



# dividends of Learning in Northridge Schools



## Northridge Hall of Fame Class of 2015

This month we continue our Hall of Fame articles by featuring **Judith A. Sproles Key**.

The Sproles family welcomed young Judith into their fold in the year 1942. She received her education in the Northridge community and graduated from Northridge High School in 1960.

Her love and appreciation for art developed at an early age. In the 1950's she studied at the Dayton Art Institute. Later, she attended Miami Jacobs Business School. In 1962 she began working as a secretary for General Motors in the art diagrams and trade manuals department. However, as a student of art, she pursued her passion by becoming a mostly "self-taught" artist through instruction books. Later in life, Judith also studied at the Rosewood Arts Center.

After the birth of her first child, she pursued her art work as a stay-at-home parent continuing her art-work in her home studio. Her work became popular - **Charles**

**Whalen, Katherine Crosby, Carol Baker, Clarence J. and Joyce Brown** were among those who purchased her work, as well as Senator **Sam Nunn** who commissioned her to design and decorate ornaments for the Congressional Christmas Tree in 1986.

Her artwork has been in *Country Living*, *Mary Emmerling's Collecting American Country*, *Country Register* and *Paint Works* magazine as the featured artist for Marx Brush Company. She owned Madison Graphics and designed for **Joey Chitwood's** Thrill Show, Hollywood fan clubs, OH-SAA and Fricker's "The Frickin' Chicken".

In 2012 Judith began work in jewelry design, and her efforts have been very successful, as First Lady **Michelle Obama** purchased one of her pieces and recognized her with an official letter of acknowledgement.

Over the years Judith has been active in various interests - 4-H leadership, mentoring young people in the arts, and youth drug-free program and animal welfare advocacy. She is also a co-founder of "Sunshine Club", an organization designed to lift morale for nursing home residents.

In 1962 Judith married **Jim Key**, also a Northridge High School graduate, and together they have two children - **James Brian** (1965) and **Elizabeth Arlene** (1969).

Judith Sproles Key has been truly blessed in her life with both family and achievements. She has achieved her dreams "to help others and touch lives in a

positive way." Her desire to work, to never give up and to live according to God's will - these beliefs enable her to have success in her art and life. In her words, "to love others and give of yourself is the greatest success of all."

## Northridge Board of Education

The Board of Education is a five-member governing body elected by the voters of the Northridge Local School District. It represents the community, and has the legal responsibility for educating the community's children.

The Board of Education office is located at 2011 Timber Lane. Meetings are on Monday nights and begin at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates in 2015: February 9 and 23; March 9 and 30; April 13 and 27; May 11; June 29; July 13; August 10 and 24; September 14 and 28; October 12 and 26; November 16; and December 14. All meetings are open to the public and the Board encourages residents to attend.

This year's Board of Education members from left to right: Vice President **Glenn Jones**, President **Tina Fiore**, **Margie Lairson**, **Mark Brumley**, and **Margie Glock**.



### JHM's Adventure in the Snow



On Thursday, December 4th, third grade students from John H. Morrison Elementary School presented their winter program *The Adventure in the Snow* under the direction of **Vicki Ullery**.



The songs included *Winter Again*, *Winter Fun*, *A Perfect Winter Day* and *If I Could Fly Like A Snowflake*. This light-hearted story of a fun day playing in the snow ended with an inspiring message for the students and the audience. During the last song, each student held a candle as they sang *Just One Candle*. At the beginning of the song, Principal **Derrick Thomas** brought in a light post to share light with the students who then shared the light - their own light - as they sang. The song conveyed that it only takes one person to share enough light to fill the world. At the end of the performance, the audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

Congratulations to the Morrison third grade students for a magnificent *Adventure in the Snow*!



### EDMS Winter Concert a Success

On December 17th, the EDMS music department presented their annual winter concert under the direction of **Christina Suppo**. This year, four musical ensembles participated in the program. The groups included a fourth grade rhythm ensemble, a fifth grade choir, and a sixth grade choir and band. In all, nearly 100 students performed in front of more than 200 parents, staff, and community members.

