

# Educational Highlights for Leaders

## *Special points of interest:*

SST Region 2 announces R. A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award and Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award Recipients.

*See page 2 for more information.*

A principal's perspective on teaching and learning for grades Pre-K through 3

*See page 5 for more information.*

SST Region 2 names new Post-Secondary Transition Consultant

*See page 6 for more information.*

## *Save the Date!*

2016-2017 Professional Development sessions for educators

*See page 9 for more information.*

## *Serving Erie, Huron, and Lorain Counties*

### Parting Words

by Kari Foreman



**Kari Foreman**  
SST Region 2 Post  
Secondary Transition  
Consultant

Being an Intervention Specialist or a Transition Coordinator is not just an 8 to 3 job. Your students need to feel cared for by you. Your classroom or office may be the only place in their lives where they have a safe haven. Here are a few additional suggestions that you can do to make life better for your students. These are not endorsed by the Ohio Department of Education. They come only from Kari Foreman's life experience and 30 years in the classroom.

While occasionally reminding ourselves of the reason we went into this field in the first place, you may want to consider:

- 1. Being human.** Tell your students how afraid you were the first day of high school, or when it came time to graduate from high school; how you flunked your driver's exam the first time you took it; how sad you felt when your grandma died; how nervous you get when you have to speak in front of people or when taking big tests. **Showing your vulnerability will not make you appear weak, it helps to develop relationships.**
- 2. Expect good. Expect quality.**
- 3. If a student comes to class and forgets his pencil, give him one and get on with it. I used to take a shoe as collateral for the pencil. Having them sit there and lose participation points is only inviting more trouble for you, for them, and for the rest of the class. Pick and choose your battles wisely.**

# SST Region 2 Announces the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement and the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award Recipients

by Jennifer Heim

Each year, a selection committee of individuals consisting of several State Support Team Region 2 staff as well as educators throughout the region has the privilege of selecting recipients for the R.A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award and the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award. These individuals are recognized in their buildings at end of year celebrations. They are also recognized by the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities during a luncheon and ceremony in Columbus in June each year.

There were many fantastic nominations submitted for both the outstanding student and educator awards this year. The committee struggled, as usual, with choosing recipients for these awards.



Arjun Patel, a senior from North Ridgeville High School, was chosen to receive the 2016 R. A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award. Arjun was nominated by Mrs. Randi Muck. Mrs. Muck stated that 'Arjun is always striving to do his best and to make a difference in the world. He is a four year member of the Academic Aces Team, 3 year member of the Prom Committee and two year member of the video production team. Beyond all of those accomplishments, Arjun's personality makes him remarkable. He self-advocates for himself and comes to school every day with a positive attitude. Joy Morgan, North Ridgeville High School administrators says. "Arjun Patel is a leader at North Ridgeville High School. He has always given his best effort and faced every challenge thrown his way. Arjun is a tremendous person with a very bright future."

Sandra de Rivero and Elena Mulholland, teaching team at Washington Elementary School in Lorain City Schools, are the recipients of the 2016 Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educators Award. Ms. de Rivero and Ms. Mulholland serve students in grades 4-6 who have disabilities and are also English Language Learners. Linda Coad, Lorain City Schools' supervisor, nominated the teaching team. Mrs. Coad states that both Ms. de Rivero and Ms. Mulholland are perfect for their positions as they are bilingual themselves. Mrs. Coad stated in her nomination that Ms. de Rivero, having been an English Language Learner student herself, 'understands the obstacles that stand in the way of a student who is an English Language Learner.' Her knowledge and experience in serving as an intervention specialist positions her uniquely for meeting the needs of students who are English Language Learners and who also have disabilities.



Pictured from left to right are Julie d'Aliberti, Jennifer Heim, Elena Mulholland, Sandra de Rivero, and Linda Coad.

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## *Horn and Walter Awards - continued from page 2*



In addition, the teaching team of Stacy Goloja, Tammy Lorbach, Stephanie Marchant, and Jennifer Shaffer at Wilcox Elementary School in North Ridgeville were the recipients of a special 'Trailblazer' award. The team was nominated by Nicole Roth, School Counselor and Mitch Heffron, Principal. The nominators stated that this 'team has truly embraced the essence of co-teaching in that the general education teacher and the special education teacher share the

responsibilities of teaching as well as assessing academic content. Classroom duties are divided evenly and students are taught by differentiating the material in order to challenge students at all levels within the classroom.'

State Support Team Region 2 is proud to recognize these exceptional educators and student.

## **Additional R.A. Horn and Franklin B. Walter Award Nominees**

Fifth grader Johnathan Crosby of Lorain City Schools was nominated by Victoria Lewis, Intervention Specialist, for the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award.

