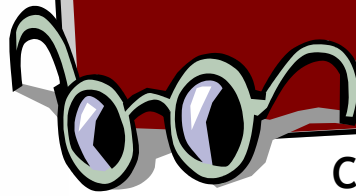




**CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CAREER CENTER**

Career Development Department

Volume 2, Issue 2
January – June, 2009



SNEAK A PEEK

**Career Development
Events in Your Schools**

Independence Local School District

FOURTH GRADERS WIN PRIZE DURING RIGHT TO READ WEEK



Ms. Hoffner's fourth grade classroom won the Monster Mini Golf Classroom Pizza Party at Monster Mini Golf in Strongsville

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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.

In March, Independence Primary School kicked off its Right to Read week. This year's theme was "Exercise Your Mind...Read!" Students at each grade level were assigned a different sport and the week was full of exciting activities. Celebrity readers filled the hallways as they headed to classrooms to share their favorite books with students in Kindergarten through fourth grade.

In addition, classes were competing against one another to have the highest reading percentage. Classrooms with 100% reading participation were entered into a drawing to win a Monster Mini Golf Classroom Pizza Party with a private DJ at Monster Mini Golf in Strongsville.

Special thanks to Edmond and Lori Gai, owners, for supporting Right to Read Week with this generous donation, as well as with free passes they provided to all grade level winners during the week.

Amy Hanratty, CVCC Career Specialist, coordinated the party and organizes and facilitates career-based activities for the Primary School.

(Articles continued on following pages)

BROWN BAG LUNCH SPEAKERS SHARED CAREERS WITH 4TH GRADERS

Students had the opportunity to hear a variety of career speakers during the Primary School's Brown Bag Lunch Speaker Series this year. Students listened to Sgt. Stephanie Bacskey of the Army National Guard. She brought in many items that she uses in her job and brought pictures taken during her assignments in Iraq.

Mr. and Mrs. Teare, owners of Hot Dog Diner in Parma spoke about their job as restaurant owners and brought everyone a treat of chocolate covered pretzels.

Guidance Counselor Donna Lanich and CVCC Career Specialist Amy Hanratty invite lunch speakers every Tuesday in January.



Sgt. Bacskey shared experiences from assignment in Iraq. Owners of Hot Dog Diner told students about owning a diner.



KINDERGARTENERS CELEBRATED ARBOR DAY

On April 27th, Greg Siek, Cuyahoga County Extension Agent with the OSU Extension Service, visited the Primary School to present the annual Arbor Day Program to all kindergarten students. Mr. Siek explained the importance of trees. He helped students understand the importance of soil preparation and the proper handling and care of tree seedlings. Each child received a tree seedling to wrap, water and take home to plant. Thanks to Mr. Siek for providing this educational program for students to enjoy!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN JOB SHADOWING AND MOCK INTERVIEWS



(L-R) Meredith Martin and Jillian Gubbini shadowed a pharmacist at CVS; James Burke shadowed an architect with Design Wise in Independence; Alexa DeFranco shadowed a teacher at Le Chaperone Rouge in Strongsville

All junior students used the Kuder Career Planning System to explore their interests and related career fields in their English III classes. They completed resumes and references in preparation for their Job Shadow Career Day, which occurred on March 18th.

Amy Hanratty, CVCC Career Specialist, coordinated the program and assisted students in finding hosts in more than 80 participating locations. All juniors were excused from classes to spend the day exploring a career in the field of their choice.

The job shadow experience allows students to see first-hand the daily responsibilities and education required within a specific career. Evaluations were completed by the job shadow host, as well as the students. Mrs. Ribovich's English III classes completed a one-page reflection paper, as well as a job shadow speech that was presented in class to highlight their experiences.

Continued from Page 2

In the fall, Amy Hanratty, CVCC Career Specialist, visited all 12th grade students in English IV classes. She prepared students with information and provided samples of how to complete their "Career Portfolios." The Portfolios include a resume, references, career narratives and SCANS skills essay. After students completed their Career Portfolios, they began to prepare for Mock Interviews. Additional lessons were taught on interview readiness, question and answer sessions and how to dress to impress.



More than 70 business professionals participated in Mock Interviews on January 29th

On January 29th, each senior participated in an interviewing process held in the Media Center. Students brought their Career Portfolios. More than 70 business professionals from the Greater Cleveland area participated. Each student was assigned an interviewer, and these participants received those students' resumes before the interview sessions. During the interview process, students were evaluated and evaluations were shared with students in a culminating activity. Special thanks to Darden Blake, CVCC Community Liaison, for coordinating this event.

