



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Do You Eat Kohlrabi?	2
Agricultural Education	2
Industrial Maintenance	2
New You Center	3
Cameron HS Rendering	3
Autism	4
Technology Integration	4
Math Field Day	4
Hilltop Elementary	4

Rescheduled Days

The Marshall County Schools calendar has been updated to regain as much instructional time as possible in accordance with the law. As a result, the following dates, are now instructional days.

- April 6
- April 7
- April 8
- June 6

MCS Policies

Board of Education policies may be viewed at <http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us/policies>. FY09 New and amended policies include:

- 10.4 Expenditures
- 5.19 Wellness
- 7.11 Recycling
- 5.1 Attendance
- 3.1.29 Retired Sub Need

US Department of Education to profile John Marshall



Aba S. Kumi, Director of the NCLB No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbons School Program, in January notified principal Thomas Wood that a team from RMC research would visit John Marshall High School on March 2nd and 3rd. This visitation came as quite an honor, as John

Marshall was the first West Virginia School visited since the inception of the NCLB Blue Ribbon School program. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the excellence of programs and instruction at the school. One of the main purposes of the Blue Ribbon Schools Program is to share information about highly successful schools with other schools throughout the nation. By profiling winning schools, such as John Marshall, the program hopes to assist other schools in providing the same high quality education for their students. A summary of the school site visit will be posted on the Blue Ribbon Schools website at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan

Marshall County Schools is beginning the process of creating the 2010-2020 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP), as required by the WV State Department of Education and the School Building Authority of West Virginia. The CEFP, also known as the ten-year plan, is the primary basis on which state financial support for school building renovations and construction within Marshall County Schools will be determined. Part of this requirement is that an Educational Adequacy Assessment of current school buildings be completed by an educational planner. Mr. Ron Smith, of Planning Advocates Inc., will be visiting schools on March 10th and 11th to begin the Educational Adequacy Assessment process. The results of these visits, combined with general district information and the physical building evaluations by the architects and engineers, will be utilized in community meetings to be held this spring, in the development of the CEFP. Mr. Smith will be the primary person facilitating the community meetings which will begin in late March and continue into June. Using data about the current education programs along with evaluations of the current buildings, the community committee will work with the educational planner and Marshall County Schools staff to complete the CEFP which will include goals and priorities.

Do You Eat Kohlrabi?

The students at Cameron Elementary School not only eat kohlrabi, but jicama and kiwi as well. Cameron was one of 30 schools in West Virginia selected to receive a grant to offer free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. Students have been introduced to a variety of berries and exotic fare, as well as traditional favorites. The students are excited about the program and are constantly asking questions about what they will be tasting and learning next. The fruits and vegetables are served during special activities, in the cafeteria, and during classroom instructional time, as nutrition education relating to the items are an integral part of the program. Fresh fruit and vegetable baskets and trays are now customary at school celebrations. Teachers and staff have already seen many positive effects. This program is an important catalyst for change in efforts to combat childhood obesity by helping children learn more healthful eating habits.

Agricultural Education Enhancements

It has been an exciting school year for the Agriculture Department at John Marshall High School. The addition of a new classroom outfitted with technological teaching enhancement equipment has provided staff and students with the tools for 21st century teaching and learning. The increased space has allowed for better organization of materials as well as enabling students to begin projects in the classroom before moving to the greenhouse. Students have been experimenting with Canna seeds as well as building boxes to grow local peach varieties from pits.

Besides the annual Poinsettia and spring bedding plant sales, students landscape areas around John Marshall High School and work with the Glen Dale Farm property. Students are also responsible for preparing and conducting a 20 minute topic presentation for elementary school Farm Days events.

The TSA members are poised to defend their fifth title in parliamentary law at the state level in April. Two of the state TSA officers are from John Marshall High School. Ms. Katey Dancy serves as State Secretary and Ms. Latasha Skillman as State Reporter.

The public is invited to visit the greenhouse, classroom or any of the agricultural education events.

Industrial Equipment Maintenance

This is an extremely exciting time for the students participating in John Marshall High School's, Industrial Equipment Maintenance Program. Marshall County Schools has taken the steps necessary to provide students with the most up to date technology currently in the industry. As a result, the Industrial/Equipment Maintenance Program at John Marshall High School will help train and educate the next highly skilled employees in the Ohio Valley.

The program at John Marshall provides students with skills that will enable them to directly transition into the workplace or to continue their education in a two or four year engineering program. Throughout the two-year program, students learn how to trouble shoot problems as well as develop teamwork and communication skills.

The courses offered through the program will enable the students to build a resume that will affect the rest of his/her life. The list of programs includes, but is not limited to: Safety, Motor Controls, Materials, Hydraulics & Pneumatics, Machining, Mechanical systems, Electricity/Electronic systems, PLCs (Programmable Logic Control), Industrial Sensors, Tolerance and Quality Control.

