

From the Superintendent

By **RUSS BENNETT**
Superintendent of Schools

Well, another school year has wound down. It has been quite the year in a lot of different ways. We have weathered quite a few ups and some very tough downs with the loss of four students. We did it together and we crossed the finish line. I want to thank all of our students, staff, administrators and volunteers for this school year's numerous achievements. We have been successful academically, artistically, and athletically on many different levels. Whether it was a personal or team accomplishment, we have learned and grown in the process.

We have excelled academically and our district was acknowledged for our Advanced Placement (AP) Program and the increase in the number of AP courses that we now offer. Aurora High School enjoyed their first very successful year with Mike Roberto and Brian Brookhart at the helm. Our State of Ohio 2010-11 science score ranks us as #1 in middle school science. Our dedicated staff continues to instruct, motivate and inspire our students to achieve success and reach new heights. I thank you all.

Our five-year Strategic Planning process has now been completed with the help of many community and staff volunteers. We learned a great deal during this process and we will be implementing appropriate changes based on the findings.

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AURORA COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

"Protecting Our Youth...Protecting Our Community" Forum Takes On Tough Topics

On April 24, 2012, Aurora community members gathered together in the Aurora High School Auditorium in an effort to learn more about the challenges facing our children and ways to help keep them safe. In light of a variety of incidents that have impacted near-by communities, Aurora community leaders came together with Aurora School District Superintendent, Russ Bennett, to formulate a community meeting/forum that would focus on the tough topics facing our children today. Hosts for this community event included the Aurora City Schools, the Aurora Police Department, the Aurora Ministerial Association, Office of the Mayor, Aurora City Council, Aurora Parent Teacher Organizations, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and Jim Joyner of Joyner & Associates, a licensed independent chemical dependency counselor. Bennett credited Aurora resident Toni Turchi for the community meeting idea, saying, "Toni was the first person who started the conversation with me and met with me."

Aurora School Board President, Jerry Kohanski, introduced the meeting to the approximately 200 attendees by saying, "The fact that we are here this

evening is evidence that we care about our kids and need to work together as a community to keep them safe and healthy. It is not just one part of the team that can accomplish what needs to be done to protect our children. The schools cannot do it alone, nor can the city, the police department, or the professional counselors."

The forum took on some difficult topics including, law enforcement, school procedures, chemical dependency/treatment/counseling,



Aurora Police Officers (left to right): Chris Reiter and Michelle Ice.

and a heart-felt first-hand account of substance abuse from a parent. Pastor Drew Carroll from the First Baptist Church of Aurora explained during his invocation, "There is an interconnectedness that we all have with one another. No problem happens in a vacuum. When one part of the community fails, every part feels

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DAVE RENSZEL HAS KEPT US "MOVING" FOR 35 YEARS

Aurora Transportation Department Mechanic Dave Renszel is retiring after 35 years of keeping our school system "moving." In his position as our only mechanic for the past 35 years, Renszel has spent countless hours attending to the mechanical needs of our school buses and transportation equipment. He has spent an untold number of early morning hours assessing road conditions, working along with the superintendent, to determine if they were safe enough for our children to travel on.

Transportation Department Secretary, Pat Beck, said of his retirement, "I am sure he will be looking forward to it. After 35+ years of getting up at 3:30 a.m., and in all kinds of weather making sure the roads are passable and the buses are ready to go out on the road by 5:30 a.m., he will be looking forward

to sleeping in and watching the snow fall from his own window."

Greg Pollock, Director of Business Affairs and Transportation, said, "I believe district bus mechanic Dave Renszel, who has maintained about 38 buses, has been "probably the most important person in the district, at least in my eyes, because if these buses aren't safe and ready to go, students can't come to school. Dave has been a critical component to the success of the schools."

Our district extends our greatest appreciation and thanks to Dave who has been an integral part of making our district such a success. Russ Bennett, superintendent, said, "Dave has made our children's safety his number one priority. His contributions are immeasurable. Best of luck Dave and enjoy sleeping in, you have certainly earned it!"