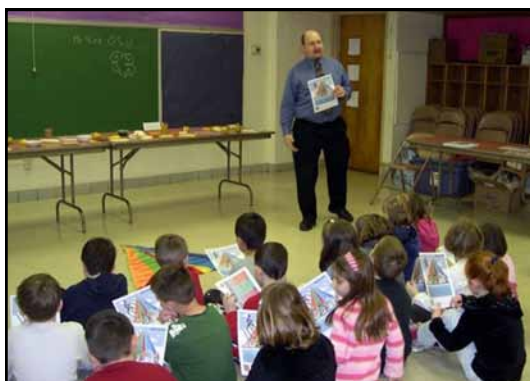


EDNA WEST SHARED WORDS OF WISDOM WITH GROUP

In January, Edna West, Director of Advanced Studies in Education at Ursuline College, shared her words of wisdom titled "Who Am I" with the Glass Ceiling Roundtable.

The Glass Ceiling Roundtable includes senior young women nominated for their uniqueness and leadership ability. The group meets once a month. Professional women with a wide range of achievements are invited to make presentations on topics related to leadership, teamwork, ethics, professional advancement and college survival skills. Speakers are also asked to share words of wisdom or motivational poems that have personally inspired them.

The advisors for the group are Amy Hanratty, CVCC Career Specialist, and Mary Dolejs, Guidance Counselor.



JUMP ROPING REINFORCED NUTRITION LESSON

On March 12th, Greg Siek, from the Ohio State University Extension Service, taught first grade students about healthy eating and good nutrition. In addition to his lessons, he engaged

students in hands-on activities that included jump roping and nutritional mini golf. At left, Greg Siek explains the food chart. At right, jump ropes are offered to students at their Nutrition Fair.

8TH GRADE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN CAREER DAY MAY 15TH



Joe Hamlin (left) and Heather Machles explained their careers

On May 15th, eighth grade students spent the day focused on career activities. In the morning, they listened to professional business people talk about their careers.

This year's speakers were Michael Maierson, CPO, Certified Prosthetics & Orthotics; Joseph Pinjuh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice; Heather Machles, RVT, Vet Technician and teacher at Stauzenberger College; and Joe Hamlin, Corporate Sales Executive, Lake Erie Monsters Hockey.



Students listened to Joseph Pinjuh (left) and Michael Maierson during Career Day

In the afternoon, students participated in a "reality day" activity on OCIS (Ohio Career Information System). Students answered questions related to their lifestyle and learned how much they needed to earn to support themselves.

At the end of the day, DARE officers spoke to students about their careers, how they train their dogs and work with them.

Kathy Richards, CVCC Career Specialist, arranges for Career Day speakers.

INDEPENDENCE TECH ED CLASS VISITED CVCC PROGRAMS

Alicia Hannah's second semester tech ed class visited Cuyahoga Valley Career Center on May 20th. Twenty-two students rotated through CVCC's Computer Aided Design (CAD), Engineering Technology and Digital Design classes.

Pictured below (L-R) are students in the CAD class viewing work being done by CVCC students, Melissa Munro, CVCC Digital Design instructor explaining a class project to visitors, and a student working on a project in Engineering Technology.



DARE officers demonstrated their dog's training



SPECIAL EVENTS HOSTED BY CVCC

SEVENTH GRADE "EXPLORATION"



In February, March and April, CVCC's halls ring with the excited voices of district school seventh graders visiting for "Exploration."

CVCC career specialists, Gretchen Weber, Kathy Richards and Michele West, 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 survey that helps students match their interests with potential careers. Following the visit to CVCC, the specialists conduct a follow-up lesson in students' classrooms to answer questions.

