



## DELISH DISHES

Competitors serve up sandwiches

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THE ELYRIA SCHOOLS  
**Pioneer**



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# Elyria's dynamic duo

Windsor Elementary siblings Jace and 'Fin' Walters keep things on track

**Amy Higgins**

Communications director

There are countless lessons to be had in school but not every moment of growth is found in the classroom. Sometimes important lessons are taught on a muddy dirt track in the middle of rain-storm. At least that's how it goes for the Walters brothers during the motocross racing season. The brothers are students at Windsor Elementary School by day and racers every other waking moment.

Jace "JR" Walters is 6 years old, and already has several years of motocross racing under his belt. He is the youngest of the Walters Brothers Racing Team in Elyria. Big Brother Stephen "Fin" is 10 years old and began racing at age 6.

Both boys were itching for speed at young ages.

As a youngster Fin was glued to NASCAR, drag racing, monster trucks and motorcycles, said dad Michael. He had an up-close taste of the fast life watching his cousin, local drag racer Frankie McCullough. For the Walters family, drag racing was a pipe dream because of the expense involved. But not wanting to dash Fin's hopes, Michael offered Fin a chance to try his hand at motocross racing. Fin leaped at the opportunity.

Though no one in the Walters



PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL WALTERS

**ABOVE:** Brothers Fin and Jace Walters have logged thousands of miles and captured a multitude of wins on the motocross track, all before age 10.

**BELOW:** Fin takes a high-speed turn on the dirt.

family household was a racer, they had the drive and desire to learn. On the borrowed old Yamaha quad that Fin had many times ridden leisurely at his grandparents' home, and the brand-new racing gear dad Michael had picked up on a sale, Fin showed up for his first race at Amherst Meadowlarks MC.

"The look in Fin's eyes said it all. He was racing that race, no question. And he won on that Yamaha in his very first race," said Michael.

"That first race I was so scared about the track. I dreamt about it the night before," Fin said. "But when I got there and practiced on



See **DUO**, 7

# The Stocker Foundation invests in Franklin

**Amy Higgins**

Communications director

The Stocker Foundation will invest \$1.25 million over five years in Elyria's Franklin Elementary School to establish a state-of-the-art preschool and to drive full-school change that includes extended school hours for all students, arts-inspired learning and high technology in the classrooms, including Wi-Fi throughout the building.

"Franklin Elementary has gained ground academically and we've tried many ways over the years to 'tweak' instruction and learning but at some point, tweaking doesn't do it anymore, you need to make effective change. This is a catalyst for that kind of change," said Ann Schloss, director of Academic Services. "What's more, the staff of Franklin is ready for change; they're motivated to try something new."

And new this is. With The Stocker Foundation's financial commitment, Elyria Schools will open two preschool units for children 4 years old and residing in the Franklin neighborhood, and they will attend school four days per week, 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The Elyria Education Association is giving its full support to the new educational strategies Franklin is putting in place. The Franklin Elementary certified staff voted to add 45 minutes of instructional time to the school day for all grade levels. In 2014-15, Franklin's school day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Students will spend more time in core subjects, especially reading and special intervention programs will be available to support learners who may be struggling.

Residents in Franklin's attendance area are invited to a Pizza and Preschool Night on April 23 at 6 p.m. to learn more about the new preschool program, engage in hands-on demonstrations and tour the school.

# Are we losing touch in today's digital world?

In 1923 Elyria, people were asking themselves a question that nearly a century later still begs an answer.

"Are we all so busy that we don't have time any more for the little formalities and courtesies of which people used to make a good deal, like a warm, friendly handshake or an afternoon call for the sake of a good chat with our friends?"

This was the premise of an editorial in the March 1923 issue of *The Elyrian*, a collection of school news stories, sports updates and literary works of the

Elyria High School students. The *Elyrian* was the school newspaper before *The Herald*.

In this digital age of texting, tweeting, instant messaging, skyping and emailing, we are losing the "little formalities" that build relationships, cement friendships and fortify our literary skills.

I'm the worst of the worst "texters."

In the '50s, I would have been called a "square" because I meticulously spell out every single word in a text, careful to check spelling, punctuation and



AMY HIGGINS

grammar. Texts that I receive from friends and family who are adept at the shortcuts and acronyms of texting leave me baffled and frustrated. It's no different on Facebook, Twitter or email. Things like "smh" (shaking my head), "idk" (I don't know), "idc" (I don't care), "ty" (thank you), "yw" (you're welcome) or "lol" (laughing out loud) take

extra time for a literary nerd like me to decipher, and these are the easy ones! Is "wut?" in place of "what?" really such a time-saver? Let's not even get started on hashtags.

