

Superintendent's Message – July 2016

Dear Community,

By now, many in the community have likely seen the tremendous coverage given to the student organizations of the Garfield Heights City Schools for their participation in the inflation of more than 120,000 balloons two weeks ago at The Q Arena. In advance of the Republican National Convention, more than 100 students of our vocal music boosters and the band boosters' organizations boarded busses along with Mr. Pernod and Mr. Pope and devoted parents, and spent nearly 8 hours inflating balloons. The balloons that you saw dropped from the ceilings of The Q for the Republican nominee for president were inflated by our very own Bulldog students. The opportunity for the High School to participate in preparation for the convention was made possible by a partnership between The Balloon Crew, a local company based in Garfield Heights, and Treb Heining from the Glasshouse Balloon Company located in Anaheim, California. As a token of appreciation for their efforts to help prepare the balloon drop, Heining and the Glasshouse Balloon Company will provide a generous donation of several thousand dollars to the High School Music Department. The Garfield Heights City Schools would like to thank The Balloon Crew and The Glasshouse Balloon Company for supporting our students. Our students were interviewed by a variety of news publications. Click these links below to watch our Bulldogs on television, online or to read their articles.

Click here to watch Channel 5 - <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/cleveland-metro/garfield-heights-high-school-students-blow-up-rnc-balloons>

Click here to read the Fox-8 News Coverage

<http://fox8.com/2016/07/15/up-up-and-away-150000-balloons-inflated-at-the-q/>

- **Click here to read the article Crain's Cleveland Business -** <http://www.crainscleveland.com/article/20160715/NEWS/160719848/garfield-heights-students-help-to-inflate-125000-balloons-for-rnc>
- **Click here to listen to the National Public Radio / Youth Radio Segment** (go to the 4 min. 50 seconds mark) <http://www.npr.org/2016/07/21/486854429/republican-national-convention>

In other news in the district, Summer School has recently completed at Maple Leaf Elementary School that included a variety of students in grades K-5 taking various reading intervention classes to prepare for the upcoming school year. In addition, Kinderbound, the schools' pre-Kindergarten registration program was underway as well. Approximately 90 elementary age students were taking class at Maple Leaf for the first few weeks of summer. A special thank you goes out to the staff members, and Ms. Harris, for being the principal for this summer programming. Good job Garfield Heights students, and congratulations for continuing the learning process over the summer.

Finally, the Boys and Girls Club continues its programming at Garfield Heights Middle School, which provides students in our community with a more comprehensive educational curriculum and instruction throughout the summer months. Students take classes in computers, reading, mathematics, arts & crafts and even have a chance to play sports in an organized fashion. The schools are proud to call the Boys and Girls Club its home over the summer and thanks them, as well as Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Debbie Nicastro, for their partnership to make this program possible.

Remember that school starts on August 15, 2016 and to check our website for forthcoming updates.

Thank you.

Terry Olszewski

Superintendent