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## Renewal Levy On November 8 Ballot WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES

The Parma City School District will have a renewal levy on the November 8 general election ballot. This renewal levy is not a tax increase. These funds will provide our basic services such as transportation, safety and security and supplies and materials used in the classroom to teach children.

This renewal is for a levy originally passed twenty years ago in 1996. The renewal is a key component of the district's budget representing \$8,062,500. This renewal is for exactly the same amount originally passed in 1996 and, therefore, by law it cannot raise taxes.

"This renewal is crucial to helping us maintain a school district that will make our community proud. Over the past year we have worked to engage all parts of our community. I will meet regularly with our three mayors, local business people and parents. We

are attempting to involve the entire community in their public schools" said Superintendent of Schools Carl Hilling.

"I understand that our taxpayers want and deserve good value for their tax dollars, and I believe we are providing an educational program that meets the needs of all of our students" said Superintendent Hilling.

Our school district will be committed to transparency in all of our operations, especially with our finances. Anyone can go onto our website and find a complete list of every purchase order the district has issued. Community members can see exactly how we spend our revenue. If you ever have a question about how your tax dollars are being spent, we urge you to contact the Treasurer or any member of the Board of Education.

# SPRING 2016

# THE PARMA CITY SCHOOLS MONITOR

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

## It Is Great To Be Here



Carl H. Hilling  
PCSD Superintendent  
- Expect The Best -

I have been in education for nearly fifty years, and I have worked in wealthy school districts, highly diverse school districts, small town and suburban districts. Although every district was different, I have found that all had certain things in common:

1. *No matter if the district was in the country or the city, the parents of the children who came to school cared about the education their child was receiving.*
2. *The community, regardless of the number of young or old living in it, cared about the public schools.*
3. *In all of these communities there were "citizens" willing to volunteer time and energy into making the public schools better.*

Nowhere are these truths more evident than in the Parma City School District. Although it would seem easy for us to be divided with our schools representing three different communities, we are very much alike. Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills all share a tradition and heritage of hard working, religious people who take pride in their homes, their neighborhoods, and their schools and together they make up the Parma City School District.

All three communities have a tradition of providing children with many options. Seven Hills has a great recreation center combined with wonderful parks, Parma Heights has a community theater and a super outdoor public swimming pool, and

Parma has a golf course in the middle of the city, and one of the most active softball schedules in the country.

It is this pride in our community, pride in our homes, and pride in our people that brought me back to the Parma City School District last September. Now we are nearing the end of the school year, and I can tell you it was a great decision. I really love the people here. All of you and all that our three cities have to offer together make up our school district.

It is exciting to see the Shoppes of Parma rebuilding the former Parmatown into a new shopping area that will serve our residents and those beyond our borders. We have three county libraries, a well run hospital and some of the greatest ethnic food I have ever experienced, and it is all a part of the Parma City School District.

When I returned in August, my greatest hope was that our three communities with all of our diversity would join together and be a part of our Parma City School District team. I truly believe that when we all work together, children learn, our schools improve and our entire community benefits!

My commitment to you is that I will work every day to make our schools better, to make you proud of our students, and to build a team of educators and support staff that always makes our students their priority. It is why I am back, and I am proud to be here.

### WHAT'S UP

- MAY 30 Memorial Day - National Holiday
- JUNE 3 Last Day of Classes for Students
- JUNE 5 Normandy, Parma and Valley Forge Graduation at the Wolstein Center (check the high school websites for details)
- JUNE 9-12 Rib and Rock at Tri-C West
- JULY 4 National Holiday
- JULY 5 Summer School Begins For details check www.parmacityschools.org/summer
- JULY 25 Second Session of Summer School Begins - For details check www.parmacityschools.org/summer
- AUG. 22 First Day for Teachers
- AUG. 24 First Day for Students
- SEPT. 2 Last Day for Senior Photos
- SEPT. 5 Labor Day Holiday / No Classes

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## Dedicated Students Honored For Their Achievements

On April 14, the Parma City School District acknowledged 40 students from its 14 schools at the Celebrating Our Best event that took place at Normandy High School. The students that were honored were selected by the building principal and were chosen because of their dedication to helping others whether it be tutoring a classmate or donating their time to positively impact the community.

It was the first annual Celebrating Our Best event, and the third time in 30 years that the school district honored students who exemplified their dedication to serving others. The two previous times were "Heroes In The Making" that took place in 2005 and "Breakfast of Champions" that took place in the 90s.

The building principals were in attendance for the event and sat with the nominees and their families for dinner that was provided by the Sword and Shield – the Career and Technical Educational culinary program. Celebrating Our Best had a turnout of over 150 people. A seven piece string ensemble from the Normandy Music Department provided music during the event. Each nominee received an engraved plaque, medal and had their picture taken with their family, Parma City School District Superintendent Carl Hilling and Board of Education president Kathy Petro. Hilling spoke at the event and praised the students for their commitment to assist others and for influencing their classmates. The night concluded with a performance of "Magic by Rich." With the positive feedback Hilling received regarding Celebrating Our Best, he would like to hold the event next year.



Pictured Above: Magician Rich Weeber makes smiles appear

## Hilling and Board Eliminate Positions Keeping Costs Under Control

One of the first things that Superintendent Carl Hilling did when returning to the Parma City Schools in the fall of 2015 was review the administrative staffing. What he found was a number of administrators without clear job descriptions or duties. Superintendent Hilling has, throughout his career, made administrators accountable for their jobs, and when he feels that the district does not need a position he is quick to make changes.

