Williamson eighth-graders, from left, Junior Reed, Robert Artist, Xhariale Bankston and Amaryah Williams model pioneer looks during the Mahoning Valley Historical Society’s Pioneer Life Suitcase program.

Letting YStars Shine

Youngstown City School District students can receive up to $3,000 of “last dollar” funding for expenses such as tuition, mandatory fees, parking and books to attend either Youngstown State University or Eastern Gateway Community College. The money may be used after all other grants, scholarships and awards have been applied. The amount of the awards is based on the number of high school years (at $1,000 per year up to $3,000 total) each student completes in YCSD.

Students may enroll in the YSTAR program as high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors. (No enrollments are accepted for the senior year.) They must attend the Youngstown City Schools for a minimum of two consecutive years with the second year being the senior year and complete all requirements for graduation from the Youngstown City Schools system within four years with at least a 2.0 GPA. To be eligible, students also must commit to attend either YSU or EGCC.

YSTAR is an initiative of the Youngstown Foundation. Information is available from high school guidance counselors.
NO BULLIES ALLOWED

October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. StopBullying.gov defines bullying as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. It may be social, verbal or physical.

StopBullying.gov offers some tips to prevent bullying:
* Help kids understand bullying. Talk about what it is and how it’s unacceptable and make sure they know how to get help.
* Keep communication lines open. Listen to children and understand their concerns,
* Encourage children to do what they enjoy. Interests and activities can boost confidence and help children make friends.
* Model how to treat others.

The Ohio Department of Education urges parents to watch how children manage decisions, rules and responsibilities. Be aware of how they relate to friends. Remain active in children’s lives and reinforce respectful behavior, ODE encourages.

More information is available about bullying and bullying prevention at StopBullying.gov, education.ohio.gov and saferschoolsohio.gov.

Test for 3rd-Grade Reading Guarantee is Next Week

The Third-Grade Reading Guarantee requires that a third-grader receive a promotional score of at least 44 on the reading portion of the Third-grade English Arts Tests (AIR) or a scaled score of 672 to meet the guarantee. There will be two administrations of this test during the 2017-18 school year. The first is next week, the week of Oct. 23. Building principals will notify parents/guardians of the exact date of the assessments.

Parents/guardians should ensure children get enough rest the night before the test. Test results will be available in December. If your child has struggled with reading in previous years, he or she is likely on a Reading Improvement Monitoring Plan which should have been shared with you to provide input. If your child doesn’t meet the test’s required promotional score, he/she will remain on a monitoring plan. It is also recommended that your child attend after-school programming for additional support. It will help your child improve his/her reading skills for the April 2018 administration of the test.
Gridiron Greats

Two Chaney High School graduates are being recognized for their football prowess in college and beyond.

Anthony Floyd, who graduated from Chaney in 1999, became the 22nd player in University of Louisville football history to have his Cardinals' jersey honored. The honor came last weekend.

Brad Smith, a 2001 Chaney High School graduate, was inducted Oct. 16 into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. In December, Smith, who played quarterback for the University of Missouri Tigers, will be honored again as that university’s representative in the 2017 SEC Football Legends Class.

Smith became the first player in NCAA Division I-A history to throw for 8,000 yards and rush for 4,000 yards in a career and he broke the NCAA record for most career rushing yards by a quarterback. He went on to an impressive NFL career playing for the Jets, Bills and Eagles.

“It's a blessing to be honored like this and extremely humbling since there were so many people that helped put me in the position to even play sports in the first place,” the modest Smith said. “God gets the glory and everyone who has ever helped me in life, this is yours as well.”

Floyd led Louisville to four consecutive bowl appearances. He has the school record for interceptions and is tied at 18 for the Conference USA record. After his career at Louisville, the Indianapolis Colts picked up Floyd as an undrafted free agent. He played two seasons in the league. Floyd serves as YCSD’s director of men’s player development at his alma mater.

Floyd said his time at Chaney, playing for former Chaney Coach Ron Berdis prepared him for college and beyond.

“He prepared us for how it is to play for a team and as a team,” Floyd said. “We learned how important it is to do the right thing, to be on time and to not put ourselves first.”
Athletics Arena

The YCSD Athletics Winter 2017 Parent and Player meeting will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, at East High School, 474 Bennington Ave.

All parents/students planning to participate in winter athletics must attend a mandatory meeting that will cover and review rules and regulations for boys' and girls' basketball and indoor track.

Items to be addressed at the meeting include sports safety, mandatory requirements and obligations. Attendees will watch and discuss a brief video on Lindsay Law and concussion safety, discussing how the legislation supports students and health.

The session will cover athletic expectations (including district policies, eligibility standards, district code of conduct, and social media policies).

Physicals will be Nov. 2 for girls and Nov. 9 for boys, both at East during practice time. The cost is $10 and no medical card is required.

Coming Up This Week

* Wednesday, Oct. 18: middle school football at Warren G. Harding, 5 p.m. and high school volleyball All-American Conference game vs. Green at Uniontown Lake, 5 p.m.

* Thursday, Oct. 18: freshmen football at Warren G. Harding, 5:30 p.m.

* Friday, Oct. 20: varsity football vs. Warren G. Harding at home, 7 p.m.

* Saturday, Oct. 21: junior varsity football at Warren G. Harding, 10 a.m.
Congratulations and Kudos

Shamya Williams, senior at Youngstown Early College, has been selected to the second team all-conference for the volleyball season.

Congratulations also to Lawanna Sims, head volleyball coach, who has been recognized as Red Tier Coach of the Year.

The senior classic in which Shamya will be playing will be Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. at Beaver Local High School.

If you would like to donate an ad in the program at the all-conference players game as a patron to congratulate Shamya, please contact Coach Sims at lawanna.sims@youngstown.k12.oh.us.
Martin Luther King Elementary School Daizangely Cealagarza, left, and Jayden Santiago model dress of some of the world’s Spanish-speaking countries during the school’s Hispanic Heritage Month program last week.

Martin Luther King students, under the direction of Ruth Rojas, English Language Learners teaching assistant, presented a Hispanic Heritage Month program and celebration last week.

Students learned about the food, history, fashion and music of each of the world’s Spanish-speaking countries and Puerto Rico and entertained parents, families, teachers, administrators and staff.

The Spanish Evangelical Women's Dance Team took the stage to demonstrate dances popular in Hispanic culture.

The program closed with food provided by El Jose Fino Mexican Grill, 20 N. Main St., Hubbard; Tequilo Jalisco of Canfield, 583 Main St., Canfield; and Senor Jalapeno, 4055 Belmont Ave., Youngstown.