Shown in the pictures above (Clockwise from left) Students in the computer lab check out potential careers based on the answers they provided in the survey. In the Tryvertising Lab, students complete a circuit that powers a propeller; a student follows directions for fancy napkin folding and students try their skill at floral arranging. In some classrooms, CVCC students demonstrate work in progress, such as this student in Graphic Imaging with his silk screen project. During the tour of the school, students match a verbal "clue" about what they are seeing with statements on their clipboards as they watch classes in action through large hallway windows.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SPONSORED TWO CAREER FAIRS

In these difficult economic times, CVCC's Student Job Fair held on March 12th offered students in the eight districts CVCC serves



The Health Careers Job Fair was held April 23rd

an opportunity to look for part-time or seasonal employment in one place, in one night. Over 1,000 high school students, encouraged by Secondary Career Specialists who are assigned to the associate districts, attended this annual event. Students were reminded to bring resume/application information and dress professionally to meet employers. Forty prospective employers were on hand in the Commons to greet, meet, interview — and even offer some students a job! The job fair was successfully co-chaired by Thressa Brown and Nanci Coleman with extensive help from Mindy Jencson.



The 2009 Student Job Fair attracted more than 1000 students

On April 23rd, CVCC hosted a Health Careers Job Fair for adults seeking positions in the healthcare field. The free, public event attracted 282 potential employees and 35 employers. Employers represented a variety of healthcare facilities, including Cleveland Clinic, Akron Children's Hospital, University Hospitals, Medina General, Southwest General, Jennings Center for Older Adults, Northfield Village, Pine Valley, Cleveland VA Medical Center and others. Nanci Coleman, Community Liaison, and Patricia Coyne, Program Developer coordinated the event with assistance on the day of the event from Career Development staff.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT'S PARENT SPEAKER SERIES PROVIDED ADVICE ON STUDENT TRANSITIONS TO HIGH SCHOOL AND TO COLLEGE

On January 21st, Career Development hosted a free seminar for parents of middle school students titled, "Preparing Your Child for High School Success." A panel of experts (shown at left) discussed navigating teen social issues, building a solid academic portfolio, finding their passion, preparing for independence and earning college credits in high school.

Panelists included Susan Fee, licensed counselor and popular author;



Patricia Coyne introduced speakers

Gretchen Weber, CVCC middle school Career Specialist; Tracy Schuman, Admissions Officer, Tri-C; and Elizabeth Busch, Research Scientist at Craig Battelle, who discussed the 21st Century Learning Skills initiative.

The "College Survival Skills 101" free seminar on March 25th attracted parents of students anticipating college attendance in the fall of 2009. Panelists presented information on financial and legal issues, as well as tips on how to survive the social and interpersonal concerns that

often perplex college freshmen. Panelists included Colleen Barker-Williamson, Director of Programs & Leadership, Case Western Reserve University; Sgt. Chad Cunningham, University of Akron Police Department; and David Pelland, CFP, Bear Pelland Associates.

Patricia Coyne, Program Developer, Julie Regula, Career Specialist and Darden Blake, Community Liaison coordinated these events.



Sgt. Chad Cunningham, University of Akron Police Department spoke about campus safety

SIX "GLASS CEILING" GROUPS MET AT CVCC FOR THEIR ANNUAL YEAR-END SEMINAR

The Glass Ceiling Roundtable program culminated with a seminar, Lessons in Leadership, at CVCC on the morning of April 28th. A delicious brunch was served by CVCC's Culinary Program students. After the keynote by Denise Fugo of Sammy's, the participants, representing Cuyahoga Heights, Garfield Heights, Independence, Nardonia Hills, Revere and Twinsburg high schools, attended three breakout sessions: The Anatomy of a Leader, presented by Adriane Hicks, Bryant & Stratton College; Conflict Management, presented by Angie Planisek, Baldwin-Wallace College, and Leadership Styles, presented by Melanie Pirro, Communications/Training Specialist.



Seminar speakers (L-R) were Melanie Pirro, Angie Planisek and Adriane Hicks.

After the keynote by Denise Fugo of Sammy's, the participants, representing Cuyahoga Heights, Garfield Heights, Independence, Nardonia Hills, Revere and Twinsburg high schools, attended three breakout sessions: The Anatomy of a Leader, presented by Adriane Hicks, Bryant & Stratton College; Conflict Management, presented by Angie Planisek, Baldwin-Wallace College, and Leadership Styles, presented by Melanie Pirro, Communications/Training Specialist.



Glass Ceiling Roundtable groups from six schools attended the seminars at CVCC on April 28th

Denise Fugo from Sammy's was the keynote speaker at the Glass Ceiling Roundtable seminar



JOB SEEKERS WORKSHOP SERIES ASSISTED WITH CAREER TRANSITION

Career Development and Adult Education Departments partnered with the Progressive Insurance HR Department to present a series of workshops that assisted adults in career transition with updating their job hunting skills. Workshops featured presentations from human resource professionals of local companies and CVCC career specialists. Meetings also served as a support group for adults in the process of job transition.