Dave Renszel

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Our student body has achieved so many accomplishments that it's hard to list them all here. Artistically, we got to show off our student's artwork at the annual District Art Show (photos of the artwork can be seen in the Photo Gallery on our website homepage). Athletically, we had C.V.C. Champions in girls' tennis, boys' soccer, baseball, softball and tennis this past spring. Wow! Not to mention that our Greenmen Softball Team made it to the Regional Finals. Musically, our orchestra's impressive performances with Mark Wood and the Aurora Band's outstanding performance at Disney World were definite highlights. Our students, in the face of adversity, have been impressive in their compassion and resiliency. They have made the entire Aurora community and myself very proud

Looking back at the past year, I think that we have much to be thankful for. We also have much to anticipate. Another new and very promising school year is on the horizon.

SECOND ANNUAL OUTSTANDING GREENMEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the Outstanding Greenmen Award recipients for the 2011-12 school year. These awards are given to twelve high achieving Aurora High School students who then nominate an educator that they feel had the most impact on their high school success. Together they were honored at this year's banquet, which took place on April 4, 2012 at the Barrington Country Club.

STUDENT	EDUCATOR
Sydney Barnes	Brian Caponi
Isabel Buehler	Monika Biro
Blake Calcei	Bob Mihalik
Karlie Daff	Dave Munson
Leah Jereb	Rob Albrecht
Beau Kovach	Mike Lipnos
Austin McNair	Josh Perez
Carlie Metz	Michelle Dirda
Johnny Montello	Jeff Stenger
Johnathon Opet	Brian Wervey
Matthew Rees	Josh Rakow
Jeff Smith	Alicia Jimenez



Front row (on knee) left to right – Beau Kovach, Mike Lipnos, Jeff Stenger, Johnny Montello, Jeff Smith. Second row left to right – Josh Perez, Alicia Jimenez, Carli Metz, Isabel Buehler. Third row left to right – Josh Rakow, Leah Jereb, Karlie Daff, Michelle Dirda, Monika Biro, Johnathon Opet, Matthew Rees. Back row left to right - Brian Caponi, Sydney Barnes, Rob Albrecht, Austin McNair, Dave Munson, Brian Wervey, Blake Calcei, Bob Mihalik



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Editor: Stacey DeAnna

Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

PAUL POWERS RECEIVES OHIO INTERSCHOLASTIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION AWARD

Aurora Schools' Athletic Director, Paul Powers, received the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (OIAAA) Citation Award. The Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NEOIAAA) held their 2012 Awards Banquet on Monday, April 23, 2012. The Citation Award was presented to Powers and "recognizes exceptional time, effort and energy devoted to the NEOIAA and the OIAAA."



and has implemented the Student/Athlete Academic Progress Program that has led to increased GPA's among student athletes.

Powers has also been honored by the Ohio Track and Field and Cross Country Officials Association with a

Contributor's Award in 2003, a NEOIAA Distinguished Service Award - Inside the Field of Athletics in 2004 and was honored by the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 2006 as one of the top ten athletic directors in the Northeast Ohio area.

Powers, who has been an athletic administrator for 19 years, has been the Aurora Schools' Director of Athletics/Facilities Coordinator since 2008, overseeing 71 teams in 23 sports. He has held many membership titles and he is currently serving on the OIAAA Executive Committee as one of the District Representatives.

Community minded programs that Powers has facilitated include the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and programs with the City of Aurora's Recreation Department.

Powers encourages all student athletes to not only perform on the athletic field, but to excel in the classroom, as well,

Powers said, "It is an honor to be recognized by the NEOIAA. This award is a culmination of many years of work aimed at keeping Ohio high school interscholastic activities distinguished at all levels. My first priority has always been our high school students, both on the field and in the classroom. I am extremely appreciative of the tremendous support I receive from the Aurora School Board and administration. Making a positive impact on interscholastic high school activities has always been my goal and I will continue to work hard in an effort to make sure students are offered top-quality and diverse activity choices."

STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Special congratulations go out to our staff members who were nominated and selected for their excellence in classified, non-classified and service for 2012. The recipients were **VICKI WOLF** (Excellence in Classified Service), **JENNIFER MILLER** (Excellence in Teaching Service) and **PAUL GOODWIN** (Excellence in Service).

Aurora School Board members congratulated Staff Excellence Award recipients.



Left to Right (Back): Russ Bennett, John Sloe, Ann Morrison, Annie Grohe. Left to Right (Front): Jerry Kohanski, Vicki Wolf, Jennifer Miller, Paul Goodwin, Bev Kuch.

AURORA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



The Aurora City School District has received the *Ohio Auditor of State Award* from Treasurer David Yost for the second year in a row.

This honor is given for "exemplary financial reporting" and a "clean" audit report, which means the audit "did not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or any questioned costs." Our district has received the award for the last two consecutive years. The awards are given retroactively to the previous year in order to complete the yearly audits.

The Aurora Board of Education and the Aurora Education Association held a thank you luncheon for staff members on June 7, 2012. The delicious hamburgers and fixings were generously donated by the Jim Myers family and Burger King. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Left to Right: Jim Myers gets some help grilling from Sam Guerero.

Who's Who & What's New

In an effort to strengthen relations between students and **AURORA POLICE OFFICERS**, School Resource Officer (SRO) **MICHELLE ICE** organized a pizza-eating contest at Harmon School on February 24, 2012. The contest pitted Harmon 8th grade students against police officers during the 8th grade lunch period. During the first half of the lunch, five officers and five students participated. The students won by eating four more slices. In the second half of the lunch period, five more officers and students competed with the students pulling ahead and ultimately winning by consuming 67 slices of pizzas to the officers 47 pieces.

Best of luck to retired Aurora Schools' Bus Driver **BERNARD SAFKO**. For eight years he was committed to the safety of our students and we appreciate all that he has done.

Harmon Middle School writers participated in a **POWER OF THE PEN** competition at Kent State University. **MCKENNA RITTER** finished first out of 80 8th grade writers. **LYDIA HOLMAN** finished 15th and **CARLY REITZ** finished 14th out of 79 seventh grade writers. Harmon's combined eighth and seventh grade teams finished second overall in the competition. The eighth grade team was comprised of **OLIVIA CALDER, CAROLINE LUKEHART, EMMA POLLOCK, MCKENNA RITTER,** and **TARYN WASHBURN**. The seventh grade team included **LYDIA HOLMAN, BROOKE KOZAR, CARLY REITZ, KATHRYN SLATES,** and **HANNAH WILK**.

Best wishes also go to **RAY BEESE** as he enters into retirement after 35 years as an educator. All the best to **NATALIE MANDEL** and **BEV PAUKERTS** as they have also retired.

Congratulations to Miller School Interventionist **JANINE MASON**. She is now an **AMERICAN CITIZEN**.

Aurora High School Math Instructor **JOSH RAKOW** coordinated and supervised the



Janine Mason

participation of the **AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS (AMC)** where over 200 freshmen-senior students measured their math abilities against the very challenging test.

Several Aurora High School artists were recognized for their achievements in the **2012 NORTHEAST CENTRAL OHIO SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS** competition. **LINDSAY PIZZURRO** won an **AKRON ART MUSEUM** award and **OLIVIA COADY** received an **AKRON SOCIETY OF ARTISTS** award. Coady's portfolio also won a **GOLD KEY** award.

This is a photo of the Craddock School **DESTINATION IMAGINATION** second grade team that was given the "**Spirit of Discovery and Imagination**" Award.



Destination Imagination team.

