For two full weeks in March, 972 Glen Este High School freshmen, sophomores, and juniors attended a total of 29 intersession courses, offering them a “smorgasbord of choices,” said Campus Principal Dennis Ashworth. More than a year of planning and preparation offered the students opportunities to receive credit for their work in courses ranging from ornithology to costume creation.

“Kudos goes to the transportation department,” Mr. Ashworth said. “In one day we had 12 scheduled field trips, yet Assistant Transportation Director Mike McLain said there were no problems. We could not have done this without their collaboration.”

The field trips were an integral part of the intersession courses. A significant intersession concept is “to get the kids out of school.” Mr. Ashworth said, “In one day we had 12 scheduled field trips, yet Assistant Transportation Director Mike McLain said there were no problems. We could not have done this without their collaboration.”

“Their’s little doubt to us that this was a landmark event in the history of West Clermont,” Mr. Ashworth said.

Teachers worked extremely hard to pull the intersessions off, Mr. Ashworth said. To support them, Mr. Ashworth handled technical work such as arena-style scheduling, new classroom assignments, transportation needs to and from the 45 scheduled field trips, and a new lunch schedule.

For example, young artists in Susan Vater and Melissa Lawwell’s sculpture course visited the Cincinnati Art Museum; the Ornithology class studied birds at East Fork State Park and the Cincinnati Zoo; and students in Soda Pop Science learned first-hand how drinks are produced at the Pepsi Cola plant.

Attendance was another key to success. Each day of absence resulted in a student losing six percent of his or her final grade. No absences were excused during intersession. Students averaged a 96 percent attendance rate during the two weeks.

“Since these were intense seven-and-a-half hour days of instruction, missing one day was like missing a week or more in a typical trimester-long course,” Mr. Ashworth said. “But it didn’t turn out to be an issue because the students wanted to be here. By the middle of the second week, attendance was running at 97 percent. We usually run at 93.”

One concern during the planning of intersessions was how to sustain the level of coursework for the 70 hours of instruction required for students to earn a Carnegie Unit. Students earned a credit in fine arts for their work in the Photo Document Preservation Course.

Students assumed a plant-manager role and picked their quality control team members to solve a production problem such as an atypical color or taste. They tested the water quality, pH level, or sugar percentage of soda that was purposely tainted.

Susan Vater taught 41 kids in a course “Soda Pop Science” around a resource book explaining the carbonated beverage industry. Together with chemistry colleagues Todd Gee and Karen Young, she taught 41 kids the technology of soda. Activities in the book were about testing beverage quality. Ms. Burris knew many of those lab tests could be done in the science labs at school, so she adapted them into her curriculum.

Teachers planned each aspect of the curriculum for these intersessions. Janet Burris designed the intersession course “Soda Pop Science” around a resource book explaining the carbonated beverage industry. Together with chemistry colleagues Todd Gee and Karen Young, she taught 41 kids the technology of soda. Activities in the book were about testing beverage quality. Ms. Burris knew many of those lab tests could be done in the science labs at school, so she adapted them into her curriculum.

Students assumed a plant-manager role and picked their quality control team members to solve a production problem such as an atypical color or taste. They tested the water quality, pH level, or sugar percentage of soda that was purposely tainted.

News and Notes is a 2002 NSPRA/Ohio "Best of the Best" & "Mark of Excellence" publication.
No Child Left Behind Act highlighted at forum

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 was the topic at the third Critical Issues Forum of the 2002-2003 school year, held March 13 at Clough Pike Elementary School. Thirty-five community members came to hear presentations by Melissa Stewart, Marcia Probascos, and John Abegglen.

The act spells out five ways districts will ensure that all students achieve: close the achievement gap, count all scores, have 100 percent pass the OPT by 2014, enhance teacher quality, and have consequences for schools that do not meet the required gains.

To read a more thorough summary of the forum, visit the News section on our web site www.westcler.org.

Personnel notes
Six baby boys and three baby girls were welcomed into West Clermont families in March:
- Erin (SS) and Jim Roten brought home son Grant Richard. Christina (WT) and Steven Sunderman celebrated the birth of son Gavin Blake. Krista Devine (AE) and husband Jay celebrated the birth of their son, Matthew Alexander. Sue (GM) and Andrew Crane welcomed son Jackson. Tammy (GM) and Kurt Croll welcomed son Kyle Jerome. Regina (HH) and Michael McNeil welcomed son Nicholas William.
- Louis (GH) and wife Dani Stahl welcomed a baby girl, Allison. Gail (WT) and Homer Matheny welcomed daughter Dru Mari. Ann and Todd Mobley, both of AM, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Ava Sharon.

West Clermont mourns the loss of two district friends.
- Randy Beamer, husband of Marcia Beamer (AH) and son of JoAnn Beamer, Board of Education member, died February 28.
- Shirley Reynolds, formerly a secretary at WT, more recently Ann Witt’s assistant in the DO, passed away suddenly in her sleep on March 12.

Wellness recap
Our annual Wellness Day was held March 8, with 65 West Clermont employees and their spouses attending. Twelve women had mammograms; 36 people had cholesterol and glucose testing; 15 had their blood pressure checked; and 12 attended CPR/AED training.

Melissa Stewart (DO) won a free vacation to Gatlinburg, donated by Conseco Insurance!

Participate!
Move a Measured Mile in April! Join your building’s team and walk, run, swim, exercise, lift weights, cycle, do aerobics, golf, play basketball or row to earn miles. The team with the highest miles earns the jackpot. Log sheets are due May 2.

Clean and Green, the county’s annual litter pick up day, is scheduled for Saturday, April 26. Volunteers who participate in picking up litter along Clermont County roads and streams will arrive at one of four designated meeting places, then move on to sites selected for clean-up. Contact Dave Stubbe, Clean and Green Coordinator at 753-9222 for information.

Inquire about your classroom in TV Turnoff Week, April 21-27. Merwin Elementary is planning activities to encourage children to not watch television. Principal Carrie Bradford (GH) entered a contest for Creative Classroom Magazine on classroom management. Her idea revolved around how to get a class lined up for specials or lunch without causing chaos. She suggested calling the children by the first letters of their last names or first names. She also uses their birth months, hair and eye color, or favorite interests. Carrie won! Her idea will be published and she was given a monetary award for her classroom.

On the web
New to the West Clermont web site, www.westcler.org, are pictures and biographies of district office staff. The page is in the “About Us” section, under “Meet District Office Personnel.”

News and Notes is now featured on the web site, in a PDF document. Check under the “For Teachers” section for this and other archived editions.

A new feature! You can now sign up to receive news updates directly to your e-mail. Visit the “News Update” link from the front page and create a log-in name to receive the updates.

Also on the web are important dates for teacher workshops in math and science. Visit the “For Teachers” section.

For your convenience, Board of Education meeting agendas are added to the web site the Friday before each board meeting. Access the agendas by visiting the “Board” section.

The mission of News and Notes is to foster communication and to provide news of use to West Clermont staff. Send news items via e-mail to planicka_w@westcler.org.