



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Academic Competitions	Page 2
Domo Arigato, <i>Miss Roboto</i>	Page 2
New (very old) Game in Town	Page 3
WESTEST 2 Readiness Test	Page 3
What's In A Name?	Page 3
Night Of Excellence	Page 4
WVCHIP	Page 4
JMHS Construction Updates	Page 4
Book Versus Movie	Page 4



Marshall County Schools continues to seek

ways in which open communication can be provided for parents and community members. Visit [boe.mars.k12.wv.us](http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us) to contact county administrators or school principals.

Board of Education policies may be viewed at [boe.mars.k12.wv.us/policies](http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us/policies).

## Marshall County Schools Go Green and Gain National and State Recognition

Marshall County Schools is one of the leaders in West Virginia when it comes to doing what is best for our students and the environment. Marshall County Schools was awarded a 2013 National District Sustainability Award by the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Education. This is the first time the organizations recognized entire districts for their environmental efforts.

This was a follow-up to the 2012 Green Ribbon School Award being given to Hilltop Elementary and preceded Cameron High's receiving a Black Bear Award and recognition as West Virginia's most sustainable school. The Black Bear Award was also won by Hilltop in 2012. Cameron High will be nominated for a National Green Ribbon School Award in 2014.

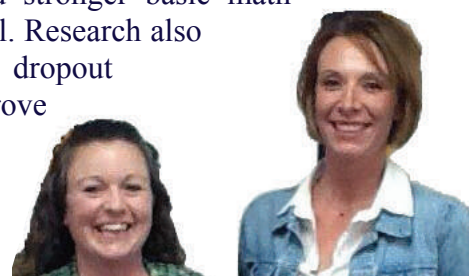
Marshall County Schools' Sustainability Contact Mark Swiger had this to say about the recent recognition: "Being named a National District Sustainability Award winner shows a level of commitment from the administrators and the Board of Education to provide clean and healthy schools at a lower cost to the community. It was clear that Marshall County Schools was a national leader in the sustainable schools movement."

## 2014 Marshall County UPK Teachers of the Year!

Congratulations to Jolie Gast and Melissa Love for being named the Marshall County Pre-Kindergarten Teachers of the Year. Melissa Love was the Collaborative Universal nominee from Washington Lands and one of 14 finalists from around the state. Jolie Gast was the Universal nominee from Hilltop. In order to qualify for the awards, teachers must demonstrate exemplary professional characteristics and innovative practices, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate outstanding leadership.

Children who attend high-quality Pre-K programs enter kindergarten with better pre-reading skills, richer vocabularies, and stronger basic math skills than those who do not attend preschool. Research also shows that high-quality Pre-K can decrease dropout rates, crime and delinquency, and improve overall health.

Congratulations to both educators!



## Academic Competitions Flourish in Marshall County



Center McMechen's first Social Studies Fair was held for 4th and 5th grade students. Winners from each of the nine divisions in individual and group projects moved on to compete at the county competition held in February at Cameron Elementary. Judges Greg Wolfe and Josh Contraguerro pose with students Savannah Nelson and Nathan Littell who participated in the fair.

The Marshall County Young Writers' Contest was held again this winter where students in grades one through twelve wrote 194 original works. The contest has been held since 1984 and county winners move on to compete statewide. An anthology of all the winning entries will be assembled and given to winning students.

Math Field Day was held February 15th for grades four through twelve. The winners represented Marshall County at the March 1st Regional Math Field Day. Jennifer Lipinski has been the director of Math Field Day for the last ten years and said, "It is a great way for kids from different schools to meet other students who share their interest in math. They seem to love a day devoted to math."

The John Marshall Academic Team will compete in the West Liberty University Civics Challenge to defend their 1st place title (two years running.) You can watch it on WLU-TV. They've also travelled to Morgantown, Wellsburg, and Pittsburgh for academic competitions against other high schools. They also sent a team to compete in the 23rd Annual State Science Bowl in Morgantown.

The Academic Coaches in Marshall County are Cheryl Tuba, MMS; Cheryl Ray, SMS; Brittany Cecil & Linda Shalaway, CHS; and Tammy DeWitt & Lisa Kiss, JMHS.

## Middle School Girls Learn About Robotics Through Partnership With WVNCC

About sixteen 7th and 8th grade girls are learning the basics of robotics thanks to a grant through West Virginia Northern Community College. Kelly Carter, of Sherrard Middle, and Shey McGuire, of Moundsville Middle, coordinate the after-school programs that introduce girls to the world of robotics using LEGO Mindstorm NXT kits. The STEM principles covered in the class will benefit the students and allow the girls to feel more comfortable in a class of their peers. The girls meet twice a week after school and have already gone to the NASA IV&V facility in Fairmont, WV, and participated in a robotics class. They have also started working on some of the challenges from previous years' robotics competitions of the FIRST LEGO League (FLL).

The girls enjoy the program and appreciate the all-girls learning environment. According to one student, "Robotics is the best thing that's happened to me. I wish I could program mine to do my chores and carry my book bag. I like that it is all girls because if boys were here the girls would act all perfect and they wouldn't be their selves. Plus boys always get the cool things, but this is something us girls can have for ourselves and we can be proud." Another student added, "I love it cause guys can't take over."

