

## School Closings & Delays

Not only are we right in the thick of the holiday season and rush, but this time of year also marks those mornings when many of our students wait for word of a delay or the cancellation of school because of foul weather. As you have traditionally done, please check with one of the TV or radio stations, or even one of the websites that are listed here to check the status of the Shelby City Schools. I also want to mention that we may have the opportunity to pilot an automated calling system between now and the end of January. This calling system will allow us to notify all of our parents by phone if we delay or cancel school so if you get a call early in the morning from me it is part of this program and it is legitimate.

I think anyone who lives in Ohio would agree that delaying or canceling school at some point is inevitable. As such, please understand that the safety and well-being of our students is always our first and foremost concern. Our buses begin their routes at 6:30 a.m. and all attempts to make a decision to delay or cancel school will be made prior to that time. Also, keep in mind that if we do go on a two hour delay it is with the thought that we will be in school that day. Of course, there may be instances when we must go ahead and cancel and if that happens we will certainly make that decision as early as possible so that parents can make arrangements for their children.

### Web Sites:

Shelby City Schools - <http://www.shelbyk12.org/>  
Mansfield News Journal - <http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/>

### TV Stations:

Channel 68 WMFD – Mansfield  
Channel 5 WEWS – Cleveland

### Radio Stations:

WSWR FM 100.1 – Mansfield  
WNCO FM 101.3 – Ashland  
WYHT FM 105.3 – Mansfield  
WVNO FM 106.1 – Mansfield  
WNCO AM 1340 – Ashland  
WMAN AM 1400 – Mansfield

## Auburn Teachers Focusing on the DATA - Auburn Elementary

Auburn Elementary teachers are focusing on the data of students and their growth when they meet twice a month as grade level teams. Mathematics is the topic of discussion. The conversation focuses on how to pitch instruction to take students from what they already know as measured in a pre-assessment to meeting the standard in the post assessment.

Data teams give teachers an opportunity to examine instruction and put their heads together to maximize student growth. Teachers are also taking a close look at designing assessments with the needed level of

rigor as we begin our transition to the Common Core Standards in Mathematics with our kindergarten and first grade students. Our two data team meetings per month are dedicated to looking at data, so that all students are making growth that can be documented. Part of the instructional discussion of these meetings also focuses around what can be done or tried when a student is not showing the desired growth. The ultimate goal is that regardless of where they start, our students will show at least one year's worth of growth during a school year. This can not happen unless we are looking at data to guide our instruction and make us accountable.



## Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) and Race to the Top (RttT) Update

Over the past few years, the Shelby School District has utilized the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) as our school improvement tool. At least annually, we have shared information about our progress in the SUCCESS newsletter. Last year, we announced our participation in Race to the Top (RttT) and the goals associated with this award. We have now officially merged the OIP and RttT and need to communicate the anticipated outcomes associated with this combined plan.

The OIP is a research-based process with heavy emphasis on data-driven needs assessment, intense planning and expanded leadership. The mission of Race to the Top is focused on the development of a world-class education system where students graduate "College and Career Ready". The merger of these initiatives seem particularly appropriate as we prepare to move into new Common Core State Standards and Assessments, "Great Teachers and Leaders" and data systems to support instruction. The phrase "Rigor and Relevance" is at the heart of the nation's education overhaul.

With full implementation of the new standards and assessments set for 2014-2015 school year, the District Transformation Team has established the following priorities:

- Our students need to be able to comprehend at higher levels. The new Common Core State Standards significantly expand the use of non-fiction reading and comprehension. Some grade level reading expectations are believed to be increased by as much as two years.
- Our students must become better thinkers and problem-solvers in all areas. They need to be able to apply their learning to real-life situations and challenges; *depth is key*. In math, there is an increased emphasis on fact fluency with 3rd graders expected to "fluently multiply and divide within 100". Students must fully grasp higher math skills, concepts and knowledge at each grade level.
- Our students must demonstrate at least one year's growth in all areas. We need to use student data to design differentiated instructional strategies that support a wide range of student levels.
- Our students need appropriate keyboarding skills and the necessary technology to use those skills. State assessments will be completed online with even elementary students. Our work in the area of writing has been particularly important, as we now must strive to become aligned with the technology aspect of the new standards. For example, at the first grade level the following standard has established through the Common Core: *"With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers."*

Professional development will help prepare teachers and principals for the many changes ahead. Teachers have participated in grade level and departmental meetings focused on the new standards and aligned instructional approaches. RttT funding has supported the use of consultants specializing in the Common Core State Standards with grade level teacher teams. At the regional and state level, many training opportunities have been made available.

