

# The Valley View

## Districts Teaming Up for Reading

As one of his personal Leadership Goals, Superintendent David Hile has begun work to create a Reading Foundation. The Lakewood and Licking Valley Local School Districts are teaming up to create such a Reading Foundation. The Reading Foundation will be a non-profit organization, with the sole purpose of communicating to all stakeholders the message: parents are their children's first and best teachers, thus, reading with your children every day from birth through elementary school is an essential parenting practice.

What we now know from the research and from our own district data is that children enter our kindergarten classrooms with an enormous range of literacy skills. We have children enter kindergarten with virtually no exposure to the written word, and we have children enter who are reading on a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. This demonstrates that the achievement gap that we all hear so much about in the media actually exists before children ever spend their first day in

one of our classrooms, and it places an enormous burden on the schools to try and catch up students who are literally two and three years behind where they need to be to achieve academic success. The research also tells us that if we don't get these students caught up and reading on grade level by the end of third grade, there is a 74% chance that they will never catch up.

Through the example of the Kennewick School District in Kennewick, Washington, where, as of 2007, 90-95% of their 1300 third graders read on grade level, we know that as important as what we do in the schools and in the classrooms to help children learn to read, what happens at home is equally important, especially from birth to age 5. As described above, Kennewick, and five other school districts in their area, designed the Reading Foundation to saturate their community with that message with incredible results.

Having studied the Kennewick program and its results over the past two years, a small group

of educators from both the Lakewood and Licking Valley Local School Districts have determined that we need a Reading Foundation organized to relentlessly send the same message throughout our districts and, indeed, across Licking County. To that end, a meeting was held December 17, 2008, to form the Reading Foundation Steering Committee: Jay Gault, Superintendent, Lakewood Local Schools; Arnie Ettenhofer, Director of Student Services, Lakewood; Marilyn Fox, Principal, Hebron Elementary, Lakewood; Amber Segna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Hebron Elementary; Davelin Ross, Director, Flying Colors Preschool; Robin Galbari, Curriculum Specialist, Licking County Educational Service Center; Bill Weaver, retired Toboso Elementary

Principal and former Licking Valley School Board Member; Todd Carmer, Licking Valley Primary Principal and David Hile, Superintendent, Licking Valley Local.

The Reading Foundation will consist of the Steering Committee, 9 to 15 passionate and committed board members, a board president and an executive director. The Steering Committee will meet to hear a presentation on the Reading Foundation at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 22 at the Licking County Public Library Meeting Room at 101 West Main Street, Newark. At this meeting, they will learn more about the success of the Kennewick program and how we believe we can duplicate not only their program but their success as well right here in Licking County.



# Licking Valley Alumni Spotlight

This is an ongoing feature that was started last year at the high school in order to promote former graduates who have gone on to be successful. The purpose is to show our current students the importance of hard work during their school age years, as well as the importance of continuing their education in some manner after they graduate. We will be choosing two to four people each month to spotlight. If you have anyone you would like to nominate please contact Brian Ledford, Licking Valley High School Math Teacher, by either phone (763-3721) or email ([ledfordb@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us](mailto:ledfordb@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us)).

## DELBERT OSBORN



Delbert, 67, graduated from Licking Valley in 1959 and currently resides in both Newark, Ohio as well as Florida. He has two daughters and a son, Tom, who nominated him to be spotlighted for the month of January.

Del has worked numerous jobs in the community including a motel manager, building inspector, contractor, Lowes' customer service associate, and a track manager at the Muskingum County Speedway. In all of these jobs Del worked to make people's lives better and provide them with quality service. When Del is not working he loves to fish.

**Advice to Students:** Study HARD, read a lot and when you get into the work force, work hard!! Always do the very best that you can do!!



## DEVIN FULK

Devin, 23, graduated from Licking Valley in 2004. He currently resides in Newark and teaches 12<sup>th</sup> grade Government and 10<sup>th</sup> grade American History at Heath High School. His family includes his father Dana, mother Luann, and brother Damon. Devin graduated from the College of Wooster in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in history with a minor in education. While

attending college Devin was a major contributor for the varsity basketball team, lettering four years, as well as being part of the only class in the history of the school and conference to win four straight conference championships. During

the 2000's Wooster's basketball program had the most wins in the country throughout all divisions including premier Division I programs Duke and North Carolina. They made it to the national tournament all four years, reaching the final four in 2007. Devin graduated scoring over 1,000 points and finished as the school's all-time leader in three point percentage and free-throw percentage. Along with teaching, Devin is currently an assistant football coach at Heath as well as the varsity assistant basketball coach.

