



Buckeye North Elementary sixth-graders Aubreigh Barton and Lakin Burch practicing their escape from a safety trailer provided by the Jefferson County Fire & EMS Association for Fire Prevention Week.

Fire Prevention Week Observed

Students at Buckeye North Elementary School observed Fire Prevention Week on Oct. 1-5 with a trip to the Brilliant Volunteer Fire Department.

Students traveled to the neighboring department each day to watch a fire safety video, listen to officials and view equipment, vehicles and turnout gear to gain a better understanding about fire dangers and what safety forces do to prepare for battling flames. Firefighter Christina Roush, who serves as fire prevention coordinator, also led kids through the fire safety trailer provided by the Jefferson County Fire & EMS Association, which includes scenarios in a home-type setting with a rear escape window and a smoke machine for realism.

Kids learned to “get out and stay out” when a fire alarm sounds in their home, having a family escape plan, techniques to alert officials and where to go once they exit their home safely. Some top tips included having working smoke alarms; creating a fire escape plan with two exits; having a safe place for family to gather once they’ve left the

house; practicing the safety plan at least twice a year; testing fire alarms once a month; calling 9-1-1; and waving a towel, pillowcase or flashlight if inside the house to alert safety forces of your location. The Brilliant VFD has hosted Fire Prevention Week at its location for the past six years, but previously firefighters visited the school to hold safety presentations.

“We teach about fire safety and put on the gear so they know not to be scared of us,” Roush added. “They went inside the fire safety trailer and took part in scenarios.”

A few of the students also shared what they learned from their visit.

“It’s dangerous to be a firefighter, but it’s also helping people,” said sixth-grader Gary Jones. “[We also learned] to never put stuff on the stove when it’s warm and to turn the handles away from burners, and we saw most of the trucks and tools.”

“I learned a lot about safety and how to be safe during a fire,” added sixth-grader Rylee Lude.

Snack Sale Adds Chromebooks

Students at Buckeye South Elementary have some new hardware thanks to a successful snack sale at their school.

About \$3,000 was raised last spring through an ongoing popcorn sale and proceeds have since helped acquire 15 Chromebooks and a charge cart at the Tiltonville school. Principal Julie Packer said it was the first time the school worked with the Steubenville Popcorn Company to raise the dough and the result will help students improve performance on assessments and with education as a whole.

“We purchased 15 Chromebooks and a cart and they will be used by grades 4-6,” Packer said.

The purpose of the campaign was to add more technology in the building and help increase students’ time for research, typing, testing, and learning, plus the daily computer usage would also prepare them for entering junior and senior high school. The company sold a variety of gourmet goodies from caramel to white cheddar popcorn, but people also had the chance to make a direct contribution to the school for the high-tech upgrade. Packer said another fundraiser will be set for spring to add even more devices.

Grant Provides ELC at Buckeye West

Grant funds are helping Buckeye West Elementary students take part in an Extended Learning Center to enhance their learning.

Principal Lucas Parsons said the school gained a 21st Century Grant to provide funding over the next five years for afterschool programming. The ELC began Sept. 4 and is offered weekdays from 3:30-6 p.m. for grades K-6, while bus transportation is available to designated neighborhood drop-off locations.

“The program is not available on snow days or any other day school is not in session,” Parsons said. “Students will be involved in activities such as computers, homework help, exercise, Character Counts and other creative efforts. We are also lucky to be able to provide meals to the students as well.”

Meanwhile, community groups will offer family resources and guest speakers for the program. Parsons said about 25-50 students participate each night and the opportunity the program provides is fantastic.

“It provides them with the extra

attention they need to make sure they succeed in this ever-changing world,” he continued. “The teachers and staff of the program do everything in their power to make sure they reach every student. I couldn’t be more proud to be a part of Buckeye Local and West Elementary. We truly are bringing back Panther Pride and I believe this program brings us one step closer.”

The school also began an afterschool dinner program this month to provide meals for students involved with the ELC or any pupil who wants a hot meal following the school day. About 25-50 children currently take part and funding comes from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which is provided by the Ohio Department of Education and available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Parsons said providing such services to the area is a wonderful opportunity and he thanked Superintendent Kim Leonard and the administrative team for bringing the programs to the school.

BLHS Receives Second Pugliese Grant for Technology

A windfall from the Charles M. and Thelma M. Pugliese Charitable Foundation is helping to enhance education at Buckeye Local High School.

For the second year in a row, the school has obtained a \$25,000 foundation grant to bolster technology at the high school. Principal Coy Sudvary said the first allotment helped establish a makerspace near the school library that was outfitted with a variety of hardware from 3-D printers to zSpace virtual learning software. The equipment was provided by Tierney Brothers Inc. of Powell, Ohio, to aid a wide variety of school subjects as well as robotics and STEM projects. Now the room includes an interactive touchscreen display, a Sling TV studio and about 50 Chromebooks with two carts.

Sudvary said the most recent grant allocation occurred June and the technology was added over the summer break, while some teachers were trained on the new tools the day before school began. The Clevertouch interactive screen includes a built-in computer with space for notes, files, a browser, apps and Cloud storage. Meanwhile, the Sling Studio is a portable livestream studio with a wireless hub which would allow officials to livestream sports events, assemblies and other activities on YouTube. And the grant funding made it all happen.

"I am very appreciative of the Pugliese Foundation for their support of our STEM program and technology opportunities for students," Sudvary added.



Michelle Wolfe, a representative of Tierney Brothers Inc., gives teachers at Buckeye Local High School a demonstration of an interactive touchscreen purchased with some of the funds from a \$25,000 Charles M. and Thelma M. Pugliese Foundation grant to bolster technology. Other acquired items included a Sling TV studio and about 50 Chromebooks with two carts.

Some of the funds also helped equip science teacher Jaide Brown's classroom with STEM cars kits. Her physical science and physics students can design their own Lego-style vehicles and download a special app to operate the car via phone or computer.

"The cars sync with the app and the students can measure speed and distance and analyze data," Brown commented.

She added that her classes greatly benefit from the current zSpace technology.

"There are a lot of things we can't create in the lab and using Zspace takes out the error. The students like that they can work together really well. I try to run it in a way that they can take charge. The technology speaks to this generation. I've utilized it the most with physics and they had a lot of fun with it."



My Space

Buckeye Local High School senior Tristyn Kontra designs her own personal space in the school parking lot to enjoy for the next year. Seniors who purchased parking passes could also paint their spot to personalize it and many included their names, graduation year and pictures of sports and hobbies, while Kontra included her initial and bright colors in a psychedelic display.