Even recently adopting a few of the most popular acronyms hasn't brought me any closer to the expert texting level of the students today who were born into this age.

But like the writer in the 1923 issue of *The Elyrian*, I have to ask if I really want to be so busy that I can't take time to call instead of text, write a letter instead of an

email, or make a personal visit instead of Skype or FaceTime.

There's value in keeping things personal. The ability to hear the inflection in someone's voice when conveying a message, to see facial expressions, gestures and body language and to experience the warmth of a friendly hug, pat on the back or handshake. The emoticons of the digital world just don't cut it. That writer in 1923 was on to something then, and it rings even truer today.

*Amy Higgins is communications and marketing director for Elyria Schools.*

## School issue in May would renew levies without increasing taxes

**Amy Higgins**

Communications director

In May, Elyria voters will be asked to renew an operating levy that won't increase taxes.

It's Issue 2 on the ballot and it renews two important operating levies that expire this year. Issue 2 represents more than \$12 million of the district's day-to-day operating budget, which is used to pay for everyday classroom materials, textbooks, technology, student transportation, expenses for utilities and facility upkeep. It also pays for teacher and staff salaries.

In November, voters approved a renewal issue representing \$4 million of the district's annual budget. Issue 2 in May is the second of two renewal issues voters will see this school year.

"I can't say it enough: Renewal, renewal, renewal," school Superintendent Paul Rigda said. "It's been our mantra all year long.

"It's simply a matter of expiring levies that happen to come up for renewal within months of one another," Rigda said. "In nine years, we've closed five

schools and since 2012, we've cut more than \$6 million to balance the budget in response to local, state and

federal cuts to education funding.

"We've kept our programs in place for kids, though,

and that hasn't been easy," he said. "Our teachers and students are working harder than ever and they are getting results. Our teachers are without question some of the most professionally developed teachers in the state and our kids are advancing to college and careers. We are succeeding despite these difficult financial times and renewals like these are crucial to continuing our day-to-day work."

Issue 2 won't increase taxes and renews two expiring levies. It will be on the ballot at the polls May 6, but early voting begins April 1. Early voting and the ability to vote absentee for any reason makes voting easier than ever. Voter registration is ongoing, and for this election cycle, it ends April 7. To vote early or by absentee ballot, contact the Lorain County Board of Elections at [www.loraincountyelections.com](http://www.loraincountyelections.com) or by calling (440) 326-5900.

To learn more about Issue 2 on May 6, call Amy Higgins at Elyria Schools at (440) 284-8183.

### ISSUE NO.



### Springing into sports

Congratulations to the many athletes of Elyria Schools who've earned awards, conference titles and college scholarships this school year. Watch for a full listing in the summer issue of *Pioneer Press*. Meanwhile, the spring sports season is upon us.

An up-to-date high school sports schedule is available at <http://bit.ly/1gxmOfz> or at [www.elyriaschools.org](http://www.elyriaschools.org).

### Elyria High School 2014 varsity baseball schedule

4/2	4:30 p.m.	Avon	Away
4/5	1:00 p.m.	Elyria Catholic	Home
4/5	4:30 p.m.	Elyria Catholic	Home
4/6	4:30 p.m.	Medina	Home
4/9	4:30 p.m.	Medina	Away
4/11	4:30 p.m.	Rocky River	Home
4/12	3:00 p.m.	N. Olmsted	Home
4/15	4:30 p.m.	N. Royalton	Away
4/16	4:30 p.m.	N. Royalton	Home
4/18	4:30 p.m.	Cloverleaf	Away
4/22	4:30 p.m.	Mentor	Away
4/23	4:30 p.m.	Mentor	Home
4/25	4:30 p.m.	Amherst	Away
4/26	11 a.m.	Lorain	Away
4/26	1:00 p.m.	Lorain	Away
4/29	4:30 p.m.	Brunswick	Home
4/30	4:30 p.m.	Brunswick	Away
5/2	4:30 p.m.	Cloverleaf	Home
5/6	4:30 p.m.	Strongsville	Away
5/7	4:30 p.m.	Strongsville	Home
5/8	4:30 p.m.	Midview	Home
5/10	11 a.m.	Avon Lake	Away
5/10	1:00 p.m.	Avon Lake	Away
5/13	4:30 p.m.	Cuy. Falls	Home
5/14	4:30 p.m.	Parma	Away
5/16	4:30 p.m.	Shaker Hts.	Away

**GOOD LUCK,  
PIONEERS!**



# This Pioneer is ready to advance

EHS college prep courses pave way for college, career

**Amy Higgins**  
Communications director

Kyle Brown's college days started the moment he walked into Elyria High School.

