



THE FREMONT FOCUS

Volume 1 • Issue 1

LOCATION FOR EDUCATION INFORMATION

Fremont City Schools Welcomes – Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to the first edition of *The Fremont Focus*, a Fremont City School District newsletter. The purpose of this monthly newsletter is to inform our FCS parents and students in grades K-12 about some of the positive events and initiatives that are happening throughout the district!

This newsletter was created by Mrs. Heidi Gallagher, Ross H.S. teacher, along with her journalism class. All costs associated with the development and distribution of this newsletter have been paid by this month's sponsor – *Memorial Hospital of Fremont*.

Despite making improvements, the Fremont City School 2005-06 Local Report Card reported that the district is in its fifth year of Continuous Improvement and the district did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The components that determine whether a district meets AYP are:

- Reading (*both test scores and the participation rate are counted*);
- Mathematics (*both test scores and the participation rate are counted*);
- Attendance Rate; and
- Graduation Rate.

All student groups (All Students, African American Students, Hispanic Students, Multiracial Students, White Students, Students with Disabilities, Students with Limited English Proficiency, and Economically Disadvantaged Students) must meet their goals for a district to meet AYP. Because the district did not meet AYP in math and reading for the 2005-06 school year, the Fremont City School District is in Year One of District Improvement.

After careful analysis of the local report card data, the district developed the following three district goals:

- Increase student achievement.
- Close the socio-economic, ethnic, and disability gaps in student achievement.



photo courtesy of Ken Dummering

- Build hope, trust and respect within our community.

Additionally, the district has developed a two-year improvement plan. This plan will intensely focus on student achievement by providing a clear strategy of action for the

design and delivery of curriculum. We are confident that the outcome of the plan will be improvement on the state report card.

The district's two-year improvement plan and the 2006-07 Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan are located on the district's website, fremontschools.net. We plan to provide you with quarterly status reports regarding our progress toward meeting our goals.

Lastly, the district is asking for your support of the emergency levy on November 7th. This operating levy that will generate much-needed funds (\$3.6 million in annual funds for five years) that will be used for basics such as purchasing textbooks and other supplementary materials; developing curriculum guides and assessment tools; providing student intervention programs; operating the day-to-day functions of the district; maintaining and funding current extracurricular activities; maintaining desired class sizes; and maintaining adequate numbers of teachers.

Though the district has maintained a tight budget and has implemented many cost saving measures throughout the years, Fremont City Schools still projects a negative balance in its 2007 fiscal year budget due to increased fixed costs, mandated (but unfunded) state programs, loss of business revenue, loss of personal property tax, and state basic aid cuts of \$57 per student. The State of Ohio has placed Fremont City Schools in the category of "Fiscal Caution" and failure of the levy will move FCS closer to "receivership" by the State of Ohio, which will mean that FCS will lose much of its local control of our schools.

Please feel free to contact me at 334-5432 if you have any questions about the district's emergency levy or you may visit the district's website for additional information.

Inside This Issue:

- Grandfriends are Welcomed at Schools
- What is Your Favorite Activity?
- Fremont READS
- Calendar of Events



What Is Your Favorite Fall Activity?



"I love jumping in the leaves with my dog."

Stephanie Wilhelm
Senior, Fremont Ross



"After the Ross football games, I like hanging out with all my friends."

Eric Gedeon
3rd Grade, Lutz Elementary

"My favorite sport is volleyball"

McKenzie Schneider
7th Grade, Fremont Middle School



"I like to play football and go to Ross games."

Alex Metcalf
6th Grade,
Atkinson Elementary

Civic-Minded at Otis

Barb Moran's 5th grade class at Otis Elementary really has some very special



friends. Her class has a partnership with Bethesda, where the students have "Grandfriends". They meet with them once a month. The first month, they conduct an interview and then come back to the class and rewrite our grandfriend's biography. Later, the student-created biographies are read and presented in a frame to their grandfriends at a ceremony around Christmas.

Otis has even been included in the Bethesda Newsletter, which is sent across the country. In the newsletter, there is a copy of the Grandfriends program for the 2006-2007 year.

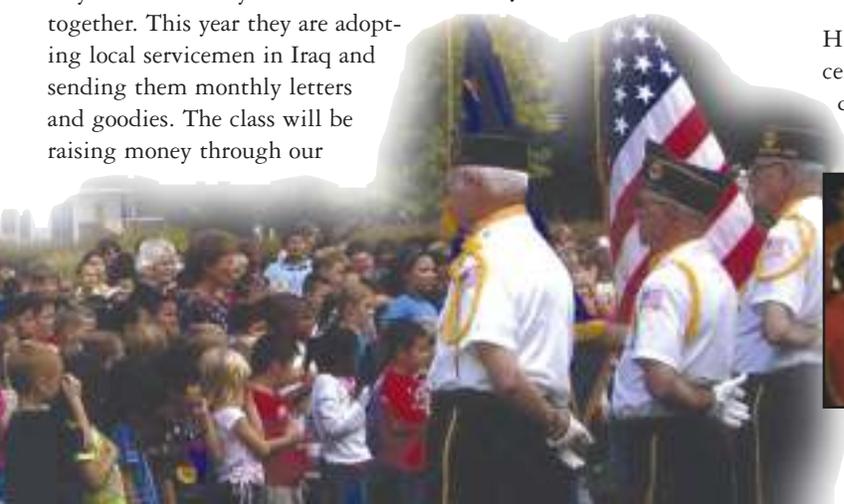
In addition to monthly visits to Bethesda, they also have a community cause that they work on together. This year they are adopting local servicemen in Iraq and sending them monthly letters and goodies. The class will be raising money through our

"Healthy Bake Sales" conducted during lunch period. The money raised will be presented to the Veteran's Memorial located in Gibsonburg.