Aurora High School students **LOUISE BECKSTROM** and **CAROLINE BOEHM** were the **MERCK INDEX RECIPIENTS** in the **2012 NORTHEASTERN OHIO LOCAL SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (NEOACS) YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD**. Beckstrom and Boehm were recommended by their biology teacher **MONIKA BIRO**. Congratulations.



The Aurora School Board Congratulates Louise Beckstrom

Congratulations to the following students in the **EXCEL TECC** program for their awards and



accomplishments: **KENNETH BRADY, TYLER FLYNN, MOLLY LUKEHART, KASEY MCGINNIS, MCKENZIE POLAK, RACHAEL SCHWARTZ, JORDAN THORN, KEISHA TURNER, MAURICIO WISSINGER,** and **KATY YANDA**.

Winners of the **GARDENS OF WESTERN RESERVE GRANDPARENT ESSAY CONTEST** were Craddock

2nd Grade students (left to right):

MASON KACMAR, ZANDER CHIN, PAIGE ROSENLEIB, and **OLIVIA SENGER**.



Great job!

The **SCHOOL SAFETY ADVOCACY COUNCIL** recognized the **MILLER/CRADDOCK SCHOOL'S BULLYING PROGRAM** with a prestigious **2012 NATIONAL EXEMPLARY BULLY PREVENTION PROGRAM AWARD**.

There were 90 applications and only thirteen awards were presented. Craddock School was one of only two elementary schools to receive the award.

Congratulations to **CHRIS MASON**, custodian at Leighton School, who won the **LEIGHTON BEARD GROWING CONTEST**. Nine staff members participated and students paid 25 cents a vote for the "best beard." Over \$500 was donated to the **LOCKS OF LOVE** organization. Aurora's **CHAMBERLAINS SALON AND SPA** helped sponsor the contest.



Top row left to right: **Chris Mason (winner), Steven Young, Eddie Nabring, Tim Weber.** Bottom row left to right: **Mike Demay, Dan Clapper, Josh Perez, Ted Linden.** Not pictured: **Troy Zeman**

CLASS ACTS

The Aurora City School District would like to recognize **Bill Ganoe** and **Danny Williams** for all of their hard work in our Maintenance Department.

Our **Aurora Elementary PTO** coordinated a luncheon for the **staff at Chardon High School** on March 14, 2012. In the *PTO Pipeline* publication, PTO President Kelli DeMicco stated, "The PTO is filled with amazing members. The staff of Chardon High School were overwhelmed with your generosity and yummy desserts."

National Volunteer Week took place the week of April 15-21, 2012. The Aurora Schools would like to extend a special "thank you" to all of our many invaluable volunteers. We recognize how extremely important your contributions are to our student and district success and we very much appreciate all of your time and effort.



Mrs. McMahon's Accelerated 6th Grade Math Students sponsored a movie night with the students in charge of the entire event. All proceeds benefited the **Heifer Foundation**, an organization whose primary goal is to end world hunger.

Leighton Elementary School 5th grade student **Ben Young** recently had his artwork displayed on the Big Screen Plaza's 30 x 16 foot screen during the **National Art Education Association**

Convention in New York City on March 2-3, 2012. His teacher, **Lois Schroeder-Girbino**, submitted the piece for consideration. Congratulations.



Ben Young's Artwork Being Displayed in New York City.

Lindsay Draime and **Ed Nabring** brought the **Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Event** to Aurora with approximately 750 middle school performances being judged. This was a great way to highlight our schools and give our students a chance to improve their skills

Congratulations to the **Harmon kitchen staff**. They were the district selected site for our state inspection this year. The staff served up a perfect score! Special thanks go out to **Lisa Haney**, our food service manager, **Cathy Pettitt** our head cook, and to her staff **Liz Lambert, Laura Miller, Dee Opet,** and **Michelle Palcisko**. The inspector completing the audit commented that our staff did an excellent job and that we will not have to have another audit in the district for at least three years.