As an EHS Pioneer, Kyle pounced on opportunities to earn college credit through Elyria High's Advanced Placement courses and Post Secondary Education Options. Four years later, he's preparing to graduate with a prestigious job offer already on the table.

"Through PSEO and AP, I was able to enter college with 40 credit hours of transfer credit, about 30 of which I was able to apply directly to my major," Kyle said. "That equates to about two full semesters of college with free tuition."

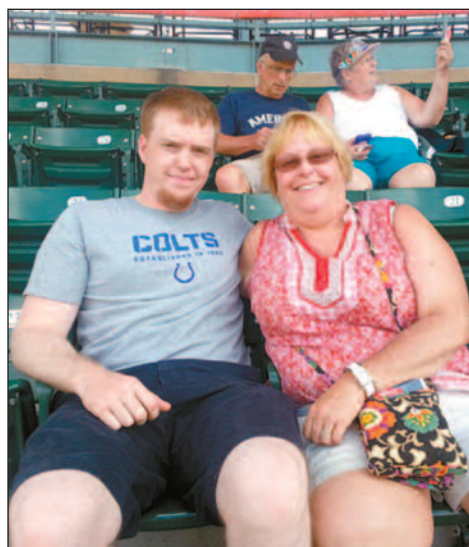
Kyle attends the University of Toledo and is studying mechanical engineering. While there, he completed three internships with Marathon Petroleum Corporation and already has accepted a job from that company upon graduation.

Kyle's interest in things mechanical began at an early age.

"As a child, I always enjoyed building, whether it be a boat with Legos or skateboard ramps with whatever I could find in my garage," he said.

"I'm reminded of when Kyle was about 4 years old and loved playing with dump trucks in a patch of dirt in the backyard that he called his 'dig,'" said Teresa Brown, Kyle's mom and a Spanish teacher at Elyria High. "One day he asked us to buy him some concrete for his dig because 'a construction site needs a firm foundation,'" he said. My husband made a one-by-one-foot concrete slab for him and Kyle would pile dirt on and off that thing all day long.

"So Kyle has gone from making his dig to



**LEFT:** Kyle Brown, with his mom Teresa, took full advantage of Elyria High School's many Post Secondary Enrollment Options and Advanced Placement curriculum opportunities.

**RIGHT:** Kyle Brown attends the University of Toledo and is preparing for graduation and a career in engineering, spurred by college-level courses he attended at Elyria High School.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

building with Legos to building skateboard ramps to constructing pipelines for oil. And all of them with firm foundations," Teresa said.

Kyle's educational foundation was built in Elyria Schools, from learning to read with first-grade teacher Linda Williams, to seeing his future in high school AP physics with teacher Jeremy Secaur.

Here's what Kyle had to say about his journey.

**Q:** How did you prepare for college in high school?

**A:** I think the best college preparation I had as a high school student was taking college level courses. EHS offered many PSEO

and AP classes, some of which I was able to take advantage of. These classes gave insight on the difficulty of college courses, while also getting actual college credit. The other most important way I prepared for college was to stay on top of tasks and deadlines for college applications and other pre-college requirements. I took initiative to stay on top of these things, but resources such as GEAR UP (called College Now) definitely put me on the right track.

**Q:** What's happened since graduating from high school?

**A:** I've been very busy, mostly associated with college. On campus I have been involved with UTEC (University of Toledo

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each issue of Pioneer Press features an Elyria Schools graduate, looking at where they are now and their road to getting there. This month we catch up with Kyle Brown, Elyria High School Class of 2010. Kyle attends the University of Toledo and will graduate Summa Cum Laude in May and begin a career in engineering at Marathon Petroleum Corp. in June.

Engineering Council), which is essentially the student government of UT's engineering college and UT's chapter of ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), which I was the president of for the previous two semesters. I have also completed three internships with Marathon Petroleum Corporation, two in Findlay, Ohio, and a third in Indianapolis, Ind. I also worked as a math tutor on campus for three semesters.

**Q:** Can you describe these intern experiences and how your schooling and internships have led you to a chosen profession?

**A:** As part of UT's mandatory co-op (internship) program, I completed three co-ops Marathon Petroleum Corporation. As a co-op I worked under project engineers, assisting them in the planning and construction of projects at many Marathon owned terminals and pipeline stations. I really enjoyed working with my fellow project engineers, contractors, and business partners to complete successful projects. This is one of the main reasons why I chose Marathon to pursue a full-time career.

While my co-op experience solidified

See **READY**, 5

## New member joins Elyria school board

**Amy Higgins**  
Communications director

The Elyria Board of Education welcomed a new member in January: Annie Croft.