**Advice to Students:** Choose a field of study that you are truly passionate about. The amount of time you put in, whether its two years, four years, or any other amount of time, will be worth it if you are preparing for something that you love. There is no better feeling than waking up every day to go to a job that you enjoy and are excited about.

### Vision Statement

The vision of the Licking Valley Local School District is:  
Every adult helping every child learn and grow every day!

Please help us pursue our vision by reading to the child or children in your life at least 20 minutes every day from birth through elementary school. The most precious gift we can give a child is the ability to read!

### COFFEE AT THE COTTAGE

Community members, parents and grandparents are invited to join Superintendent David Hile on Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at the Cottage Restaurant in Hanover.

He will be joined throughout the school year by other Licking Valley staff members. These informal coffees are a great place to learn about our Licking Valley Schools and discuss any questions or concerns you may have.



### Did You Know?

- The Licking Valley Athletic Boosters Annual All-Sports Dinner Auction is Saturday, March 21.
- The HS Auxiliary Gym is open to the public Monday thru Friday (on days school is in session) from 6:00 a.m.-7:20 p.m. for anyone wishing to walk.  
**\*Please use the outside door entrance.**

**Music Boosters  
6th Annual Yard Sale  
February 7, 2009  
High School Commons  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Now accepting donations. (Please no clothing, shoes or exercise/sports equipment) For item pick-up call Libby Teter, 740-349-8579, 740-763-3061, or e-mail Critter-Cabin@RR.com

Proceeds will benefit all music programs at Licking Valley.

**ON-CALL SUBSTITUTES**

If you are interested in being on the "On-call Sub" list at Licking Valley Schools for any of the following positions, please fill out the required on-line application for **Support Services** at [www.ohreap.net](http://www.ohreap.net)

- \*Food Service
- \*Custodian
- \*Educational Aide

Notify the District Office at 763-3525 upon completion of the application. The application will then be reviewed for consideration.

Again these positions are for on-call sub work only. If you have any questions, please call Jan Jennings, Food Service, 763-2433; Jack Shinn, Custodial Service, 763-3767; or Laura Lahmers, Asst. District Secretary, 763-2911 for Educational Aide inquiries.

**Licking Valley Schools Promote Local History**

By Dave Hile

The local history and heritage of the Licking Valley community have always been treasured by its residents, who continue to communicate the importance of keeping them alive for present and future generations.

In fact, a group of such residents founded the Licking Valley Heritage Society in 2005 for that purpose. Soon afterward, the heritage society contacted the Licking Valley Local School District in pursuit of establishing a partnership between the two organizations.

The intent was to construct a museum to display artifacts, antiques, photographs and literature to keep our history alive and to educate our children about our rich local history.

In spring 2007, the Licking Valley Local Board of Education passed a formal resolution to officially establish that partnership. Soon afterward, the board also passed a resolution to lease the vacant church property on Hilltop Drive, formerly the old Hanover Methodist Church, to the heritage society.

The building would be

known as the Licking Valley Heritage Learning Center. When completed, it will serve as a museum for displaying local artifacts and also an exciting local history and heritage resource for all of our teachers and students. It will be within walking distance of all of our schools.

Perhaps the most important fruit of the partnership between Licking Valley Schools and the Heritage Society - the thread that serves to bind it all together and should for decades to come - is an important curricular change that was completed in the spring. A committee was formed, consisting of Bill Weaver (longtime Toboso Elementary principal, former Licking Valley School Board member and current heritage society trustee), Robin Galbari (curriculum specialist of the Licking County Educational Service Center); and Licking Valley teachers.

The committee undertook a massive project to find ways to infuse our local history and heritage into our state academic content standards for social studies. We might be the first, if not the only, school in the county to do so.

State academic content standards dictate what students must learn in each of the four core subject areas of math, science, reading/writing and social studies. All Ohio

public schools have an obligation to teach to meet these standards so that students can demonstrate proficiency on state-mandated achievement tests each year.

The state standards for social studies do not include, for practical reasons, local history and heritage. Therefore, it was left to the discretion of educators to include instruction on these subjects.

The ultimate result of the work of the committee was to ensure that the history and heritage of the Licking Valley will be explicitly infused and adopted into the K-12 social studies curriculum for the Licking Valley School District. All Licking Valley school children will have many and varied opportunities throughout their school careers from the beginning to learn about and experience their own area heritage.