Craddock Family Fitness Night was a big hit with **Miss Teri Hickey**, art teacher; **Mrs. Donna Janosos**, music teacher; **Mrs. Gretchen Jessel**, physical education teacher and **Barb Kudley**, librarian for creating the fitness night. **The Aurora High School softball team** and the **National Honor Society members** helped families/students throughout the evening and kept the night "moving" along.

Aurora High School musicians earned honors in the recent **Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event**.

They were:

RATING I

Ian Behra, Class B trombone
Laura Gieseler, Class C clarinet
Heather Gosnell, Class A violin and piano
Nolan Honsaker, Class A alto sax
Peter Loferski, Class A snare drum
Erin Oulton, Class B clarinet
Stephen Riley and **C.J. Suchovsky**, Class B cello
Andrew Weber, Class B trumpet

RATING II

Gillian Nelson, Class A flute
Andrew Oulton, Class C snare drum
Jenny Young, Class B flute

Rating III

Jackie Sloe, Class C flute

PAT BECK WINS OHSAA "RESPECT THE GAME" AWARD

Aurora Schools' Transportation Secretary, Pat Beck, was presented



with the Ohio High School Athletic Association's (OHSAA) "Respect THE GAME" state award for 2011-12. She received the recognition for her "exemplary contribution and service." According to Aurora Athletic Director and Facilities Coordinator, Paul Powers, Beck has "coordinated transportation for well over 600+ student events. These events would not have been possible had it not been for her perseverance. We appreciate everything she does in this challenging capacity."

Beck said, "My award was a total surprise. After 17 years of doing field trips and getting them all out the best we can, I really do not know what else I got it for! Guess without the excellent work David does to keep the buses working and available for the trips and the drivers doing another wonderful job there would be no reward. Between Mary Beth Tuma, Paul Powers and myself we get the job done. It is a group effort."



AURORA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2012 "Top Ten" Students



ASHLEY SHYDLOWSKI ~
VALEDICTORIAN (GPA 4.398)
The Ohio State University ~
Biology and Fine Arts for Pre-Med



ISABEL BUEHLER (GPA 4.191)
NEOMED & Kent State University ~
Accelerated B.S./M.D. Program -
Integrated Life Sciences



SARAH CARBONE ~
SALUTATORIAN (GPA 4.28) Case
Western Reserve ~ Engineering



STEVEN MEYER (GPA 4.163)
Miami University ~ Mathematics



BENJAMIN DAVIS ~
SALUTATORIAN (GPA 4.28)
Case Western Reserve University
~ Biomedical Engineering



AUSTIN MCNAIR (GPA 4.089)
Georgia Tech ~ Chemical
Engineering



LEAH JEREB (GPA 4.221)
American University ~
International Relations



ANDREW KRONZ (GPA 4.081)
Ohio University ~ Engineering



KELSEY STUMMER (GPA 4.2)
Purdue ~ Elementary Education/
Dance/French



JONATHAN CALCEI (GPA
4.071) Kenyon College ~ Biology

Sport Report

Congratulations to our **Baseball Team** who ended their season 10-0, our **Softball Team** with a season record of 9-1 and our **Boys' Tennis Team** that finished the season 5-0. They were all Chagrin Valley Conference (C.V.C.) champions this past spring.

John Sheridan was chosen as the recipient of the **Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award**. Way to go John!

Miller School Students sent well wishes to our **Aurora High School**



Softball Team as they traveled on to Akron for the **Regional Playoffs** after becoming the first Aurora Schools' softball team to become Division I District Champions.

Aurora Greenmen Softball Team



Back Row (left to right) – Hannah Haughey, Jillian Filarski, Sam Arslanian, Zoe Nietert, Grace Aldredge, Lauren Bowen, Devan Ternai, Hannah Piazza, Abbey Nicholas, Julie Zidones.

Front Row (left to right) – Coach Markie Pozzuto, Erin McNamara, Austin Vitz, Ashlee Ling, Jessica Napierata, Jessica Lieberth, Sarah Petrash, Nicole Doyle, Coach Micaela Minner.