Annie has made Elyria her home for 22 years. She is married to John Croft, and has two children, Maygan (LCCC Early College and EHS Class of 2008) and William (EHS Class of 2015). Annie is the public information officer for the Lorain County auditor.

Annie found inspiration to run for the Board of Education in her son.

"William is very active at Elyria

High School and is enrolled in college-level courses," Annie said.

"Both of my children have taken advantage of the tremendous academic opportunities offered at Elyria High School and I wanted to work to encourage other children to do the same."

Annie also is looking forward to working with her fellow board members.

"I'm excited to learn the process and looking forward to being a positive asset," she said. "I want to make a difference."

Board members Evelyn France and Michael Gebhardt earned re-

election in November 2013.

Future issues of the Pioneer Press will include a Board's Perspective column, and we encourage readers to email questions or topics they'd like to see addressed by the Board of Education. Questions or comments may be sent to ask@elyriaschools.org.

Board of Education meetings are open to the public and are on the first and third Wednesday of every month, except in July and December. The meetings are 5:30 p.m. at the Elyria Board of Education Administration Center, 42101 Griswold Road.



COURTESY MESSAROS PHOTOGRAPHY

From left, Kathryn Karpus, Annie Croft, Donald Boddy, Michael Gebhardt and Evelyn France are the Elyria Schools Board of Education.

# Culinary competitors dish out

Amy Higgins ■ Communications director

**Y**oung chefs dished up their favorite sandwiches at the second annual Elyria Schools-Sodexo Future Chef competition.

Seven eager elementary students from across the district donned chef hats and aprons and joined the seasoned professional foodservice staff of Elyria Schools in the Elyria High School central kitchen on March 13.

The special of the day was healthful sandwiches. Students were charged with creating their own recipes, preparing their sandwiches on-site, decorating a display table to entice customers and detailing the ingredients and their inspiration for the dish to a panel of judges.

After an intense culinary cook-off, Windsor student Divyne Hope-Thomas took home the trophy and the grand prize of a chef's dream goodie basket. All of the competitors delivered delicious dishes and will have their sandwiches prepared as a lunch item at their schools. The winning recipe moves on to Sodexo's regional competition where it has a shot at winning a national spotlight.

Here's a roundup of their unique sandwich creations.



## "Bistro Salmon Sandwich"

Christopher Badger  
Windsor Elementary

- 2 tbsp. light mayonnaise
- 2 tsp. chopped fresh basil, tarragon, oregano or rosemary
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. low sodium soy sauce
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 tbsp. freshly minced green onions
- ½ lb. salmon fillets cut into ¼ inch thick slices
- 4 slices whole grain bread
- 4 leaves of romaine lettuce
- 4 slices of ripe tomatoes
- 1. In a small bowl, mix together mayonnaise and basil. Season to taste with pepper; refrigerate.
- 2. Mix together oil, soy sauce, lemon juice and green onion. Pour mixture into a resealable plastic bag; add



- salmon. Seal bag; marinate salmon in refrigerator for 10 minutes.
- 3. Heat nonstick pan or grill pan over medium-high heat. Remove salmon from marinade; discard marinade. Cook salmon 2 minutes per side or until fish flakes with fork; keep warm.
- 4. Toast bread slices. Divide lettuce evenly on 2 slices. Top evenly with salmon; spread evenly with herb mayonnaise. Top with tomato and remaining bread slices. Serve immediately.



Divyne accepts the trophy and grand prize from Elyria School food service director and chef, Scott Teaman. Divyne's winning sandwich was the Avocado Turkey Delight. Judges said the ingredient that clinched the win was lime.



## "The 'K' Sandwich"

Kaylee Sproue  
McKinley Elementary

- 2 pieces of spinach
- 2 slices of tomato
- Small handful of black olives
- Diced garlic
- Shredded carrots
- Italian dressing
- 2-3 slices of turkey
- Roasted almonds
- Italian cheese and herb bread
- 1. Slice the bread in half to make it look like a sub sandwich.
- 2. Put the turkey on.



- 3. Add the spinach and tomato.
- 4. Sprinkle a bit of black olives.
- 5. Sprinkle a very little bit of garlic.
- 6. Spread some carrots.
- 7. Put on roasted almonds.
- 8. Drizzle the Italian dressing on.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

Windsor's Divyne-Hope Thomas took home the grand prize for the best sandwich at the Elyria Schools-Sodexo Future Chef Competition. Divyne and family members seen here were all smiles after the announcement.