Please watch future issues of SUCCESS for continued updates about the district's progress. We are striving to assure Shelby students and educators are well prepared!

Shelby City Schools provides monthly updates of our RttT/OIP progress at the following webpage: <http://www.shelbyk12.org/RttT/>

The Ohio Department of Education RttT information may be accessed at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>

### State Representatives

The Ohio House of Representatives:  
Representative Jay P. Goyal (D) District 73 614-466-5802  
[district73@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district73@ohr.state.oh.us)

The Ohio Senate:  
Senator Kris Jordan (R) 19th District 614-466-8086  
[SD19@senate.state.oh.us](mailto:SD19@senate.state.oh.us)



Shelby Teachers and Principals work with Dr. Ky Davis, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Muskingum University.

## Central is Staying Busy! - Central Elementary

Central School has been a busy place these days! Our students have been busy learning, playing, and giving back to the community, which makes us all very proud to be a part of the CSI community.

Central students held a coin drive to benefit the Shelby United Fund and raised \$407.32 to donate to this wonderful local organization. In addition, we had a homeroom competition where Mrs. Kelly Shaffer's class led the pack, with a total contribution of \$141.77. Congratulations to Mrs. Shaffer's class and thanks to all of Central School for participating!

Central School also participated in a canned goods drive to benefit another local organization for the holidays. We also sent over 12 cases of canned goods and non-perishable food items to the First Lutheran Church's food pantry. We were so glad to be able to help to meet the needs of our community through this organization.

Our 6th grade teams enjoyed their time at Camp NuHop (minus the mountains of wet, muddy laundry that came home with them). Even though the weather was inclement for much of the time both teams were there, the show went on anyway. Students still experienced the whole Camp, with building a geodome to teach them about teamwork and geometry, taking a night hike to enjoy nature in a new setting, and flying high on the high ropes course and giant swing to challenge themselves to reach new heights. For many students, this was their first time away from home for an extended period of time, but they all had a great time and had a very memorable experience. A special thanks goes out to our 6th grade teachers who weathered the rain and mud with them, as well as the Shelby Foundation for the generous grant to help offset the cost of the trip, a memorial donation from the community, and Central School PTO for all of their generosity and assistance.

The 5th grade teams at Central have been exploring some of the outdoors themselves. Recently, the Ohio Bird Sanctuary (OBS) came to Central School to visit and to teach 5th graders about some of the birds of prey that they work with. Following the visit from OBS, students completed work on their ecosystem projects, which were truly creative genius. Students used various materials to build their ecosystems, which allowed them to engage in a hands-on learning experience.

Our Gifted & Talented Program also took a trip to Malabar Farm State Park to learn about Louis Bromfield and the legacy he left behind. They were able to experience a night hike on the grounds and watch a play entitled "Louie" about Bromfield and his life. It was another great opportunity for our students to engage in an authentic learning experience outside of their classroom walls.

We are looking forward to holidays and a great start to the new year. We hope that you enjoy the time with your family in the coming weeks and we thank you very much for the opportunity to work with your students to help them to achieve excellence every day!



5th grade students learn about Monte the Owl from the Ohio Bird Sanctuary.



Mrs. Shaffer's homeroom class poses with the check that CSI sent to the United Fund from our student coin drive. They also won a pizza party for their efforts. Great job, CSI!



Gabe Biettner and Riley Place use their problem solving skills during Mrs. Stroup's Advanced Reading class. Using a GPS device, they were to locate the setting of the Ferguson homestead where the short story "Up Ferguson Way" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Louis Bromfield took place.

## Auburn Students Haul in the Change for United Fund - Auburn Elementary

The students at Auburn Elementary were determined to have a successful "coin war" for the Shelby United Fund. They did just that and in the process raised \$2139.24 for the fund drive. Each classroom battled with each other for the title of top dog in the coin war. During the week, daily leaders were announced and that provided the motivations to bring in more change the next day

in hopes of being the classroom leader. At the end of the week Mrs. Morris' third grade class led all classrooms. I am sure there are many empty piggy banks around town, but all for a good cause.