Additional Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award nominees include:

- Emma Cramer, Intervention Specialist, Firelands Local Schools, nominated by Susan Petz, Special Education Director
- Daniel Zacharias, Intervention Specialist, Lorain City Schools, nominated by Sherri Hutlock, Special Education Supervisor
- Joel Melvin, Intervention Specialist, and Steven Latto, Math Teacher, Amherst Exempted Village Schools, nominated by Rhonda Neuhoff, Assistant Principal

State Support Team Region 2 would like to extend our congratulations to all of the award nominees, and wish them continued success in their endeavors.

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# Ohio PBIS Showcases Honorees

by Tracy Lichtenfels

Twenty-two schools were honored at the Ohio Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Showcase for their successful implementation of PBIS. Congratulations to all the schools and a special recognition to Bellaire Elementary School who earned the Gold Award! Congratulations to the following districts and schools:

East Liverpool City Schools–Westgate Elementary School  
Bellaire Local Schools–Bellaire Elementary School  
Washington Local Schools–Whitmer High School  
Elida Local Schools–Elida Elementary School  
Crestline Local Schools–Crestline Elementary School  
Marion City Schools–James A. Garfield Elementary School  
Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools–Park Avenue Elementary School  
Northmor Local Schools–Northmor Elementary School  
**Bellevue Local Schools–Bellevue Elementary School**  
Beavercreek City Schools–Fairbrook Elementary School  
Austintown Local Schools–Austintown Intermediate School, Westgate Elementary School, and Austintown Elementary School  
Ripley Union Lewis Huntington Local Schools–Ripley Union Lewis Huntington Middle School  
Painesville City Schools–Thomas W. Harvey High School  
Geauga County ESC–Gaitway High School  
Lake County ESC–The Lake Academy  
Oak Hills Local Schools–John Foster Dulles Elementary School and Delhi Middle School  
Milford Exempted Village Schools–Mulberry Elementary School  
Forest Hills Local Schools–Wilson Elementary School  
Tuscarawas Board of Developmental Disabilities–Starlight School  
Ridgewood Local Schools–Ridgewood Elementary School



For additional information regarding Ohio's PBIS efforts, visit the ODE website PBIS page found here: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/School-Safety/Building-Better-Learning-Environments/PBIS-Resources>

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## Lorain Titans: On the Road to Reading Success

by Joshua Preece



Ohio's Third Reading Guarantee (TGRG) is designed to ensure that every student receives the help that he or she needs to experience educational success. According to a recent Ohio Department of Education (ODE) report, 86.8% of Ohio's third grade students met the promotion minimum on the fall/spring reading test, 0.6% on the summer reading test and 6.6% on the alternative reading test.

Across the state of Ohio, the ODE reports that there were 125,623 third-graders and 5.7% were exempt from the TGRG promotion calculation for the 2014-15 data collected. SST Region 2's own Lorain City Schools recently made ODE's "Key Districts That Improved" list. The state listed Lorain City School as 1 out of 10 school districts that have made impressive improvements with students that are eligible for promotion with the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Lorain City Schools boasted 93.4% and was among some of the top districts to show significant growth in the state. Way to go Titans!

If you have any questions about Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee, please contact the ODE at: [odethirdgradeguarantee@education.ohio.gov](mailto:odethirdgradeguarantee@education.ohio.gov).

# Principal's Corner: Perspectives on Teaching and Learning in PreK-3rd Grade

New America's Early and Elementary Education Policy Program just released a series of briefs titled, *Principal's Corner: Perspectives on Teaching and Learning in PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*, that explore the role of elementary school principals as early education leaders. This series is based on focus groups of elementary school principals conducted in five U.S. cities by the FDR Group.

The six briefs take a closer look at principals' perceptions of what should take place in pre-K and early grade classrooms, while offering recommendations for states and school districts in regard to building principals' expertise in this area. The focus group participants answered questions on the staffing and hiring of teachers, the transition between pre-K and kindergarten, student assessment, professional development, and the role of the principal.

Their big take away is principals recognize that pre-K and the early grades are important, but feel they lack what they need to promote high-quality teaching during these years. As one Orlando principal explains, "Since I taught fifth grade for so many years I don't feel as comfortable giving advice to the kindergarten teachers the way I might with a new fifth grade teacher." Multiple principals in our groups echoed this sentiment.

In the following briefs New America's Early & Elementary Education team provide analysis of the participant responses:

- [\*Why Elementary School Principals Matter\*](#), the introductory brief in the series, by program associate Aaron Loewenberg, establishes the importance of principals as early education leaders.
- [\*A False Dichotomy: Elementary Principals on Academics and Play\*](#), by policy analysts Abbie Lieberman and Shayna Cook, focuses on principals' understanding of developmentally appropriate practice in the early grades.
- [\*Tradeoffs: Elementary Principals on Hiring and Staffing in the Early Grades\*](#), by Cook, examines how principals approach the staffing of PreK-3rd grade teachers.
- [\*Connecting Pre-K and the Early Grades: Principals on Transitions\*](#), by Laura Bornfreund, Director of the Early Elementary and Education Program, highlights the role principals can play in bridging pre-K and the early grades of elementary school.
- [\*Leading for the Early Years: Principals' Reflections on the Need for Better Preparation\*](#), by Lieberman, highlights the lack of principal preparation in early education.