Once the Licking Valley Heritage Society Learning Center is up and running, children will have opportunities to interact with it and even touch it as well.

**Leader Alert Update**

Mike Kelley, Director Of Information Services

When we came back from winter break on January 5<sup>th</sup> we began using the Leader Alert system to make automated daily attendance calls to homes of students that are not in school on a particular day and for which we have not received a phone call or written excuse. These calls are being made as early in the day as possible so that parents can be notified that a phone call or excuse is needed. We're also using the Leader Alert system as needed for calls made to inform parents of a school closing or delay. These calls will be sent by Mr. Hile immediately upon a decision being made to close or delay school. All of the phone numbers that we use for contacting parents are kept in our student information system, and this data is transferred to Leader Alert for the purpose of making the attendance and emergency calls, so we do not have an option for parents that do not wish to receive calls. Your best option should you not want to receive calls is to have calls blocked that come from our district office or school buildings. Please be aware that should you decide to block calls from these numbers you will not receive any calls, including those that might be made during the day, or calls that might be made to your home or cell phone by one of our secretaries. Should you need changes made to phone numbers so that you can receive alerts please contact the secretary at your child's school.

**District Directory**

**Administrative Office**

Dave Hile, Superintendent  
 Jo Lynn Torbert, Treasurer  
 1379 Licking Valley Rd. NE  
 Newark, OH 43055  
 Ph.: 740-763-3525  
 Fax: 740-763-0471

**Licking Valley High School**

Wes Weaver, Principal  
 Shane Adkins, Asst. Principal  
 100 Hainsview Dr. NE

Newark, OH 43055  
 Ph.: 740-763-3721  
 Fax: 740-763-0847

**Licking Valley Middle School**

Scott Beery, Principal  
 Jeff Neiger, Asst. Principal  
 1379 Licking Valley Rd. NE  
 Newark, OH 43055

Ph.: 740-763-3396  
 Fax: 740763-2612

**LV Elementary School**

**Primary**

Todd Carmer, Principal  
 Ph: 740-763-2865  
 Fax: 740-763-3653

**Intermediate**

Sherry Crum, Principal  
 Ph: 740-763-2031  
 Fax: 740-763-3227

**Licking Valley Local School District**  
**1379 Licking Valley Rd. N.E.**  
**Newark, OH 43055**

Non-Profit Org.  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 446  
 Newark, OH 43055

**SPRING BREAK**  
**March 30 thru April 3**

2 Hr.  
 Early Dismissal  
 January 30, 2009  
 HS/MS 12:30  
 Elementary 1:30



**February 2009**

We're are on the web:  
[www.edline.net/pages/licking\\_valley\\_local\\_sd](http://www.edline.net/pages/licking_valley_local_sd)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Schedule of events are as of date of publication and are subject to change.	<b>2</b> B FR BK Granville H B MS BK NC A G MS BK NC H <b>GROUNDHOG DAY</b>	<b>3</b> G BK Tri NC H	<b>4</b>  <b>LV MH Day</b>	<b>5</b> V/JV WR LV, NC A MS WR LV, NC A B MS BK Granville H G FR BK Granville A	<b>6</b> B BK Tri Whitehall A	<b>7 ACT</b> G FR BK MSL Tourn G V/JV BK Granville A G MS BK MSL Tournament
<b>8</b> College Goal Sunday @ COTC (FAFSA assistance)	<b>9</b> B MS BK Cols. Acad A LV Board of Education	<b>10</b> Elem P/T Conf LV FFA B BK Tri Heath H	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Elem P/T Conf. FR BK MSL Tourn G MS BK MSL Tourn <b>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>13</b> G V/JS BK Cols Acad H	<b>14</b> HS Solo & Ensemble FR B/G BK MSL Tourn MS B BK MSL Tourn MS G BK MSL Tourn B V/JV BK NC A
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>	<b>17</b> Elem Market Day/PP LV FFA Alumni, Inc. LV Music Boosters B V/JV BK Granville H MS P/T Conferences	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> B FR BK MSL Tourn B MS BK MSL Tourn Post Secondary Education Options Program Info Night MS P/T Conferences	<b>20</b> B V/JV BK Cols Acad A	<b>21</b> B FR BKL MSL Tourn B MS BK MSL Tourn
<b>22</b> <b>WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>23</b> LV Athletic Boosters	<b>24</b> HS P/T Conferences Band Concert 7:00	<b>25</b>  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>26</b> HS P/T Conferences	<b>27</b> HS C-TEC Applications Due	<b>28</b>