## "Avocado Turkey Delight"

Divyne-Hope Thomas  
Windsor Elementary

- 3 slices oven roasted reduced-sodium turkey
- Spinach, half a handful
- 2 slices beefsteak tomato
- 1 slice Vermont white cheddar cheese
- 2 slices avocado
- Dash of salt and pepper
- Hint of lime to squeeze on the avocado
- 1 tsp. roasted minced garlic
- 2 tsps. Low-fat mayo
- 2 slices toasted wheat bread
- 1. Mix garlic and mayo to make sauce.



- 2. Put ½ of the sauce on the bread, then add turkey.
- 3. Put slice of cheese.
- 4. Put 2 slices fresh tomatoes.
- 5. Put avocado, sprinkle a little salt & pepper, squeeze lime on avocado.
- 6. Put spinach on.
- 7. Put more sauce on the other slice of bread.

# delicious, nutritious sandwiches

## “Salad Sandwich”

Hannah Balawender  
Ely Elementary

- 1 leaf of lettuce
  - 3 leaves of spinach
  - 10 sprouts
  - 4 baby bella mushrooms
  - 1 leaf of red cabbage
  - 2 tbs. of roasted garlic hummus
  - 2 pieces of bread
1. Wash all the vegetables.
  2. Pull all the stems off the mushrooms.



3. Spread the hummus on the bread.
4. Put all the vegetables on the bread.
5. Push the sandwich together.

## “Turkey Salad Sandwich”

ZaaVan Grady  
Oakwood Elementary

- 2 cups of turkey
  - 2 hard boiled eggs
  - 3 tbs. of relish
  - ½ cup of miracle whip
  - 1 onion cut into small pieces
  - 1 piece of celery cut into small pieces
  - Cheddar cheese (optional)
  - 2 pieces of bread
1. Cut turkey, eggs and celery into small pieces.
  2. Add relish, miracle whip.



3. Mix all the ingredients together until even.
4. Toast the bread.
5. Put turkey salad onto one slice of toast.
6. Put other piece of bread on.



**LEFT:** Windsor's Christopher Badger precisely measures soy sauce for his Bistro Salmon Sandwich.

**RIGHT:** Chefs prepared their healthful sandwiches in the Elyria High School central kitchen with assistance from their Sodexo “sous chefs.”



## “Turkey Caesar Grub”

T’Niya Berry  
Franklin Elementary

- 1 tbsp. lite mayo w/caesar dressing
  - 1 tbsp. parmesan cheese
  - 1/2 tsp of lemon juice
  - 2-3 slices of thin cut turkey
  - fresh spinach
  - romaine lettuce
  - 2 slices of whole grain wheat bread
1. Mix light mayo, lemon juice and caesar dressing and spread on bread.



2. Put parmesan cheese on bread.
3. Put 2 to 3 slices of turkey on.
4. Put spinach and romaine lettuce on sandwich.
5. Put other piece of bread on.

## “The Russell Club”

Russell Simmons  
Crestwood Elementary

- 2 slices of turkey bacon
  - 2 pieces of ham
  - 1 slice of swiss cheese
  - Lettuce leaves
  - 1 slice of tomato
  - Mustard to taste
  - Onion
  - 2 slices of potato bread
1. Toast the bread.



2. Cook the bacon.
3. Place ham, bacon, lettuce, onion, tomato and mustard on bread.
4. Top with other piece of bread, cut in half and serve.

## READY

From 3

where I wanted to pursue a profession, my schooling solidified what I wanted that profession to be. Although the course work is difficult, the subjects my coursework covers and the problems I am asked to solve really do spark my interest. I have enjoyed my four years of college and look forward to being a

practicing engineer.

**Q:** When will you graduate and what's after that?

**A:** I will graduate this May with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. About a month after graduation, I will begin my employment with Marathon as a project engineer. I will also be taking my FE (Fundamentals of Engineering) test in aspiration to be a professional engineer. I also hope that within a few years of graduation I will earn

my MBA (master of business administration degree).

**Q:** What advice do you have for Elyria high school students today?

**A:** Set a goal to attain a college degree. Students in Elyria have the luxury of a college right in town, which can be taken advantage of while still in high school or after graduation. This resource makes a wide range of possibilities simple, from just giving college a try, to pursuing a degree from a university

through the partnership program.

A second piece of advice is to not be intimidated by college. Although the difficulty level is raised, the format is the same. You will have homework, test, quizzes and exams just as you did in high school. I believe that with enough effort and determination, success can be reached at any level of education. No matter what your status is leaving high school, a college degree is attainable with the right mindset.

# Grappling with grades, then athletics

**Amy Higgins**

Communications director

When a team of teachers and coaches get together, they can unlock unlimited potential in a young student.

