitting down," says Dorman, whose desk is basically an oversize in-basket. Here and there, a small but growing number of teachers is following Dorman's example, educators say, abandoning the traditional classroom power center. To them, a desk is really a ball and chain, distancing them from students. With the new emphasis on raising achievement for all students, many teachers say they

have to stay mobile to make sure they are reaching everyone in their classroom, reports Jay Mathews. The no-desk movement seems to have had little visible impact on schools so far. David Horn, director of marketing communications for the School Outfitters Web site, said he saw no sign of teacher desk sales falling off. There appears to be no research on how many instructors have abandoned their desks and, in a field replete with specialist groups, there apparently are no declared associations of desk-less teachers. Still, success stories among desk-less teachers appear to have influenced plans for some charter schools, which are publicly funded but independently operated. Desk-less teachers are more common in such schools because the schools themselves tend to encourage experimentation. Some charter school principals have banned teacher desks from classrooms and placed teacher workstations in group offices to facilitate lesson planning.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/02/AR2006100201031.html>

## **You Gotta Read:**

TEN MORAL CONCERNS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NCLB The National Council of Churches USA's Committee on Public Education and Literacy has created a webpage for people of faith to lift voices for justice in preparation for the scheduled 2007 reauthorization of the NCLB. The project will permit participants to send ten letters, one letter for each of the ten morals concerns the committee has identified. The committee is asking writers to add a personal story to each letter about how NCLB is impacting a particular school, child, teacher or community. Jan Resseger, Minister for Public Education and Witness in the United Church of Christ, believes the voice of the church will deepen and enrich what is too often a technocratic, policy-wonk conversation. The National Council of Churches, since 1950, is America's ecumenical voice of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican, historic African American and peace churches comprising 45 million members in 100,000 congregations.

<http://www.faithfulamerica.org/article.php?id=91>

## **The Last Thing:**

A Note to Cindy Saylor (GEAR UP Counselor at Foley Middle School) from a fellow- teacher . . .

*Cindy—*

*One of our students called Sean Perry (Professional Photographer) last week and asked him several questions about photography and how to order a good camera on e-bay! Apparently, he talked so much about Sean's visit to the school and how much he now wants learn photography that his grandparents have found him an inexpensive camera for his birthday. Not only that, but another student took it upon himself to start individual research of photography and photographers.*

*It is always good for students to see artists' first hand to be inspired! The best experience is real life experience and I want to thank you for all of our past collaboration projects and I hope to collaborate more with you in the future.*

*Thanks.*