The **NCAA National Letter Signing Day** for college track and football was held on February 1, 2012 with Greenmen seniors **Jessica Baker (Miami University)**, **Anthony Melchiori (Kent State University)**, **Matt Stepanek (University of Dayton)** and **Troy Watson (Ohio University)** signing their letter of intent. **CONGRATULATIONS!**



Greenmen seniors (left to right) ~ Troy Watson, Matt Stepanek, Anthony Melchiori, and Jessica Baker. **Coaches (left to right)** ~ Bob Mihalik, Mark Dingman, and John Kudley.

What a year it was for the **Aurora Varsity Baseball Team**. With their coach **George Snider**, the boys

INDOOR PERCUSSION TEAM TAKES 2ND PLACE IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

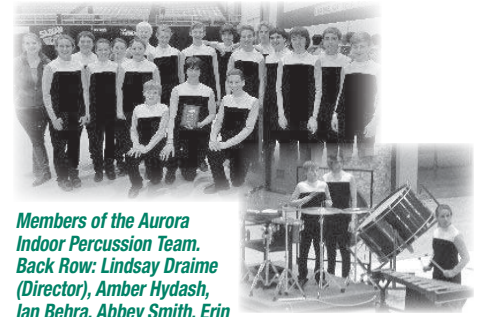
The Aurora Schools' Indoor Percussion Team finished in 2nd place at the Ohio Indoor Percussion Association's (OIPA) State Championship on March 18, 2012 under the direction of Lindsay Draime. The team missed earning the championship title by only 3/10 of a point, giving them the runner-up designation.

Leading up to the Championship, the team competed in February 2012 in Akron for two days and took first place both days. They also earned a first place win in a competition in Richmond, Indiana on March 4, 2012.

Then on March 18, 2012 they headed

to Wapakoneta, Ohio to vie for the title at the OIPA State Championship. For their show this year, they performed "The Music of Rush." Superintendent Russ Bennett said, "Congratulations to our Indoor Percussion Team (IPT) as they took 2nd place at the recent state championship. The team was only 3/10 away from being a champion. Congratulations Lindsay on a job well done. It is nice to see their hard work being recognized outside of Aurora High School as they are often at school on Saturdays and Sundays practicing for extended periods of time."

The IPT, having only been founded several years ago, is already winning



Members of the Aurora Indoor Percussion Team. Back Row: Lindsay Draime (Director), Amber Hydash, Ian Behra, Abbey Smith, Erin Oulton, Taylor Savage, Chris Sloe, Olivia Eitzman, Harris Watson, Peter Loferski, Harrison Baymiller, Ricky Vincik, Jake Gambatese, Andrew Oulton, Andrew Messing, Nolan Honsaker. Front Row: Connor Bowen, David Boehm, Brett Poremba Not Pictured: Bill Etling (Director).

Lower photo Left to Right: Connor Bowen, Ricky Vincik and Amber Hydash perform.

competitions and eyeing their next Championship run. It will be exciting to watch them continue on their successful path next year. They've got the winning beat.

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it." Aurora Mayor Lynn McGill said, "We have been given a tremendous gift, our children.... We must protect them and we have to work together to do that."

Aurora Police Officer Chris Reiter said that, "when asked, kids will tell you the most common drugs they deal with are alcohol, pills and marijuana and they will tell us they are getting it from their homes." "Alcohol," he explained, "is a huge gateway drug to things that are much worse, more dangerous." Reiter also stated that, "Alcohol is responsible for most of the carnage that occurs in school age children. The purpose of being here tonight is to kind of open our eyes and say lets deal with alcohol now so that you never have to hear the words heroin and your child's name in the same sentence from a police officer." He noted that, "There is this belief it's o.k. to have your child's friends over for a party and you'll supply the alcohol. That is a crime and we will arrest you at your

house." Aurora Police Officer Michelle Ice explained her duties as the Aurora School Resource Officer (SRO). She said, "The advantage of me being here is they have me immediately at their service. The same officer is helping the kids every time." Ice explained, "I feel like talking to the police now has become more comfortable."