As we enter the final weeks of this school year Mr. Hilling has eliminated four high paying Central Office positions, and eliminated, or changed four building administrative positions. These changes will save the district hundreds of thousands of dollars, but saving money is only half the reason Mr. Hilling made the changes.

*"I want to build a team of administrators who clearly understand their role in the district, and work every day to help us provide a first class education for our students. In a "team" everyone needs to both know their role, and do their job. Only then do we have a team that will do the best for our students. It is what students, parents and residents of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills expect of their schools. It is what I expect and will demand of our administrative team."*

In addition to the reductions that Mr. Hilling has made, the district's Treasurer has resigned effective April 29. Instead of replacing this position the Board of Education asked two of the Treasurer's top assistants to take over the job. Each will receive modest raises, but the savings in this area will still be in excess of \$50,000.

Mr. Hilling also abolished the position of Director of Technology, and replaced this position with a Tech Team of four members of the technology department. The district will still save over \$80,000.

The Board and Mr. Hilling are committed to running the district in a cost efficient manner. They understand that our taxpayers expect and deserve a well-run, financially responsible school system, and they are dedicated to providing it. At the same time every change is focused on improving the education of our students.

## Pennies For Patients

The Parma City Schools received the District of Distinction Award from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as a result of the fundraising efforts of five schools. Valley Forge, Hillside, Shiloh, John Muir, and Pleasant Valley collectively raised \$15,801.42 to fund research for leukemia and lymphoma. PCSD was one of the top six fundraising schools in the Northern Ohio Chapter. "Through this campaign, we are teaching and encouraging our students to give back to the community," Pleasant Valley special education teacher Kimberly Tomco Karaffa said. "By giving, the students are able to directly help children with blood cancer in Northeast Ohio. They also learn that when we work together, we can achieve great things."

Pleasant Valley raised over \$6,900, the most out of the five schools that participated. The student council brainstormed spirit days that encouraged students to participate in the fundraising efforts. Pleasant Valley spirit days included "Hats Off For a Cure" and "Team Up Against Cancer" where students wore their favorite team gear. Hillside collected more than \$4,600 using a heartfelt marketing campaign to assist in raising money. "In the cafeteria, we had biography sheets of local students stricken or are in remission with leukemia or lymphoma. It brings it home and makes it really personal for the students," Hillside fifth grade student council advisor Kim Frey said. The majority of the money raised through the Cleveland Chapter stays in Northeast Ohio and funds research at the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University.



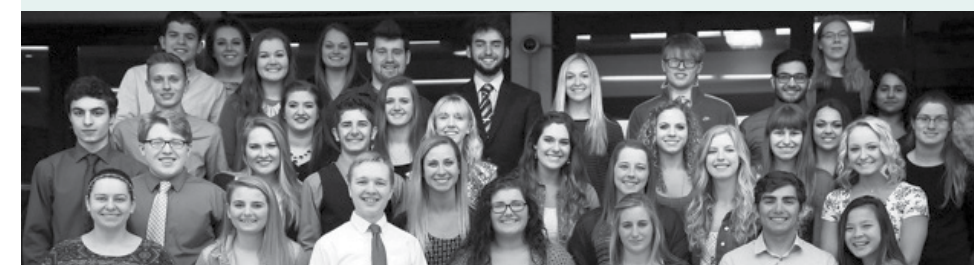
Kerri Peterson-Davis, campaign manager for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society student series, gives Superintendent Hilling the "District of Distinction Award" at the May 9, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

## Winners Circle

On Friday, April 29, the annual "Winners Circle" scholarship presentation ceremony was held throughout the Parma City School District. 105 seniors from Normandy, Parma and Valley Forge High Schools were presented with scholarships from a variety of sponsors, and the entire day was organized by the Parma Council of PTAs. In total, just under \$100,000 was awarded to high school seniors. The PTA Geranium Sale, the 64th annual, was one of the Council's major fundraisers for scholarships for students.



Parma Senior High School



Normandy High School



Valley Forge High School

## Valley Forge Athletic Hall of Fame

Almost two years to the day from their inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame induction in 2014, Valley Forge High School held their second induction ceremony on May 14 in the school's auditorium, a continuation of honoring the best athletes the school has produced during the last 50 plus years.

This year's class has 28 men and women, including three coaches and two teams. Some of these athletes went on to have successful college and professional careers. Many of them continued to share their lessons learned by becoming coaches or mentors. All of those inducted are still shining examples to the community and the students of the school of what it means to "Play like a Patriot."

The three coaches inducted this year, John Broski, Ken Konchan, and Bill McCleave '66, were more than just coaches - they were Patriot institutions. Coach Broski was the

first boys basketball coach at Valley Forge in 1961. Ken Konchan was the head coach for the girls basketball teams for 26 years, from 1974 until 2000. Bill McCleave '66, returned to Valley Forge to become the head football coach for 19 seasons.

The undefeated 1968 football team, coached by Hall of Fame Inductee Jim Fritzsche Sr., outscored their opponents 275 to 67 and were crowned Lake Erie League Champions, the second time in eight seasons. The 1968 Mile relay team of Tom Graham '68, Don Milinkovich '68, Mark Stiffler '68 and Howard Watts '68 finished fourth at the state meet, and set a school record of 3:20.9, a record that still stands today 48 years later.

Every athlete inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame has a success story. In the coming months, we will add to the tributes of the inductees placed on our website at [www.parmacityschools.org/valleyforgeathletics](http://www.parmacityschools.org/valleyforgeathletics).