Truth is, not all kids are driven by academics. Some are possessed by an insatiable desire to compete in other arenas — football fields, theatrical stages, musical auditoriums, or, in the case of Will Malone, the wrestling room.

Will, an eighth grade student at Eastern Heights Middle School, was encouraged by friends and teachers to give wrestling a try. He'd never wrestled before, but when he stepped onto the wrestling mat for the first time this year, it felt natural.

"It sounded like a fun sport and I wanted to try it," he said.

The trouble was, he was ineligible. His grades weren't up to par, so he wasn't allowed to compete at any wrestling matches or tournaments.

Still, he was encouraged to attend wrestling practice every day afterschool. He and two other wrestlers on the team were entirely new to the sport, but coach Scott Pagenstecher saw tremendous potential in them — especially in Will.

"They were eager, young and raw," Scott said. "What happened over the next three months was incredible."

Will attended practices every day despite his inability to compete. His teachers and coaches, meanwhile, worked carefully to get him on the right track.

"Will is a motivated student — he just



COURTESY SCOTT PAGENSTECHEER

Eastern Heights eighth-grader Will Malone took the Northeast Ohio Conference in his first-ever competition on the mat.

needed to know there is help available and that he can be successful academically as well as athletically," said teacher Ian Anderson.

Will's teachers provided tutoring outside of regular class time and offered other opportunities for him to catch up with his studies.

"With all kids, we try to figure out what

their hurdles are and knock them down," said assistant principal Ryan Huch.

"Wrestling was our hook with Will. We knew what was making him tick so we had a way in to talk about academics."

Over the next several months, Will attended wrestling practice and gave his studies more attention. His grades went up and he earned eligibility in time to wrestle

the final competition of the season.

"I was nervous at my first meet," Will said. "Before then, it had looked so easy."

"All year Will had been hearing the stories of what the wrestlers were going through. Now it was his turn, and he was nervous," Scott said.

He wrestled in the Northeast Ohio Conference, where 16 schools competed. Without any prior competition experience, Will breezed through his first three matches, winning them and moving on to the finals.

"He was facing a wrestler from another district with a 23-0 undefeated record," Scott said. "I told him, 'Hey, either way you're first or second, but first is so much better. You can beat this kid.' He did it! Will pinned him to win it all."

"Will taught us all to stick with something you love and don't give up," said Scott. "This is a coach's dream, to see his athlete work hard and be able to see the payoff."

"Teachers don't have to be motivated to help kids, it's just what they do," said Ryan. "There's a 'Will Malone' with every activity. Will is just one example of what we try to do every day with every kid."

Will heads to the big house, Elyria High School, next year and has aspirations for wrestling and football. He knows the stakes are high and competition is fierce.

"Elyria High School is big, but I hope my teachers look out for me and help me like they do here (Eastern Heights)," he said. "I'm going to try hard."

## Ely leads the way in technology-assisted learning

**Jack Dibee**

Ely School principal

Ely Elementary fifth-graders were pioneers in technology last year when they piloted the district's Bring Your Own Device, or BYOD, program.

Now, the whole school is on board.

BYOD integrates a student's personal smartphone, laptop, tablet or other Wi-Fi-capable device with day-to-day lessons learned in school. Teachers build the devices into their math, English-language arts and other lessons so students can get real-time feedback on their assignments. Real-time response isn't just for students; Teachers can assess in real-time who's "getting it" and who may need additional help.

As part of last year's rollout, Ely was equipped with building-wide



**Jack Dibee**

Wi-Fi and increased capacity to handle all of the additional devices.

This year, every grade in the school has had at least some initial BYOD experiences, using a variety of devices

and programs. Student devices range from Kindle Fires, iPods, iPads, Nooks and Nintendo DSes to Android tablets, smartphones and laptops. The school also supplements student instruction with Google Nexus tablets, which were part of a larger technology rollout across the district thanks to a grant from The Stocker Foundation.

Here's how Ely students are using BYOD:

■ **Grade 5:** As the veteran BYOD users at Ely, fifth-grade students

are using their devices daily in class. Some student lessons are kept on Schoology, a teacher-controlled program similar to Facebook for interacting with and tutoring students and collecting assignments online. Students also use a program called "Socrative" for assessments and data gathering.

■ **Grade 4:** Students use devices to access a variety of Web-based programs and websites that enhance student learning, including XtraMath, Study Island, NASA Kids, NOAA Kids, dictionary.com. They also use Schoology and Socrative to access online teacher materials.

■ **Grade 3:** Students use devices regularly for practice, assessment and research in all of the curricular areas. In addition to Socrative and Xtramath, students also use



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Ely students in kindergarten through fifth grade are adept at using their personal Wi-Fi devices for school assignments.

