



LU-T BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Kevin Byers, President

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THE MISSION OF THE
LIBERTY UNION - THURSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
IS TO PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH THE TOOLS
FOR LEARNING AND THE SKILLS FOR LIVING,
THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION.

Message from the Superintendent:

The design phase of our new middle school and high school renovation project is in full swing. Although the design phase is not a visible activity which community members see when they drive by the site, as moving earth or putting up block walls would be, I am convinced that the planning and design phase may be the most critical part of the work to be completed. Here are a few of the activities in process:

- We are waiting for results from a test well, dug at the site of the new middle school, to determine the feasibility of a partial geothermal heating/cooling loop. This could save considerable costs in future utility bills, and is an important part of our LEED Certification, as we attempt to build a more environmentally-friendly building.
- In order to significantly reduce the cost of bringing utilities to the new middle school, and to reduce the amount of grading work for the foundation, the middle school site placement is fairly close to the elementary school. Additional parking at the site of the new building will give us the ability to handle much larger crowds with fewer parking problems for elementary school, middle school or athletic events. In order to place the new building in the most ideal site, the resulting parking area would infringe slightly on the boundary with our neighbor to the North, the Faith Lutheran Church. The school district will discuss with the church leaders about the possibility of purchasing a very small tract of land, approximately a quarter acre, located at the back corner of the Lutheran property. Again, this would allow for ideal placement of the building, significantly reducing site costs for the district.
- The renovation of the high school will take place with a phased plan, so that construction work can be completed while school is in session. In order to allow for a rotation of classroom construction during the year, extra class space will be necessary. In order to accomplish this with a minimum of expense, grade five will be re-assigned to the elementary school at the start of the 2009/2010 school year, and will remain there until the new middle school is completed. The fifth grade will return to the middle school when the new building opens. We are also researching options to rent additional classroom space for the 2009/2010 school year. This appears to be a more cost-effective approach than portable classrooms, etc., since the time frame for completing construction is somewhat limited.

Hopefully we have worked out the technical problems with our SchoolCentral rapid-notification system. This system allows for text and e-mail notification of important messages, such as school delays or closings, or any emergency notification which may be necessary. I would urge parents to sign up for this service if you have not already done so. In addition to SchoolCentral text and e-mail notifications, I will continue to notify television and radio stations of weather-related problems.

By the way, if you would like to have the *Lion Report* e-mailed to you each month, forward your e-mail address to district secretary, Alice Bondurant:

bonduranta@libertyunion.org The newsletter pictures look much better on a color monitor than the black and white paper copies!

Paul Mathews

ADMINISTRATION

Paul E. Mathews , Superintendent	862-4171
David I. Butler , Treasurer	862-4171
Ed Miller , High School Principal	862-4107
Chet Coleman , Asst High School Principal	862-4107
Scott Williamson , Athletic Director	862-4107
Hank Gavarkavich , Middle School Principal	862-4126
Kelli Brownfield , Elementary School Principal	862-4143
Judy Cleland , Transportation Coordinator	862-4171
Jan Friedrich , Food Service Supervisor	862-4107

**7:00 p.m. in the High School Library
Strategic Planning Committee Meetings**

Thursday, February 26th

Tuesday, May 21st

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

The "Teacher of the Month" for December is **Mrs. Erin**



Rodriguez, who is a middle school language arts teacher at LU-T. She was selected by her peers to receive this award. **Mrs. Rodriguez** will be recognized at the February 9, 2009, Board of Education meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. Our thanks to the Mark Matthews Insurance Agency, for sponsorship of this award program during the 2008/2009 school year!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION

The Liberty Union High School "Students-of-the-Month" for January are **Sarah Klopfer** and **Taylor Matthews**.

Sarah Klopfer is a freshman student at Liberty Union High School, and has established a 4.06 grade-point average. In addition to her academic study, **Sarah** is very involved in softball. She is a pitcher, and has participated in a fast-pitch travel softball league for six years, as a member of the Ohio Classics. **Sarah** also finds time to volunteer with the Faith Mission Homeless Shelter meal program, and helps with the Special Olympics.



Taylor Matthews is a sophomore student at Liberty Union High School. She has a 4.0 grade-point average. **Taylor** is a member of the varsity track and cross country teams. She also serves as a high school student council member. Despite her busy schedule, **Taylor** enjoys playing the piano, and has taken piano lessons for the past nine years.



Sarah and **Taylor** will be recognized at the February 9th Board of Education meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library.

2008 / 2009 KNOWLEDGE BOWL TEAM

The Knowledge Bowl Team (pictured) has already begun their 2009 competition schedule of matches. The team will be in action with a home match on February 25th at 3:30 p.m. in the high school. All are welcome to watch.