The program can also help industry in the near future with the planned addition of an Adult Education Program. Industry will be able to send employees to receive training in the fields offered through the program.

The Industrial Equipment Maintenance Program provides the perfect partnership between school and industry in the Ohio Valley.

Exergaming Slated for Cameron High School

Cameron High School is slated to receive a prototype school-based exergaming facility which will be called the NEW You Center. This center will address the issues of childhood obesity, inactivity and chronic disease prevention. This model facility will be designed to match children's learning/entertainment preferences with recommended fitness goals in a easily accessible environment. This will be the first school based exergaming facility in West Virginia allowing teachers and health professionals to ascertain:

- Which exergames are chosen most frequently by children, teachers and school service personnel;
- Frequency and duration of use;
- Effects on health, academic performance and behavior;
- Durability versus cost of the equipment;
- Staffing needs; and
- Space requirements.

Jack Cain, principal of Cameron High School is working with PEIA representatives and Dr. Mark Manchin, executive director of the School Building Authority, to finalize details for the NEW You program project. The NEW You program modules and concepts are planned to be incorporated into the exergaming center to promote healthy lifestyle changes. Mr. Cain stated that "This is one of the greatest projects that Cameron High School and Marshall County Schools have collaborated in because it involves improving the health and well-being of our students." Eric James, teacher and coach at Cameron High School, acknowledged this program "will be the focal point and the measuring stick by which all other facilities will be developed for West Virginia Schools." The Cameron prototype NEW You Center will be a learning laboratory which will allow other school districts to ascertain how to set up similar facilities in the most cost effective and efficient manner while achieving the best possible outcomes.

New School Proposed for Cameron



Marshall County School Administration has submitted a needs project to the West Virginia School Building Authority to build a new Cameron High School. County administration will present the project to the Authority on March 16th. An SBA appointed advisory team will review and evaluate all projects submitted by counties throughout the state. The SBA staff will provide on-site information and project evaluation for final review and funding consideration along with a prioritized list of potential projects based on staff and advisory team evaluations. The School Building Authority Board will announce the projects to be funded in April.

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism is a disorder that appears in children by age three, and is characterized by an impaired ability to communicate with others and to form normal social relationships. There are twenty-four thousand new cases diagnosed in the United States every year, making autism the fastest growing developmental disability in our country today. With one in one-hundred and fifty students being affected by autism, Marshall County Schools is taking a proactive approach by providing a multitude of professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, instructional aides and parents to ensure the best possible instruction for all students. These professionals are trained on the diagnostic criteria and the behavioral characteristics of those individuals diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. The county has developed autism teams that include teachers, administrators, school psychologists, certified autism mentors, speech/language therapists, occupational and physical therapists, counselors and educational staff. These teams continue to participate in extensive training throughout the year to fine tune their skills and to keep current with educationally sound interventions.

Technology Integration Specialist

Jennifer Lipinski has been named as the Marshall County Schools' Technology Integration Specialist (TIS). She has been a teacher with Marshall County Schools for twenty-six years. Last summer, Jennifer attended the West Virginia Department of Education's Technology Integration Specialist initiative. This initiative provided teachers with 320 hours of professional development that focused on 21st century skills and tools. Jennifer's goals as Marshall County Schools' TIS is to provide on-site, on-demand assistance to fellow teachers, to help teachers create different forms of learning and teaching with the help of technologies, and to improve student learning by showing teachers the thoughtful applications and best practices of technology tools. She wants all teachers to be comfortable using present technologies as well as the new technologies that will be available to them in the future.



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Math Field Day

On Saturday, February 21, Washington Lands Elementary School hosted approximately 152 grade 4-12 students of mathematics competing in Math Field Day events. The students in grades 4-8 participated in mental math, measurement estimation, mental estimation and a written test. Those at the high school level participated in mental math, mental estimation and written tests to determine who would represent Marshall County at the Regional Math Field Day Competition on March 28, 2009. The regional event will be held at Brooke High School. According to Jennifer Lipinski, math field day coordinator, 20 Marshall County Educators assisted with Math Field Day. These teachers arranged the events, reviewed the results, monitored scores, and completed a variety of tasks throughout the day.

Hilltop Elementary

The construction of Hilltop Elementary is progressing on schedule. The building has been dried-in and the contractors are working on both floors. The roof has been partially installed and the metal panel installation has begun, which will give the roof a nice, green appearance. The mechanical and electrical system installations on the first floor are near completion. Most of the first floor interior walls have been framed, and drywall installation has begun. On the second floor, the drywall framing has begun and the ceiling mechanical systems are being installed. The school is scheduled to open for the 2009-2010 school year.