Scholastic News Online, Everyday Math Online and Houghton Mifflin reading texts. Some of the third-grade classes are also using Class Dojo to help keep parents

informed of student behavior and class progress.

■ **Grade 2:** Students use all of the above programs along with

See **BYOD**, 8

## DUO

From 1

the track, I got over my fear and I won.”

Motocross racing was now serious. And Fin was in it to win it. Two weeks later parents Michael and Marie bought Fin his first Honda PW-50 dirt bike, and Fin pulled double-duty on the quad and two-wheeler at the next race, said Michael. But it wasn't long before the two-wheeler won out and Fin ditched the quad.

Since those early races, it's been four years of competing for Fin — with a number of local and regional championships to his name, and a little brother hot on his heels, watching and learning every move he makes.

“Jace has grown up at the motocross track, and he wanted to race bad,” said father Michael Walters.

Mom, Marie Walters, was not surprised at all when Jace caught the racing bug at an early age.

“Fin has wanted to race for as long as I can remember,” she said, “and Jace, being the little brother, follows what Fin does so it was a given that he would, too.”

“My brother is my hero,” Jace said.

Barely out of kindergarten and Jace already has many wins to his credit. Fin holds numerous championship titles and has competed across the nation, including racing and placing seventh in the 2012 AMA Arenacross Amateur National Championships in Las Vegas. Both boys even have their own hero trading cards.

Motocross racing is a family passion for the Walters, and Fin is quick to acknowledge the devotion of his parents to him and his brother, and to their racing zeal.

“Dad works his behind off every week and mom and dad do so much for us,” said Fin. “At the track, they're proud of us every race, win or lose. Sometimes we have little screwups or big crashes, but they are always proud of us.”

Michael and wife Marie put their race faces on at the track but underneath the helmets and the protective gear are their children, and that always comes first.

While racing at Lightening Raceway in Tippecanoe, Ohio, last year, Fin flipped his bike on a jump and was briefly knocked unconscious. In those brief moments before the track med-

*“First or last, I am so proud of them because they try their best and they do what they love.”*

**Marie Walters,  
Jace and Fin's mother**

ical staff could reach him, Fin lay in a precarious position at the base of the hill as other racers continued jumping, unaware of Fin's crash below.

With the fervor of a father protecting his son, Michael leaped the fence and sprinted to him.

“He landed at the bottom of the hill and I was afraid other bikers wouldn't see him coming of the hill so I lay on top of him until the medics arrived,” Michael said.

“Mom said she'd never seen my dad move like that before,” Fin said, chuckling. “He was like a gazelle running from a cheetah in Madagascar trying to get to me!”

Getting past the worry never really happens, said Marie, but she makes sure her sons never see that side of a mother's natural instinct.

“During the race season we pack up the trailer and truck every weekend and go to the track,” she said. “Once there I get their uniforms and gear ready and I never let them see my ‘flip out’ with the other mothers or fathers about what could happen. I go to the track for Jace and then again for Fin and cheer them on. When the race is over, I can breathe again.

“I am right there with them emotionally whether they are nervous, excited, upset or disappointed,” Marie said. “First or last, I am so proud of them because they try their best and they do what they love.”

A mom is always a mom, and Marie is sure to have the boys' uniforms neat as pins before each race.

“Their uniforms have to be clean every week with no dirt stains,” she said. “The boys think it's funny since they ride dirt bikes and are just going to get dirty again.”

Living with “the boys” means complying with things that don't always jibe with Marie's domestic side, however.

“I've had dirt bikes in my house since Christmas because



PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL WALTERS

**ABOVE:** Motocross is a family affair for the Walters clan.

**BELOW:** Jace gets some air on this jump.



our race trailer isn't complete yet,” she said, shaking her head.

Michael affectionately shares another story of Marie's tolerance.

“A couple of years ago after a particularly messy race, I brought the bikes home caked in mud

because I couldn't power wash them at the track. At home, the lines on my power washer were frozen so I couldn't do it there either,” he said. “Marie laid towels down across the house and let me bring the bikes through the living room and into the bath-

room to wash the mud off in the bathtub. That's when I knew she was a real motomom!”

*Fin and Jace kick off the competitive 2014 racing season on April 13. You can follow Walters Brothers Racing at [www.waltersbrothersracing.com](http://www.waltersbrothersracing.com) and [www.facebook.com/waltersbrothersracing](http://www.facebook.com/waltersbrothersracing).*

# 'Beauty and the Beast' coming to EHS in May

**Heather Durdil**

Communications administrative assistant

With 22 musicals under his belt at Elyria High School, choir director Mark Jessie is preparing for his final musical, "Beauty and the Beast." The performance premieres in May at the Elyria High School Performing Arts Center.