Front - left to right: **Ryan Hankinson, Josh Motts, Kristyn Perrine, Jayce Born, Beth Winchell, Mrs. Young** - advisor.
Back: **Aaron Burnside, Helen Cothrel, Andy Dickson, Max Cothrel, Nick Whittington, Nick Byers**

MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

The featured military service person for February is **Robert Amiet**. **Robert** is a 1983 graduate of Waynedale High School



in Apple Creek, Ohio. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1986, and served until 1990. **Robert** was a basic training Honor Graduate at Lackland Air Force Base, in

San Antonio, Texas. He then completed seven months of specialized technology training at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. **Robert** was assigned to the Air Force Technical Applications Center in Coco Beach, Florida, as a Scientific Measurement Technician. Although much of **Robert's** work is classified information, he spent considerable time writing command plans for satellites, and was part of a team creating a new technology system. During his military tenure, **Robert** was also a member of the base Honor Guard, and one of the highlights of his career was being in charge of the honor guard dedication ceremony laying the cornerstone for the United States Astronaut Memorial, located at the Kennedy Space Center. The memorial is a seven-story, granite structure, which rotates so that the engraved names follow the sun, reflecting toward space. **Robert** received Airman of the Month and Airman of the Quarter honors, as well as Achievement and Commendation Medals during his military career. **Robert** also completed two Associate Degrees while in the military, and followed that up after his military service time by completing a Bachelor Degree in Finance and Real Estate at The Ohio State University. He moved to Baltimore in 1993, working in property management. He has been married to his spouse, Julie, an LU-T third-grade teacher, for ten years, and they have four children. **Robert** is the Cub Scout Leader for Baltimore Pack 187, and serves on the District Scout Committee in Fairfield County. He is also a church elder. We thank **Robert** for his service to America, with the United States Air Force, and for his dedication to the youth of our community!

NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY SELECTION

The Eastland Career Center held its National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony on January 7, 2009. Thirteen area career center students were selected to join this elite group, including LU-T student, **Jyssika Price**, who attends the Eastland Career Center in the Law Enforcement program. Congratulations, **Jyssika**, and thanks for representing Liberty Union with such positive academic and work ethic accomplishments!



LIBERTY UNION ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Five individuals will be inducted into the LUHS Athletic Hall of Fame at the home basketball game on **Saturday, February 14th**.

Justin Blackstone, a four-year basketball letterman, graduated in 1996. He played in seventy-six varsity basketball games. During his career, **Justin** accumulated 125 steals, 212 assists, 245 blocked shots, 578 rebounds, and 1311 points. He earned 1st Team All MSL honors in his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. In his senior year, **Justin** was named the MSL "Player-of-the-Year." **Justin** received 1st Team All District 11 in 1994, 1995 and 1996. All Central District honors included Honorable Mention, 1994; 2nd Team, 1995; and 1st Team, 1996. As a senior, **Justin** was Named 1st Team All-Ohio. He is one of only five Liberty Union male basketball players to earn this honor. **Justin** continued his basketball career in college, playing at Canisius College, 1996-1997 and the University of Rio Grande 1997-2000. He currently lives in Glendale, Arizona with his wife, Jennifer. He is a sales representative with Arizona School Furnishings.



Tracie DeVault, a 1990 graduate, was a three-sport athlete. In volleyball, **Tracie** earned 1st Team All MSL honors in her junior and senior seasons. During these two years, she was also named to the 1st Team All Central District squad. In softball, **Tracie** was named 1st Team All MSL all four years in high school. She earned 1st Team All Central District honors during her junior and senior campaigns. **Tracie** completed her softball career at Liberty Union by being named All-Ohio her senior year. In basketball, **Tracie** was named 1st Team All MSL in each of her four seasons; she was also honored as the "Player-of-the-Year" during her sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. **Tracie** is LU's career leading scorer with a total of 1554 points. She is also the career leader in steals and #3 all time in assists. During her junior and senior seasons, LU totaled a 42-7 record. **Tracie** was named 1st Team All Central District in basketball her sophomore, junior, and senior years. After her senior season, she was named to the All-Ohio team. **Tracie** lives in Seabrook, Texas where she is a dentist.



Adam Schaffner graduated in 1996. **Adam** was the backbone of many successful track and cross country teams while earning eight letters. **Adam** was named 1st Team All MSL at the conclusion of his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. During these same three years **Adam** was also named 1st Team All Central District. He was a State Meet qualifier in both his junior and senior seasons in the 3200 meter run. **Adam's** school record in this event still stands at 9:40. In cross country, **Adam** was the first male athlete ever to be named 1st Team All MSL in all four high school years. He was named to the All Central District team in his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. **Adam** was the individual champion and named "Runner-of-the-Year" his senior season at both the league and district levels. **Adam** was a three time State Meet qualifier in cross country. **Adam** earned All-



Ohio honors in both his junior and senior seasons. **Adam** graduated from Cumberland College with a degree in Business Administration and earned twelve varsity letters. **Adam** achieved All-American honors in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track while in college. **Adam** currently lives in Frankfort, Kentucky with his wife, Erin, and daughter, Rylee. He works for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and coaches high school cross country.