For more information about First LEGO League and the benefits of getting students excited about science and technology while teaching them valuable employment and life skills, visit [firstlego-league.com](http://firstlego-league.com). There are over 20,000 teams in over 70 countries in the FLL. The 2013 challenge is "Nature's Fury" where teams build robots to handle the aftermath of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, etc.





## Lacrosse Comes to John Marshall

If you see students running around behind John Marshall High School chasing each other with sticks, don't be alarmed. That's just the new after-school lacrosse activity started this year by a handful of students and Tom Salkovick, teacher at Sherrard Middle School. Lacrosse is considered by most to be the oldest sport in North America. It combines elements of basketball, hockey, soccer, and football and is a physically demanding contact sport.



Coach Salkovick volunteers his time to coach the team and is working to build a *program*, not just coach a team. "I'd like to see the program grow and would love to see a middle school team in the future." This first season will be a learning season for all involved. Salkovick added, "There is a lot of respect among the players and the other teams have been very helpful to us and have offered to help grow the Marshall County program." The team is open to any high school student in Marshall County.



The students and coach raised funds to purchase equipment and uniforms. Be sure to support the team and come watch their first home game behind John Marshall on Sunday, April 6th, at 3pm. **FREE ADMISSION** to the game. Photos courtesy of Jim Baur.

## WESTEST 2 Readiness Test a Success in Marshall County

On Tuesday, February 25th, Marshall County Schools participated in the WESTEST 2 site readiness test to test the capacity of our county's bandwidth and compatibility of the schools' technology. Statewide, 88% of the open schools participated and over 30,000 devices were tested at 1:30 pm. Technology Coordinator Carla Garrison was pleased with Marshall County's performance saying, "We tested close to 1,600 pcs and were pleased with our results. The school technology facilitators worked hard to get our schools ready to test and we appreciate the cooperation we received from all the schools who participated."

---

## What's In A Name?

Chances are, you probably know a student with the last name "Blake" because that is the most popular last name of students in Marshall County Schools, belonging to 45 students (at least one at every school, at least one in every grade.) According to ancestry.com, the name "Blake" could mean swarthy or dark-haired, or a nickname for pale, white, or fair thus the name has represented the two opposites making it impossible to tell which meaning it originally had for each family.

For first names, the most common for boys is "Tyler" with 56, followed by "Hunter" with 52. For girls, the most common first name is "Emily" with 44, followed by "Madison" with 42. For middle names, "Marie" is the most popular with 233, students with "Michael" finishing second with 183. In fact, in one class at John Marshall, "Marie" is the middle name in 20% of the students.

## Night of Excellence

Back in 2009, the Board of Education and the Marshall County Schools administration created the “Night of Excellence” to recognize the outstanding achievements of our students. Now held annually, the latest recognition was held March 18th with almost 200 students being recognized for their accomplishments. Many things were recognized including 1st place in county events, placing in state events, most improved DIBELS, student of the semester, distinguished score in all four areas of WESTEST 2, and others. Congratulations to all!

## School Employees Now May be Eligible for WVCHIP

The West Virginia Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) underwent some eligibility rule changes and now public employees’ children may be eligible if the family meets certain income guidelines. If an employee’s children qualify for CHIP, they can change over during the PEIA open enrollment. For more information about CHIP, employees should visit [www.chip.wv.gov](http://www.chip.wv.gov) to learn about the program. You can visit [www.wvinroads.org](http://www.wvinroads.org) to actually apply and are encouraged to do so before the April 30th open enrollment deadline with PEIA. If you have questions about CHIP legibility, contact your local WVDHHR office or call the WVCHIP HelpLine at 1-877-982-2447.

Services covered by WV CHIP include:

- Doctor visits
- Check-ups
- Hospital visits
- Immunizations
- Prescriptions
- Tests and X-rays
- Dental care
- Vision care
- Emergency care
- Mental Health
- Diabetic supplies
- Urgent Care of After Hour Clinic visits
- Case Management for Special Needs

How does CHIP compare with PEIA? Depending on which level of CHIP your children qualify for, the copays, physician visits, and outpatient services are generally less expensive with CHIP. For questions about PEIA, call 1-888-680-7342.



**Marshall County Schools**  
214 Middle Grave Creek Road  
Moundsville, WV 26041  
Phone: 304-843-4400  
Fax: 304-843-4409

### Board of Education

Roger Lewicki,  
President

Lori Kestner  
Vice-President

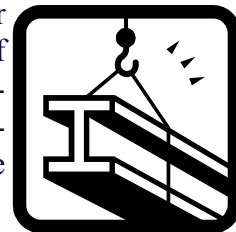
Tom Gilbert  
John Miller  
Beth Phillips

**Superintendent**  
Michael Hince

David C. Soltesz, Editor

## John Marshall Construction Updates

The first phase of construction (the John Marshall parking lot lighting project) was completed in the Fall and the anticipated completion of the lot should happen in the spring. The second phase of the construction/remodeling will begin on June 12th with new windows throughout JM, renovated restrooms, and a steel structure being put in place at the new main entrance of the school. This will cause all traffic to be rerouted to behind the building for the 2014-2015 school year. The third phase of constructing the main office, adding a new enclosed bridge between the buildings, and renovation of JM will begin in 2014-2015 and continue into 2016.



## Is the Book Always Better Than the Movie?

Last month, Center McMechen Elementary students and families participated in the school-wide reading initiative, “One School, One Book” where everyone read *Pippi Longstocking*. After finishing the book, students and staff will have the opportunity to compare and contrast the book and the movie.