Jessie will retire in June after a 36-year career in education.

"Beauty and the Beast is expected to be an excellent show," Jessie said. "I'm very excited."

Putting on a high-school musical is a large undertaking, and Jessie joked it's a love-hate relationship.

"It is a huge, huge job," he said. "But there's nothing like opening night and being part of the performance as the conductor. Once we get there, I love it."

Students will rehearse for nine weeks, five days a week, three hours a day before opening night.

This particular performance came with a high price tag. Typically the music department spends about \$10,000 to secure the rights to a show and rent costumes.

"Beauty and the Beast" is three times the cost but it's a play that has a lot of audience appeal and the department is finding ways to offset the added costs through grants and fundraisers. Throughout the performance weekend, for example, the cast and crew will sell light-up roses symbolic of the rose that main character "Belle"



MARK JESSIE / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Last year's production of "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat," seen here, brought the house down.

receives from The Beast. The roses were donated by the costume rental company and will sell for \$5.

Jessie is retiring from education but not showing any signs of slowing down. He was elected city councilman of the 3rd Ward last November for Elyria.

He said retirement is bitter-sweet.

"I'll really miss the kids and the people who come back year after year to help with our performances. People like Sheila Augustine, who despite her own children graduating years ago, continues to come back as our costumer, and Michelle Sabol, our choreographer who has been fantastic to work with."

Jessie said it's been a pleasure finishing his career in the new music wing of Elyria High School

and the Performing Arts Center. He acknowledges Elyria voters for making the new facilities possible, and the staff and students — particularly theatre director Jim Nichols and the student Performing Arts Center crew, and the EHS custodial team — for keeping it as beautiful as the day it opened four years ago.

Jessie said despite retiring, he'll stay involved with Elyria Schools.

"Elyria is my hometown," he said. "It's where my heart is."

"Beauty and the Beast" opens May 2 at the Performing Arts Center and plays through May 4. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. They go on sale April 10.

# The Herald: Alive, well and coming soon to Pioneer Press

"Hey check out The Herald's new website!"

"What's The Herald?"

"Um, our school newspaper ..."

"We have a school newspaper? Since when?"

This is a typical conversation between the writers of The Herald and anyone they tell about the Elyria High School newspaper. The Herald has been printing newspapers for decades and maintaining an online newspaper since 2013. It is a student-run paper, with articles written by students from various social circles.

As writers and teenagers, we have not yet grown suspicious of the world (well, most of us), and therefore our articles convey a unique point of view.

We cover anything from the possible zombie apocalypse to the upcoming musical.

Last year The Herald club decided to introduce its amazing talents to the World Wide Web. The Elyria Schools printing press was shuttered several years ago, so we had to find a cost-effective way to continue publishing our paper. We figured more than half the school is on the Internet already, so why can't we be?

We are thrilled to be joining forces with the Pioneer Press and Amy Higgins, the editor-in-chief of the Pioneer Press, next winter. We intend to have a student section or



ALEX MOEN

insert of The Herald in each quarterly issue of the Pioneer Press, and we will work with Higgins and the Elyria Schools Communications and Marketing Office also to publish an annual Super Senior print edition of The Herald each spring.

The Herald's cyberspace footprint extends beyond the website; we have Twitter and Gmail accounts, as well. After launching the website last year, we decided to branch out into social media, which has helped a lot. We have been gaining followers with every tweet.

There are people who have told me they like the pictures on our website and they appreciate the setup. The Herald Staff and I are proud of what we have accomplished with this website.

It has been a long and arduous journey getting to where we are today. All we have to do now is move forward and make The Herald even better.

*Alex Moen is an Elyria High School junior and editor-in-chief of The Herald. To follow the weekly online version of The Herald, go to [www.eshs Herald.org](http://www.eshs Herald.org).*

## BYOD

From 6

motivational and instructional assistive websites identified by teachers — sites like funbrain.com and Fact Monster.

■ Grade 1: Students use devices for guided-reading independent centers. There, they listen to readings of books, do writings, type spelling words, respond to questions and practice math facts.

■ Kindergarten: Even the littlest learners at Ely are using devices this year. Parents of kindergarteners were introduced to devices as learning tools in a special session with teachers. Ely teachers modeled classroom lessons with devices and demonstrated how to use personal gadgets work along with common classroom math and reading programs like TumbleBooks, Everyday Math Online and XtraMath.

**It's a Little Pioneer**  
**ROUNDUP**  
**Elyria Schools NOW**  
**Enrolling Kindergarten**  
**440 284-8220**