The fourth graders played a series of songs specifically choreographed for rhythm sticks. The fifth grade choir sang songs about winter that featured several solo performances. The band performed *Winter Medley*, a compilation of Christmas songs including *Jolly Old St. Nicholas* and *Jingle Bells*. Finally, the sixth grade choir entertained the audience with a mini-musical, *Bring on the Snow!* The show, which included

props and sets, allowed each student to take on at least one role.

With the outstanding effort of each student, the concert was a tremendous success.

Congratulations to the EDMS musical ensembles on an excellent performance!



Meeting on January 12th, the Northridge BoE:

- reviewed the financial report and bill listing for December.
- approved resolution requesting fiscal officer to certify maximum maturity of bonds.
- approved resolutions declaring the necessity of issuing bonds, submitting the question to the electors of the school district, and requesting county auditor to certify.
- approved resolution declaring the necessity of levying a tax for maintaining classroom facilities in excess of the ten-mil limitation and request county auditor to certify.
- received update on Rich & Gillis Law Group, LLC.
- employed **Chelsea Smith** as intervention tutor at JHM and **Kari Neff** as substitute teacher.
- accepted resignation of **Thomas Swander**, JV softball coach.
- approved supplemental contracts for 2014-15 SY: **Thomas Swander**, varsity softball, and **Bill Nelson**, EDMS softball.
- approved volunteer, **Tyrone McConnell**, boys' basketball.
- employed substitute secretary, substitute bus aide, and substitute van driver, **Kathy Henry**.
- approved job descriptions for Files 403, 404, 405, and 406.
- Received information on resurfacing of stadium track, OSFC building project, and board retreat.

### Junior High Wrestling

The Junior High Wrestling team coached by **Andy Ehrhart** and **Donald Mays** won the Greenon Junior High Invitational on Saturday, December 13th. The Polar Bears won the 23-team tourney on the strength of the following placers: 1st Place: **Treven Mays** and **James Dyer**; 2nd Place: **Mason Swanton**, **Andrew Hall**, and **Ethan Kolker**; 3rd Place: **Mason Hardin** and **Shawn Welsh**; 5th Place: **Harley Phipps**; 6th Place: **Jacob Hoskins** and **Dustin Hanner**. **Wesley Carter** did not participate due to an injury.



## Northridge Bears Epic Win Over Moeller

When teams in the Ohio High School Athletic Worlds see Cincinnati Moeller on their schedule, it causes most to cringe. That's because Moeller is a dominant D1 team that has won multiple state titles in multiple sports. The school is an all boys' private catholic high school in Cincinnati, Ohio with a school enrollment of 891. Compare that to Northridge, whose boy's high school enrollment is less than 250, and well, the numbers speak for themselves. Many questioned why the Bears would play such a dominant team. Not head boy's basketball coach **Jeff Lisath**. Coach Lisath will play against any team, in any division. That's because he truly believes in his kids.

When Moeller showed up to the Northridge gymnasium on Saturday, January 10th, not many would have been able to predict the outcome, especially after Moeller beat Northridge 78-37 in Cincinnati last season. Moeller

came out strong, building a decent lead, but Northridge tied the game at halftime with a bucket at the buzzer. In the second half it was Northridge who built a 12-point lead heading into the final period. The fourth quarter was a dogfight. Moeller came charging back to cut the lead to one point. When **Averon Ely Jr.** made both free throws with seven seconds left, you could feel the excitement building in the gym! As the Moeller last-second shot missed it's mark, the excitement exploded! It's one of those rare feelings you can't explain. Fans knew this was a big win, but many may not have realized how big. Beating a D1 power program marks this victory as arguably one of the biggest in Northridge basketball history. Coach Lisath has every reason to believe in his team. He has created a program that is the talk of the league, and now the state, not only on the court but off the court as well. Opponents continue to compliment our team's attitudes, behavior, classness, as well as our play.


The Northridge basketball team sits at 9-2, 5-0 in the SWBL with losses coming only to #1 state ranked Tri-Village, and a very talented Carroll team. Northridge finds itself on the verge of the D3



Junior High Wrestling Team - See article on Page 2.

