



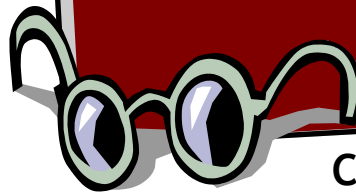
**CUYAHOGA VALLEY**  
**CAREER CENTER**

Career Development Department

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January – June, 2008

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# SNEAK A PEEK

## Career Development Events in Your Schools

Independence Local School District

### BENEFITS OF TREES EXPLAINED TO KINDERGARTENERS



Greg Siek, Cuyahoga County Extension Agent explained how to take care of tree seedlings and how important trees are to us every day. He also told the students about the many benefits trees provide to planet Earth.

On May 8th at Independence Primary School, Greg Siek, Cuyahoga County Extension Agent from the Ohio State University 4-H Extension Service, presented a program to kindergarten students on how to take care of tree seedlings. Every student was presented with their own tree seedling to wrap, water and take home to plant.

### ROBB DURR, TOY DESIGNER, SHARES CREATIONS WITH 4TH GRADE



Every Tuesday in January at Independence Primary School, 4th grade students had the opportunity to hear speakers present information related to a variety of career fields. One of the speakers was Robb Durr, a toy designer/ sculptor and artist from Wild Republic Toys.

Durr shared his newest designs and some fascinating old ones that included a Steve Irwin doll, the Crocodile Hunter. He explained that he flew to Australia to meet with Irwin and recorded his voice to make a microchip to put into the doll.

He recently returned to Australia to work with Irwin’s family to design the “Bindi” action doll and accessories line. Durr shared photographs of Bindi that he will use to in the initial process of sculpting the doll. He gave each student a talking bird toy.

## FIRST GRADE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NUTRITION FAIR

In March, all first grade students participated in a Nutrition Fair. Greg Siek, with OSU’s Cuyahoga County 4-H Extension Service, visited the school. He provided an important lesson on “Healthy Eating and Good Nutrition.”

The students were able to visit two stations where they made fruit kabobs and played a few rounds of “nutrition golf” to learn about food groups.



First graders play “nutrition golf,” a game that helps them learn about food groups, which are shown on each of the “greens.” The activity was part of their lesson during the Nutrition Fair.

## MOCK INTERVIEWS INVOLVE 60+ PROFESSIONALS



Traci Davis with Manpower, conducts a mock interview with an Independence High School senior student

## GLASS CEILING ROUNDTABLE



The Glass Ceiling Roundtable held its year-end event at CVCC on April 29. The high school juniors and seniors from Independence High School, who were selected for the program based on their leadership potential, enjoyed meeting girls from Cuyahoga Heights, Garfield Heights and Nardonía high schools. Amy Hanratty, CVCC Career Specialist, coordinates the Glass Ceiling program at Independence High School.

After brunch served by CVCC’s culinary students, Patricia Coyne, Career Development Program Developer, led a group activity focused on self-examination. The girls were challenged to assess their identity and determine what aspects they would like to work on before leaving high school for college life. Common themes included decision-making, time management, self-confidence and concern for others.

The keynote speaker, Barbara Daniel, publisher and editor of the Cleveland Women’s Journal East Edition, spoke of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the next generation of women leaders. Ms. Daniel reminded the girls that they will be empowered through knowledge.

More than 60 business professionals from all over N.E. Ohio visited Independence High School in March to conduct interviews with every senior student as part of the “Career Portfolio” and “Mock Interview” programs facilitated by Amy Hanratty, Career Specialist from CVCC.

Every student “dressed for success” and had practiced interview skills prior to their meeting. Evaluations were completed by students, as well as their interviewers; and thank you letters were written as a follow-up activity in students’ English classes.

