

# GEMS



Gifted Education for Marlinton Students

January 2015 Volume 2

## Mount Union Junior Scholars

Each year, Marlinton High School students have the opportunity to participate in the University of Mount Union's Junior Scholar Program. Mount Union invites 100 Alliance area gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors along with their high school coordinators to the campus four times throughout the academic year. This year's four Junior Scholar sessions include lectures presented by the following University of Mount Union faculty members:

- Dr. Andrew Bain "What is Crime? What is Criminology?"
- Dr. Bob Frampton "Myth Busting: Physical Therapy"
- Dr. Bertrand Landry "A Look at French and American Stereotypes"
- Dr. Lonnie Lowery "Nutrition Marketing: Spot the Scam"

The goals of the Junior Scholars program are to present information and ideas normally not included in the high school curriculum; give high school students an opportunity to meet and interact with other students of similar ability; expose students to the academic character and intellectual challenge offered on a college campus and to allow students an opportunity to explore a particular area of interest in depth.



## Stark County Math Tournament

On Saturday, March 7, the Greater Canton Council of Teachers of Mathematics will hold the **Stark County Math Tournament** open to 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Forty-five Marlinton students will travel to Washington High School in Massillon to compete against their peers in five categories: Number Sense, Geometry/Measurement, Algebra/Data Probability, Mental Math, and Team Problem Solving.

The purpose of this tournament is to provide students an opportunity to gain recognition for their math skills, meet students from other Stark County Schools and to stimulate interest in the area of math. We wish them the best of luck as they prepare for this exciting day!

## Talent Development Resource

The basic purpose of this site is to provide information and inspiration to enhance creative expression and personal development; explore the psychology of creativity and personal growth, and better understand how to realize our multiple talents and be more aware of barriers that get in our way.

<http://talentdevelop.com>

Site creator / editor: **Douglas Eby**, M.A./Psychology, is a writer and researcher on the psychology of creative expression and personal growth.

# Classroom Highlights

## Middle School by Mrs. Bucheit

### 6th Grade

Students finished an extensive study of the Underground Railroad by going to camp, reading *The Disappearing Man* and completing an on-line web quest. Mrs. Judi Kneidel came and presented information about the Haines House, a home in Alliance that was a station on the Underground Railroad. Several students and their families then visited the Haines house!

### 7th Grade

As part of the unit on using language, the students studied several different poems. We analyzed *The Night Before Christmas* and students then wrote and performed a parody of the holiday classic. Parodies were very diverse, from a Halloween version that had zombies to more traditional versions using Peanuts characters and Harry Potter!

### 8th Grade

Eighth graders finished a unit on literature set in rural America by reading *Tom Sawyer*. This led to an examination of language and the use of vernacular to portray both character and setting. Students also started an examination of the Hero archetype in literature by reading and analyzing an excerpt from *Ulysses*. We will continue looking at heroes as we study American revolutionary literature and important documents like *The Declaration of Independence* and *The Constitution*.



Christy Green, Taylor Clayton, Dan Greco perform their parody of *The Night Before Christmas*.

## Elementary by Mrs. Wilson



Happy New Year! Since coming back from break, the students in the elementary GEMS program have begun reading new novels. Across the district, fourth grade students are reading *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster, and fifth grade students are reading either *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli or *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart. Students have a study guide to go along with their book and in our weekly meetings, we read and discuss together, digging into the text. Each week students will have an assignment to work on and bring back to share with the group. These may involve creative writing, parallel research, or analyzing literary elements. The students all seem to be enjoying their novels, and look forward to meeting each week!



## Camp Invention Coming to Marlinton Middle School!



Coming this summer is Camp Invention's "*Where Big Ideas Become the Next Big Thing!*" Do you like to make things from parts and pieces of other things? Your ideas will turn the ordinary into the extraordinary because at Camp Invention your imagination rules! Camp dates are June 22-26 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm for all first through sixth grade students. Visit the website for registration and more information at [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org). Register by March 20 and save \$25!

# Grades: Intelligence does not equal effortless

As a parent, you want your child's teacher to provide a challenging environment and high expectations. You want your child to learn not to fear hard work. It is extremely rare for college applications to ask for transcripts from middle school and they never ask for elementary grades. Therefore, grades K-8 are the best, safest times for your child to learn to welcome hard work rather than avoid it—even if it means he does not earn straight A's.

You certainly don't want your child to glide from kindergarten through high school, get high grades with little or no effort, and then go off to a highly competitive college with no clue as to how to study effectively and work hard to learn. This is a recipe for disaster. Even if you son or daughter graduates in the top 5% of his or her high school class, it's likely that all of the other students in the freshman college class did as well. Most gifted kids are accustomed to getting all A's in school. College doesn't work that way. Many students will get low grades for the first time in their lives. When that happens, they can become seriously discouraged or even depressed.

It's much better if your child understands that real learning means "progress from wherever one enters the learning process." So instead of marching into school at the first sign of a lower grade, toting all of your child's perfect report cards and asking the teacher how she or he can be the one to ruin your child's perfect record, send the teacher flowers and count your blessings. Be ready to celebrate the first less-than-perfect grade your child receives when working on TRULY challenging material. This demonstrates that the learning process trumps the fears about lower grades.

**From: Winebrenner, Susan (2012) Teaching Gifted Kids in Today's Classroom. Free Spirit Publishing, Minneapolis.**



Have the winter blues got you down? Explore your creativity at The Canton Museum of Art. The museum is offering creative classes for adults, teens and children this winter and spring. From jewelry making, watercolor painting, textiles, or pottery, there are many classes to choose from.

Visit [www.cantonart.org](http://www.cantonart.org) for more information or call 330.453.7666.

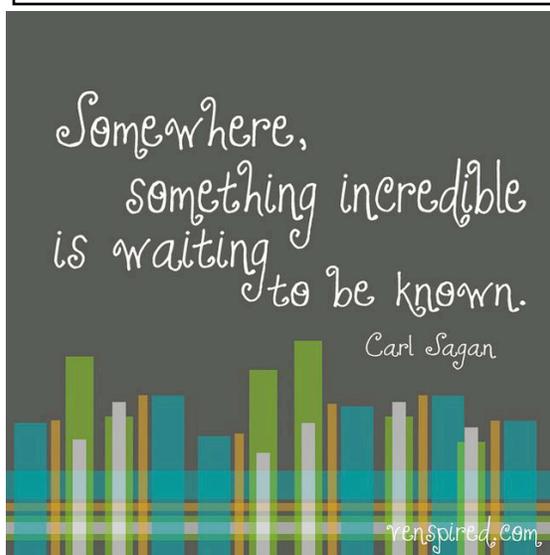
## Resources for Parents of Gifted Children (from the Ohio Department of Education)

Raising a gifted child can be both exciting and challenging. Gifted children may develop at a faster rate cognitively than they do physically or emotionally. Parenting gifted children means understanding their unique development and providing them with extra attention and support.

The following are resources that will help parents recognize if a child shows signs of being gifted, understand the gifted child's unique development, and help parents create enriching environments at home and in school.

Ohio Association for Gifted Children  
[www.oagc.com](http://www.oagc.com)

National Association for Gifted Children  
[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)



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For more information about gifted please go to our webpage:

<http://www.marlingtonlocal.org/SpecialServices.aspx>