A parent, Kathy, shared her journey with dealing with addiction in her family. She said, "My goal is to bring drug education to as many parents as possible." "I truly believe that it is a necessary partnership between home, community, and school," she added.

Jim Joyner, a chemical dependency counselor, emphasized, "This truly is a beginning...you should see this as an opportunity to open



Jim Joyner, Joyner & Associates

doors." He then offered frank advice to parents.

Bennett went on to voice his concerns about the many pitfalls and hazards that can pose as possible problems for our children. He gave insight into the school discipline side of these issues. Bennett said, "He (Joyner) has also offered us the potential to have more series talks about chemical dependency." Bennett explained, "I actually envision this as potentially one in a multiple of speaker series."

Pastor Josh Willaford from New Life Assembly ended the meeting by saying, "Thank you so much for not just filling a seat, but for caring for the students in Aurora, not just your kid...."

Kohanski said, "As a community we also will not or should not limit our concerns to substance abuse and chemical dependency. There are many other issues that we are concerned about and need to address, such as morals, values, ethics, violence and weapons in society, sex and pornography, bullying, and economic stresses." He explained, "Our children face a very complex, dangerous world and need all the help, guidance, love, and dedication that we can provide them. Tonight, hopefully, is the beginning of our journey working as a team to address these issues to keep our children safe and healthy."

Sports – Continued from p. 6

swept the C.V.C. with an unbeaten record of 10-0 for the first time in Greenmen history. Their 19-6 overall record is also a school record for wins. First team pitcher **Garrett Gable** and first team infielder **Devin Levan** were named as all-stars by the **Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association** and the **Northeastern Ohio Baseball Coaches Association**. **Gable** was also named the MVP.

Jessica Baker represented the Greenmen at the **Ohio State Track Meet** on June 2-3, 2012. She placed 11th in the high jump, which marked her third appearance in the state track meet. Baker is a 3-time district champion and a 4-time C.V.C. MVP in the high jump, which is the first time this feat has ever been accomplished. Congratulations.

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MARK WOOD PERFORMS WITH OUR ORCHESTRA

For two evenings last February the Aurora High School Auditorium was transformed into an electrifying array of light and sound. Emmy award-winning composer, international recording artist, original member of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and inventor of the Viper electric violin, Mark Wood wowed audiences with “The Mark Wood Electrify Your Strings” concert event.

According to Aurora Schools’ Orchestra Instructor, Jason Burdett, The Mark Wood Electrify Your Strings concert performances here were the culmination “that resulted from two days of workshops and rehearsals” that featured, “Mr. Wood and our students performing music from Jimmy Hendricks, Led Zeppelin and other rock artists.” Burdett explained how exciting it was to “see this incredible

world renowned musician and our very own orchestra students perform” together. He explained that the concert performances were “a fantastic event in which we can all take pride.” Each of the two performances were distinctly different from the other so that those that attended both evenings were treated to a similar but completely different show.

Aurora High School junior Austin Bianco, one of several featured solo performers, said that, “it was a great experience jamming with a professional musician.” He added, “It’s exciting performing his arrangements in front of an audience.”

Wood, with help from his patented electric violin, has made it his mission to innovate the violin into the 21st century and public school music programs at the same time. He travels the country

working with public school music programs to encourage and inspire students

nationwide. He has said, “Giving back is an important part of our responsibility.”

The Aurora Orchestra Association (AOA) will be continuing their Celebration Cake Sales during the 2012-13 school year. Proceeds will be used for special events such as the Mark Wood concert. Information and order forms can be found at www.aurora-schools.org under Downloads & Links - “Parent/Student Order Forms.”



Mark Wood Performing With Aurora High School Orchestra.