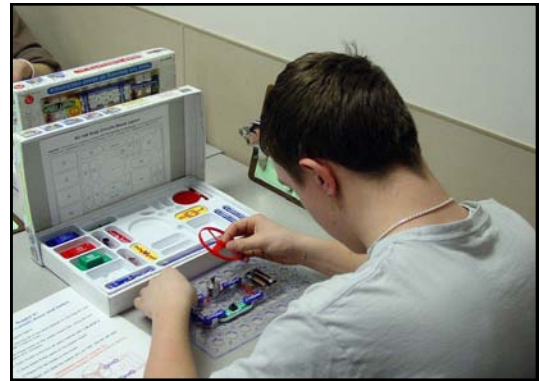
Following their interviews, students had a chance to win five sets of Cleveland Gladiator Arena Football tickets, donated by the team, and other fun items. Professionals who participated in the mock interviews were scheduled by Darden Blake, CVCC Community Liaison.

## Seventh Grades Visit CVCC for "Exploration"

During February, March, and April, 7th graders from CVCC's district middle schools and their teachers had an opportunity to tour CVCC and experiment with some of the skills students in the school are practicing in their classes.

CVCC Career Specialists conduct a lesson at each associate school to introduce career and technical education. The day spent at CVCC includes a school tour, "Tryvertising" lab in which six activities simulate skills used in various careers, "CVCC Bingo," lunch in the cafeteria and an online interest survey that helps students match their interests with potential careers.

Career Specialists conduct a follow-up lesson in students' classrooms to answer questions. Exploration at CVCC gives students a head start in planning their high school classes and activities, which they begin to do in the 8th grade.



A student tries his skill at creating an electronic circuit that spins a propeller, following a diagram.



Seventh graders used "Anatomical Annie" cutaways and miniaturized organs to build human systems for a glimpse at what a health career might involve.

Arranging several types of flowers and foliage according to directions provided students with practice in a career as a florist, one of the units taught in CVCC's horticulture class.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SPEND A DAY FOCUSED ON CAREERS

May 15th was 8th grade Career Day at Independence Middle School. Students spent the entire day listening to various professionals explain their careers.

Pictured top, left to right, are **Kym Gopp**, Associate Conservation Curator, Cleveland Metro-parks Zoo and **Nikki Golden**, Promotions Director, Radio Disney.

L-R below are **Chris Schons**, Sr. Sales Consultant and **Greg Prymicz**, Account Executive with Lake Erie Monsters; **Dr. Dan Simon**, Assistant Professor, CSU-Dept. of Electrical Engineering and the DARE officer with a drug-sniffing dog.

The students also participated in an on-line activity, "Reality Day."



## "REAL WORLD" EXPERIENCE PROVIDED TO 11TH GRADERS DURING JOB SHADOWING EXPERIENCE



Allison Seitz shadowed Dr. Susan Joy, Director of Woman's Sport Health, The Cleveland Clinic



Megan O'Brien shadowed Michael Molchan, Architect, Makovich & Pusti Architects, Inc.



Eric Matthews shadowed Kelly Campagna, Physical Therapist, The Cleveland Clinic Sports Health

On April 30th, all 11th grade students at Independence High School completed their Junior Job Shadow experience. Each student had completed an interest assessment, using the Kuder Career Planning System, as well as resumes and references – included in the instruction provided by Amy Hanratty, CVCC Career Specialist. The experience was a real "eye opener," as students experienced what it takes to work in an ever-changing world.

### PARENT SPEAKER SERIES

#### COLLEGE SURVIVAL SKILLS 101



On February 13 from 7 to 8:30, a panel of experts addressed issues critical to college-bound students. More than 70 parents and students attended the session. Panelists were Alma Sealine, Director of Housing at CWRU (social and emotional ramifications), Danny Shoo, senior at CWRU (a student's perspective on college life), David Pelland, CFP, Bear Pelland Associates (financial responsibility); and Sgt. Chad Cunningham, University of Akron (safety and legal aspects of being 18). Each family received helpful articles and a checklist of "must-have" conversations prior to a student's leaving for college.