All workshops were held on Saturdays from 9 to Noon at CVCC. The series included the following subjects: "The Career Transition Process: Repackaging Yourself for Success;" "Best Resume Tips and Worst Resume Blunders;" "Key Correspondence That Gets You the Job;" "Job Hunting On-Line;" "Behavioral Based Interviews;" and "How to Use Career Fairs and Contacts to Help You Land that Job."

"SOUP WITH THE SUPE" LUNCHEONS SERVED UP CVCC INFO

On February 26th, residents (especially newcomers) and businesses in the Twinsburg and Revere school districts were invited to CVCC's Valley Inn for free soup, salad and dessert. Superintendent Roscoe Schlachter introduced the group to the extensive opportunities that CVCC offers in a variety of subjects for all ages and life stages.

On March 27th, parents of 7th graders in all CVCC's district schools were invited to lunch and an overview of the "Exploration" experience their students had recently completed at CVCC as a part of their 7th grade career exploration. Middle school teachers who coincidentally had a professional development day also attended the luncheon.

Both groups were offered tours of CVCC following the luncheon presentations. Bridget Murphy and Marie Elias, Career Development Community Liaisons, coordinate Soup with the Supe luncheon events.

Patricia Coyne, Career Development Program Developer, developed the series. Career specialists with experience in the topics addressed assisted.



Patricia Coyne (L) presented Career Development's first "Spirit of Service" Award and thanked Kathy Drinko, HR representative from Progressive Insurance who was instrumental in the Job Seekers Seminars, for her time, effort and dedication to the group. Kathy shared a success story of a woman who was highlighted in The Plain Dealer, attended the seminars and got a job



One-on-one guidance was offered to participants as part of every seminar

600 STUDENTS EXPLORED POTENTIAL CAREERS AT ENGINEERING CAREER EXPO

On February 21st, CVCC hosted “Engineering For You,” an Engineering Career Expo that provided an opportunity for engineers from 33 firms to display their companies’ capabilities and discuss one-on-one with interested students what engineers do in their specific disciplines.

An introductory session, “Engineering Is” featured a power point presented by two Cleveland Engineering Society (CES) members outlining the opportunities and benefits of an engineering career. CES partnered with CVCC Career Development for the event. Engineering displays ranged from well-known civil, electrical and chemical to those less known, such as process, software, rehabilitation, validation and quality.

Seven colleges with engineering majors had displays and talked with students about the courses offered at their schools. Ohio State University, Cleveland State University, University of Akron, Youngstown State University, Ohio Northern University and Case Western University from Ohio and Webb Institute from New York participated.

“Engineering for You” was developed and coordinated by Marie Elias and Darden Blake, Community Liaisons, with assistance on the day of the event by Career Development staff. The 2010 Engineering Career Expo is scheduled on February 20th.

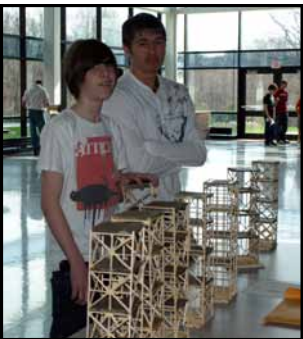


NINTH ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION HOSTED AT CVCC

The CVCC Career Pathways Technology Competition was initiated by Cuyahoga Valley Career Center in 2000 to provide an opportunity for pre-engineering students to apply the technology learned in classes to real-world applications and compare their designs with those of classmates from other schools. This year’s event was hosted by CVCC on April 23rd.

The competition is open to industrial technology education classes in CVCC’s eight district high schools, and was organized and facilitated by Beverly Kuch, CVCC’s Career Development Department Career Pathways Specialist. Financial sponsorship for the 2009 Technology Competition was provided by Swagelok Manufacturing Company and ABCD Bridge Design Group. The top seven places were announced in each event, with the top three places winning Best Buy gift cards in \$25, \$20 and \$15 amounts respectively. The Tech Wars winning team members received \$20 gift cards; second and third place teams received ribbons. Teachers and participating schools were Craig Kowatch and Charles Marusic, Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School; Theodis Fipps, Twinsburg High School and Mike Foor, Independence High School.