In the final brief, "[\*Bringing It All Together: Elementary Principals are Key to Strong PreK-3rd Grade Classrooms\*](#)," Bornfreund and Lieberman recommend the following four actions for states and school districts to better support elementary school principals:

- States should incorporate early childhood education into principal preparation.
- States and school districts should provide ongoing professional learning opportunities related to early education.
- States and school districts should invest in opportunities to bring elementary school principals and center directors together.
- States should take advantage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to support this work.

*\*These resources were sent by Lisa Baker from the Ohio Department of Education.*

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# SST Region 2 Announces New Post-Secondary Transition Consultant

by Kari Foreman

I am absolutely thrilled to be introducing the new Post-Secondary Transition Consultant with the Region 2 State Support Team: Jamie Krajewski. Jamie K, as she is affectionately known, can be doubly congratulated, as by the time she begins her new position later this summer, she will be Jamie T, or Mrs. Jamie Tischer.



Jamie brings to this position a wealth of knowledge, experience and respect from her peers. Jamie is already known regionally and even state-wide for her work with the Project SEARCH programs at Mercy Regional Medical Center and Lorain County Community College. She has created an impressive collaboration with parents, educators, adult service providers and post-secondary education institutions to implement plans for the highest and best outcomes for students with disabilities. She has worked tirelessly to generate community-based work sites for students with moderate to intensive disabilities in order to provide opportunities for job exploration, skill acquisition and applied social skills.

Jamie has been instrumental in the growth of the Employment First Initiative, and participated in interdisciplinary teams to develop their Transition Framework. Frankly, there is not enough space in this newsletter to write all of her accolades and accomplishments. I truly feel I am leaving this position in the hands of someone who knows this work, understands its importance, and feels as passionate as I do about the outcomes for our students with disabilities.

P.S. I would like to add a special note of thanks and love to all of the wonderful folks on my team and in our region who have made this past 8 years a joy. Kari

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## Assistive Technology Vendor Fair

by Jennifer Heim

Nearly 100 parents, educators, related service personnel and administrators made the trek to Findlay, Ohio to learn about assistive technology devices and services available for students by attending the Assistive Technology Vendor Fair in April 2016. This free event provided participants with the opportunity to attend sessions presented by various vendors to become more familiar with the products and services they offer. They also had a chance speak individually with the vendors at their table displays to ask specific questions.

Vendors in attendance included AbleNet, Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio, Ai Squared, AT Ohio, Cleveland Sight Center, doTERRA, Got Autism, Interlink Deaf Services Center, Kurzweil, Monarch Teaching Technologies (VizZle), OCALI, Prentke Romich Company, Red Treehouse, Rethink First, Saltillo, School Health, Timocco, Tobii DynaVox, and Westminster Technologies. The day culminated with a raffle in which all participants had the opportunity to win door prizes donated by vendors. Some of the door prizes included a 6 month subscription to VizZle and a year's license to Timocco. If you missed this fabulous event, watch for information regarding the next Assistive Technology Vendor Fair which will be held in Mansfield, Ohio in the fall of 2017.



# The State Board of Education Presents the 2015 Momentum Award

by Janet McGlugritch

What do you think of when you hear “exceeded expectations in student growth for the year”? Now pair that with the district or school earning straight A’s on all Value-Added measures on their report card and you get a MOMENTUM AWARD!

In order to receive the 2015 Momentum Award, the school must earn straight A’s on all Value-Added measures on the report card, and the school or district must have at least two Value-Added subgroups of students, which include gifted, lowest 20% in achievement, and students with disabilities.

## Erie County Recipients:

Edison Local Schools- Edison Middle School (Formerly Berlin –Milan)

## Huron County Recipients:

New London Local Schools- New London Elementary

## Lorain County Recipients:

Avon Local Schools – Avon Heritage North Elementary

Avon Local Schools- Avon Middle School

Elyria City Schools – Westwood Middle School

Lorain City- Frank Jacinto Elementary

Lorain City- Larkmoor Elementary

Lorain City- Hawthorne Elementary

Lorain City –Washington Elementary

Midview Local Schools- Midview West Elementary



District Award – Lorain County - Avon Local School District

CONGRATULATIONS! Data-driven instruction, flexible grouping, differentiation based on data, high quality feedback, high expectation, self-reporting grades, rubrics, scaffolding, and more can be used when working toward growing ALL of our students.