Deanna Springer Middleton graduated in 1989. **Deanna** is the most decorated sprinter in our school's history. **Deanna** was the MSL champion in the 100 & 200 Meter Dash sprints her freshman year. As a sophomore, junior and senior she won the league 100, 200, and 400 Meter Dash events. In both **Deanna's** sophomore and junior seasons, she earned "Co Runner-of-the-Year" honors.

Deanna competed at the State Track meet in a combined eight events during her four seasons. She ran in the 200 Meter Dash three times picking up two 3rd place finishes. In 1989, **Deanna** anchored the 400 Meter Dash to a State Runner-Up finish. She competed in the 100 Meter Dash all four years earning two runner-up finishes, and in 1987, claimed the State championship. **Deanna** currently holds school records in both the 100 Meter Dash (12.25) and 200 Meter Dash (25.21). **Deanna** graduated from Eastern Michigan with a degree in Occupational Therapy. She was a sprinter at Eastern and ranked 7th in the Mid American Conference in the 60 Meter Dash. **Deanna** was a member of the 1992 Conference championship team. **Deanna** currently works as an Occupational Therapist with children in the United Kingdom. She lives in Derbyshire, England with her husband Dominic and two children, Jacob and Arantxa Mae.



Penny Zuber began teaching and coaching at Liberty Union in 1972, and spanned thirty-three years. As the varsity girls basketball coach for nine years, **Penny** had the opportunity to guide LU girls basketball from the Fairfield County Girls Athletic Association into the Mid-State League as a recognized sport. However, **Penny** was best known at LU as the girls track coach, serving as the head coach for seventeen years. She was named MSL Coach-of-the-Year three times. The 1988, team was the Class-A State Champions, and the following year, Class AA State Runners-ups. **Penny** coached athletes in twenty All-Ohio performances at the State Track Meet. In 1987, she coached two ladies to individual State Championship Titles. Athletes competed a remarkable seventy-six times at the State Meet. Possibly her greatest achievement was sending Liberty Union Girls to the State Track meeting in sixteen of the seventeen years as head coach. **Penny** was the State Girls Track Coach-of-the-Year in 1988, and inducted into the MSL Hall of Fame in 1993. In the 1980's, **Penny** and her husband headed a committee to build the current all-weather track that our school and community has enjoyed for many years. **Penny** is currently retired and is a registered track official. She lives in Pataskala. Her son, Kyle and his wife, Lori, serve in the United States Air Force. **Penny** now substitute teaches at LU, is Missions Coordinator at Jersey Baptist Church and does mission work all over the world.



February, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 5:00 JrHi Girls BB vs Grandview 5:00 JrHi Boys BB @ Grandview 6:00 JV & Var Boys BB vs Harvest Prep Jr Hi Recognition (Rescheduled from 1-27)	3 6:00 JV & Var Girls BB vs Grandview (Senior Night) 7:30 Music Boosters	4 7:30 Athletic Boosters	5 5:00 JrHi Boys BB @ Millersport 5:30 JV & Var Girls BB @ Bishop Ready 6:00 Wrestling vs Westerville North 7:00 Elementary Boosters	6 6:00 JV & Var Boys BB vs Fisher	7 TBA Wrestling @ Pickerington North TBA 7 th Gr Girls BB Tourn @ Berne Un TBA 8 th Gr Girls BB Tourn @ Millersport 10:00 JrHi Wrestling @ Harvest Prep 5:00 BINGO 6:00 JV & Var Boys BB @ Northridge 6:00 JV & Var Girls BB @ Millersport
8	9 5:00 JrHi Boys BB vs West Jeff 7:00 Board of Education	10 6:00 JV & Var Boys BB vs Berne Un Youth Recognition	11	12	13 6:00 JV & Var Girls BB @ West Jeff	14 TBA 7 th Gr Boys BB Tourn @ West Jeff TBA 8 th Gr Boys BB Tourn @ LU 9:30 OHSAA Swim @ Columbus Acad 10:00 Wrestling @ Grandview Hghts 6:00 JV & Var Boys BB vs Grandview Hall of Fame
15	16 No School Presidents Day	17 6:00 JV & Var Boys BB vs Millersport Homecoming	18	19 7:00 Market Day Pick-Up	20 TBA Wrestling Sectionals 2:30 OHSAA Swim @ OSU 6:00 JV & Var Boys BB vs West Jeff Senior Night	21 TBA Wrestling Sectionals @ TBA 5:00 BINGO
22	23	24	25	26 7:30 HS Lib Strat Plan Mtg	27 TBA Wrestling Districts 8:00 OHSAA Swim @ Branin Natatorium	28 TBA Wrestling Districts 7:30 AM OHSAA Swim @ Branin Natatorium

Seussical, the Musical

The music department staff and students are working on a musical production for performance on **March 27 & 28**. It has been many years since we have had a musical performed in our community, so mark your calendars!