Teams competed in the following events: Bridge Design, Bridge Efficiency, Epicenter, Around the Pole, Mag Lev and Technology Wars. Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School accumulated the most points overall to win the 9th annual CVCC Career Pathways Competition. This is three in a row for the Bees.



Shown clockwise from top left: Bridge Design judging, Around the Pole -getting started, Mag Lev cars on track, Tech Wars-building project, Epicenter towers awaiting trial

284 CAMPERS GAINED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN CAREER PATHWAYS' 2009 SUMMER CAREER CAMPS

Summer Career Camps offered campers in 7th, 8th and 9th grades multiple opportunities to learn new and practical hands-on skills, as well as more subtle skills such as communication, collaboration, flexibility and productivity — all while having fun.

Three new camps were added to the standard favorites in 2009. Campers in S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, math) used materials as diverse as Epsom salts, concrete blocks and shaving cream to discover how and why things work the way they do. An instructor from the American Red Cross was one of the co-counselors in Care 4 Kidz 'n Petz. Those campers practiced CPR, babysitting techniques and pet first-aid and campers received certification in four areas at the end of camp week.

In Digital Fashion Designer, campers used computer software to design fashions while learning about the industry, developing their own company names and designing business cards. A popular activity was designing purses with colored duct tape. A second week of Car Care was offered to campers who had taken Car Care I previously. Campers delved into elements such as batteries, spark plugs and air filters; and visited the Ohio Technical College on a field trip.

Returning camps included Beautiful You, Video Game Design, Car Care I, Chef for a Week, Movie Makers, CO2 Dragster, Tool Time, Underwater Robot, Photoshop Unleashed and CSI: Cuyahoga Valley.

Parents and guests joined their campers on Fridays at a luncheon, where they were able to view displays of work the campers had completed during the week. Parents were also able to attend a free career planning session on Friday mornings and watch competitions, presentations and demonstrations in their camper's classroom.



2009 Summer Career Camp Coordinators were (L-R) Donna Hessel, Mindy Jencson and Joe Dannemiller. Career Specialists Jill Larson and Lisa Sommer made sure campers got daily snacks and lunch beverages. Bill Novak, Career Development Supervisor, greeted campers every day and monitored campers during snacks and lunch. Patricia Coyne, Program Developer, conducted the parent career information session each Friday, and additional Career Development staffers were on hand to assist with registration and the Friday luncheons



Camps pictured L-R, top, are Chef for a Week, Car Care I, Care 4 Kidz 'n Petz. Pictured below L-R are Movie Makers, Digital Fashion Designer, CSI: Cuyahoga Valley, Video Game Design and CO2 Dragster



Career Specialists in Your Schools

Elementary

Amy Hanratty-ahanratty@cvccworks.com

Middle School

Kathy Richard-krichards@cvccworks.com

High School

Amy Hanratty-ahanratty@cvccworks.com


Career Development Supervisor

Bill Novak—bnovak@cvccworks.com

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www.cvccworks.com

Career Development Department



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Our objective is to prepare all district students 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 2009/10 Coming Events

September 30 - College Night
6-7:30 PM

October 21 - Parent Speaker Series
"Bully-Proof Your Kid" - 7-9 PM

November 11 - College & Career Planning Seminar - 7-9 PM

December 4 - "It's For Girls" - 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

January 27 - Parent Speaker Series - "Social Networking" - 7-9 PM

February 20 - Student Engineering Career Expo - 9:30 - Noon

March 11 - Student Job Fair - 3:30-6:30 PM

April 28 - College Survival Skills 101 Seminar - 7-8:30 PM

April 23 - Tech Competition - 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

May (date TBD) - Regional Robotics Competition - 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Weeks of June 14 and June 21 - Summer Career Camps - 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

For more information on any of the above events, please check the CVCC website: www.cvccworks.com

New Staff Member Welcomed to Career Development Department

Debbie Monaco joined Career Development on August 10 as the Career Specialist at North Royalton High School



The Career Development staff wished Beverly Kuch a happy retirement in May, 2009. Beverly's Career Pathways responsibilities have been re-assigned to CVCC High School staff in related programs

Debbie has been a substitute teacher at Buckeye Local Schools and has worked at Bryant and Stratton College, Progressive Insurance and Key Bank. She is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College where she earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

She has volunteered at her church and Buckeye Schools in various capacities. Debbie and her family reside in Valley City.

Debbie replaces Colleen Neiden, who left the department at the end of the school year in 2009.