## State Support Team Region 2 Partners

The State Support Team Region 2 partners with all public, charter, non-charter, and private school districts within Erie, Huron, and Lorain counties. SST Region 2 serves:

- 8 public school districts in Erie County;
- 7 public school districts in Huron County;
- 17 public school districts in Lorain County;
- 2 Educational Service Centers;
- 2 Joint Vocational Schools/Career Centers;
- 3 Board of Developmental Disabilities; and
- numerous public and private preschool and child care agencies.

## *Parting Words - continued from page 1*

4. **Let your students know that your life has been a process.** You didn't just graduate from high school and become a teacher. Keep a visible list on your wall of some of the other jobs you had on your way to being a teacher. Mine would read: Babysat for 50 cents an hour all through high school; At age 14, worked at Lake Plata picking up garbage for 25 cents an hour and at age 15 sold food at the concession stand and worked at the putt putt golf hut for 65 cents an hour; Lifeguard at 16, \$1.15 an hour; JCPenney changing room monitor also at age 16 then the ladies' department salesperson for \$1.25 an hour. I went on to work in the toy and catalog departments through college with a final rate of \$3.25 an hour. For years I drove a car that I had to push start every day. **Give them examples of your resiliency.**

5. Go to their graduations, weddings and baby showers, and not necessarily in that order. Visit them in the hospital, detention home and, if necessary, in prison. Tell them they do not look good in stripes.

6. Teach your students how to register to vote, and then walk them through a practice ballot. **Help them to realize that they do make a difference in this world.**

7. If they lose a loved one, **take a half hour out of your busy life** and stop by the funeral home. I can guarantee they will never forget it. Show by example that this is the right thing to do for someone.

8. Teach the boys in your class how to tie a tie, and give make-up tips to the girls. Teach them how to look someone in the eye and smile when they firmly shake a hand. While you are at it, you may need to teach your students how to ask for something they need, or how to apologize when they are wrong, or what words to use when they are frustrated or angry or sad. **Never assume your students know these things.**

9. Point out that sagging pants look like sagging attitudes. Remind them that tattoos of marijuana leaves on their necks will do nothing but limit them from a lifetime of job opportunities and that gauges in their ears will require plastic surgery in the future, so advise them to get medical insurance if they make that choice.

10. If your student confides in you that they are needy, **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.** I have found people to be very generous. Ask your staff, or your church, or your neighbors for food, clothing, and furniture. You can get free bus tickets, diapers, formula, and suits for interviews, just about anything you can imagine. People don't mind helping, but they don't always know how. **Ask.**

11. Last, but not least, remember their birthdays. Go to the homecoming dance or prom and tell them how nice they look when they are all dressed up. Take their pictures and put them on your board. Say what you mean, and mean what you say. Let your students teach the class something they are good at. **Say YES once in a while.**

12. Consider what you can do to make the world a better place for kids.

Kari Foreman will be retiring from SST Region 2 after working for 38 years in the field of education. If you'd like to send her a note to wish her well in her future endeavors, you can reach her at [foreman@sstr2.org](mailto:foreman@sstr2.org) or 1885 Lake Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035.



## September 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

<b>Date</b>	<b>PD Title</b>	<b>Time</b>
09/06/2016	New to the Decision Framework	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
09/14/2016	Watch Buildings (Lorain County)	8:15 AM – 9:45 AM
09/14/2016	Focus Buildings (Lorain County)	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
09/21/2016	Behavior Tool Belt Training	8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
09/21/2016	Behavior Tool Belt Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
09/22/2016	Watch/Focus Buildings (Huron/Erie Counties)	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
09/29/2016	Intro to TBTs – 5 Step Process	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
10/04/2016	PBIS Universal Tier 1 Team Training Day 1 of 2	8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
10/11/2016	Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
10/19/2016	Decision Framework Updates and Refresher	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
10/24/2016	Preschool Autism Training Series	TBD
10/25/2016	Understanding Social Literacy	9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
10/28/2016	Co-Planning to Co-Serve All Students	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
11/04/2016	Preschool Autism Training Series	TBD
11/15/2016	PBIS Universal Tier 1 Team Training Day 2 of 2	8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
11/30/2016	Watch Buildings (Lorain County)	8:15 AM – 9:45 AM
11/30/2016	Focus Buildings (Lorain County)	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
12/01/2016	Watch/Focus Buildings (Huron/Erie Counties)	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
12/12/2016	Preschool Autism Training Series	TBD

# State Support Team



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**Check the Events Calendar at [www.sstr2.org](http://www.sstr2.org) for many more offerings!**

**Don't Forget to Check Out our State Support Team 2  
Facebook Page and Twitter Feeds!**



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@Literacy\_SST2

*This document/product/software was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, (Award #H027A130158, CFDA 84.027A, awarded to the Ohio Department of Education). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and no official endorsement by the Department should be inferred.*