### GUIDANCE COUNSELOR BRUNCH AT CVCC



Fourteen middle and high school counselors attended a *Career Connections* brunch December 7, 2007 at CVCC. The brunch was planned to familiarize counselors with CVCC programs, introduced by Roscoe Schlachter, Superintendent, and Mike Hall, Principal. Middle School Career Specialists, Gretchen Weber, Kathy Richards and Michele West, along with CVCC Community Liaisons Bridget Murphy and Marie Elias, hosted the brunch. Participants viewed a presentation on the career exploration program offered to all K-12 students and heard about new programs and ideas from additional CVCC staff. The presentation enabled counselors to see how career exploration fits into the career planning process, and the advantages of including career-technical programs in students' plans.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT CVCC

### SOUP WITH THE SUPE



Community Seniors enjoyed a soup and salad lunch buffet prepared by CVCC culinary arts students in December. Roscoe Schlachter, CVCC Superintendent, welcomed guests. The luncheon was one of three hosted by Career Development Community Liaisons, Bridget Murphy and Marie Elias that targeted community groups.

### 2008 STUDENT JOB FAIR ATTRACTS 850+



Students from all eight districts age 15 and up met employers, interviewed and completed applications for part-time and summer jobs on March 13 at CVCC. Students were prepared for the event by their career specialists through instruction

on interview techniques, professional appearance and resume preparation. More than 50 employers were arranged at color coded tables according to the age groups they were hiring, facilitating students' job search. Members of the Cleveland Society for Human Resource Management assisted students with completing applications. Parents who accompanied students were able to get hand-outs on child labor laws, work permits and occupational trends, as well as other events of interest at CVCC.

### CVCC AND CSU PARTNER TO PRESENT "COLLEGE ROAD RULES"



In February and April, senior and junior students respectively attended a presentation of CSU's "College Road Rules." The agenda covered college planning and resources, the value of a college education, financial resources, scholarships and other options. Students who might not have been planning to attend college learned of various ways to achieve a college education.

The event was initiated to meet the state challenge to increase college attendance and college graduation rates. The event was the first partnership between high schools and a 4-year college.

## CAREER PATHWAYS

### TECH COMPETITION SUPPORTS "STEM" EDUCATION

Career Pathways and the industrial technology district teachers held the 8th consecutive Technology Competition at Independence Field House on May 2. Students used their pre-engineering knowledge and skills to design and build structures and vehicles. Airplanes and magnetic levitation cars were timed and the winner was selected based on optimum performance. Towers and bridges were stressed to failure to determine the winning design. Technology Wars pitted four school teams against each other in a problem-solving event. Beverly Kuch, Career Pathways Specialist, coordinated the event.



Students from Brecksville-Broadview Hts. celebrate winning the trophy for the second year in a row.

**Career Specialists in Your Schools**

**Elementary**

Amy Hanratty—[ahanratty@cvccworks.com](mailto:ahanratty@cvccworks.com)

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[www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com)

**Career Development Department**



**Our objective is to prepare all district students, K-Adult, to make the best possible informed career choices and position them for future career success by providing impactful age-appropriate resources and relevant experiences**

**CVCC Coming Events**

- Career Connections Workshop (New Teacher Orientation) August 11, 2008

- Teacher Externship Luncheon November 6, 2008—12 Noon

**Parent Speaker Series**

College & Career Planning Seminar  
November 12, 2008- 7-9 PM

- High School Student Job Fair March 12, 2009—4-7 PM

**CAREER PATHWAYS**

**CVCC DISTRICT STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ROBOTICS COMPETITION**

The Ohio Robotics Club held its spring HORD robotics competition at CVCC on April 19. Teams from Brecksville-Broadview Hts., North Royalton, Independence and CVCC entered Ant weight (1-pound) robots constructed in their industrial technology classes. CVCC program instructors conducted a workshop in February on design and building techniques for district teachers. Career Pathways donated the basic components to participating schools to build and operate the robots. The students built wedge and spinner type robots. While they didn't win, the students fared well in their first competition and learned a lot from watching the winning combatants.

*Sneak a Peek newsletters are published in December and June to highlight Career Development and Career Pathways activities in your schools. Newsletters are edited and produced by Donna Hessel, Career Pathways Specialist.*



Dan Dulik and Ron Surace, teammates from Independence, exhibited high confidence in their robot, "Gold Digga" prior to the fight. They won in the first round, but were eliminated in the second.