# EVENTS

## Calendar

- 9 Timberlane PTO Meeting  
- 3:30 p.m. in Library
- 9 Board of Education Meeting  
- 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Morrison PTO Meeting  
- 4:30 p.m. in Library 
- 13 Staff Development  
- **No School for Students**
- 16 Presidents' Day - **No School**
- 23 Board of Education Meeting  
- 7:00 p.m.



## February Sports

### Varsity Boys Basketball

(Game time 7:15 p.m. unless noted.)

- 3 Preble Shawnee\*
- 6 Madison
- 13 Milton Union
- 17 Stebbins
- 20 Carlisle\*
- 21 Bishop Ready\*



### Varsity Girls Basketball

(Game time 7:15 p.m. unless noted.)

- 2 Newton\*
- 3 Bethel
- 7 Milton Union\* - 1:15 p.m.
- 10 Monroe
- 12 Carlisle
- 14 Stebbins\* - 12:00 p.m.

### Wrestling

- 4 Lehman Catholic - 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Eaton - 4:00 p.m.
- 21 Eaton - 9:00 a.m.



\* Home

state top 10 as the Polar Bears are ranked #11 in the Associated Press State Rankings. Last season in Coach Lisath's first year, Northridge won it's first SWBL title in 30 years. This year Coach Lisath has set the goals even higher, aiming for more Northridge basketball history.

## School Delays/Closings

Inclement weather during the winter months can result in school cancellations because of unsafe travel conditions. The primary considerations in the decision to delay, dismiss, or cancel school are:

- safety of students and staff.
- street conditions.
- current weather and forecasts.
- status of bus fleet.
- condition of buildings and grounds.
- consultation with police, township road department, and other schools.



The delay/closing options for the Northridge Schools are:

- **One-Hour Delay** - all schedules are adjusted one hour.
- **Two-Hour Delay** - all schedules are adjusted two hours except: **Preschool at the TLC is closed, but kindergarten is on a two-hour delay.**
- **Closed** - all buildings are closed.

The decision to close and/or delay school is usually broadcast by area TV, radio stations, and the district one-call system by 6:30 a.m. **In order to be sure you receive the district one-call, please contact your child's school to make sure they have your correct phone number on file.**



Northridge  
Optimist Club

# Christmas Sharing Program

The Denny Mantel Christmas Sharing Fund

sponsored by

The Northridge Optimist Club

**Christmas Sharing Program:** Each holiday season (since 1984) Optimist members have provided some local families with groceries for a good holiday meal. The Northridge School System provides the Optimist Club with a list of families who are particularly needy due to economic circumstances. Club members and other volunteers meet on a particular Saturday in December to buy groceries and deliver them to the families.

**The Denny Mantel Christmas Sharing Fund:** Beginning with 2014, the program was named in honor of Optimist member **Denny Mantel** who chaired the event for the past 30 years. Each year he spent countless hours organizing and leading the program and inspiring members with his dedication. Denny passed away in February of 2014, and club members have established a separate fund in his memory to make sure that the club can continue the program. The fund was established with direct donations as well as from portions of club fundraising events.

**2014 Event:** The 2014 event was held on Saturday, December 13, 2014. The school provided a list of 20 families to serve this year (51 children are in this group). The budget for the 2014 event was set at \$3,020.00 with the help of a \$1,050.00 contribution from Cargill and other donations throughout the year. Volunteers met at the Kroger store at 1934 Needmore Road at 10:30 a.m. on the 13th. Volunteers teamed up by two's, and each team shopped for a given family and then delivered the groceries to that family. It was a great turnout, with about twenty club member/family member volunteers, plus over forty volunteers from Cargill. The club wishes to thank Cargill for the financial support of the program, and also to the Cargill employees and families who volunteered.

More information on The Northridge Optimist Club and the Denny Mantel Christmas Sharing Program is available on the club website at [www.NorthridgeOptimist.org](http://www.NorthridgeOptimist.org).

dividends  
of Learning in Northridge Schools



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