On October 5th the mayor will be visiting the 5th grade to speak on the organization of local government. That night Mrs. Moran's social studies classes along with their parents will be attending the City Council Meeting.

Also, on November 9th, the 5th grade will be holding its annual Veteran's Day program. This year the title is "Letters from Home". Local veterans and community leaders have been asked to participate in this special program.

Finally, Bethesda and Otis conducted its annual September 11th Ceremony. We had honored guests recognized some of them were Duane Simmons- President of City Council, Jeff Wagner- State Representative, Mayor Terry Overmeyer and Police Chief Mounty Huss.



Volunteers at Atkinson

Atkinson School recently held a Volunteer Orientation meeting. Over 25 volunteers attended the training held by Mrs. Connie Kreh, Atkinson's Volunteer Coordinator. The volunteer readers will begin in September and have committed to at least a half hour a week of time at the school reading with children in a one-to-one setting to help reading comprehension and fluency skills. The school is always looking for additional volunteer readers.



If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Kreh at the school office at 419-332-5361.

Washington Hispanic Fiesta

Wonderful things are happening at Washington Elementary School this year. Our staff has come together for another successful school opening. Our students are now back into the groove after summer break.

At this time we are celebrating Hispanic Awareness Month. Our celebration consists of a beautiful display of the Quinceanera, which is a celebration of a

young girl and recognition of her journey from childhood to maturity.

We also have Hispanic trivia during the month on our morning announcements. The students will have an opportunity to win prizes.

Lastly, we will host a Hispanic breakfast before school. Hispanic students will have an opportunity to share history facts and read poems to our guests.

We will have other celebrations throughout the school year, please feel free to visit Washington School and participate in these events.



Stamm Grandfriend's Day

Stamm celebrated Grandfriends' Day on September 21 with almost 2—grandfriends in attendance. Many grandfriends commented on the warm feeling in the



building as they visited the classrooms and met the teacher. All were invited to the gym to enjoy a Reader's Theatre presented by Mrs. Almroth's fifth grade students.

After the presentation, everyone had the opportunity to stop by the book fair and browse the selection. We thank everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to recognize this important Grandfriend=Grandchild relations!

Fremont READS

Fremont READS Even Start is a Family Literacy Program that is a joint project between Fremont City School District, Vanguard Sentinel Career Center, and WSOS Community Action Commission. This program targets families within the Fremont City School District who have child(ren) between the ages of birth to 8 years old. Families also need to be of low achievement and income. Families within this program need to comply with the four parts of the program: 1.) Early Childhood Education, 2.) Adult Education, 3.) Parenting Education, and 4.) PACT (Parent And Child Together time). Each family also has two home visits monthly.



Recently, Fremont READS Even Start parents had the opportunity to partake in Shadow Day. This day was designed to help Even Start parents understand the day-to-day activities within their child(ren)'s classroom. It also focused on the parent developing an understanding of expectations of their child's teacher and grade level.

(pictured) Fremont READS Even Start parent, Reese Sidney, is helping her daughter, Deserae, with an activity in Michelle Wilhelm's 1st grade class at Hayes Elementary.



Lutz is on-the-Air

Lutz Elementary School recently held try-outs for its "Eagle TV News Program". Six teams of four persons were chosen to present the news on camera each morning. Students hold positions of anchor, sports/weather person, camera operator, or cue card holder. Each morning when school begins, Eagle TV airs throughout the school and informs the school of important information including lunch choices, sports news, peer mediator information, persons celebrating birthdays, students caught being good, and much more. The Sports person has even begun leading the school in a brief "Brain Gym" exercise for



the day. It's a great way to begin the day at Lutz and students are learning many skills by being involved with the program. This is the second year for Eagle TV.

At Fremont Ross - Everyone is a Star!

Congratulations Jenny Kim, Homecoming Queen 2006, and escort Brandon Hines.



Calendar of Events

- Oct. 27 End of First Nine Weeks
Ross vs. Sandusky (Senior Night) (H)
Stamm – Chili Supper
- Oct. 28 Cross Country Regionals (A)
Ross – ACT Tests
- Oct. 30 Ross – Powder Puff Game
- Nov. 1 Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
- Nov. 2 Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
FMS – Fall Sports Awards
Marching Band Pops Concert
Stamm – Market Day and Washington – PTO Mtg.
- Nov. 3 FMS – Drama Club Fall Presentation (NO SCHOOL ELEMENTARY ONLY)
Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences – All Day
- Nov. 4 Cross Country – State @ Columbus (A)
FMS – Drama Club Presentation
Ross – SAT Tests
- Nov. 5 Levy Parade starting from Hayes Elementary
- Nov. 6 Atkinson – PTO Veteran’s Day Program
Board of Education Meeting
- Nov. 7 Hayes – PTO Meeting
Lutz – PTO Meeting
Mobile Dentist – Lutz
Ross – PLAN Test
Think Kids!
- Nov. 8 FMS – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
- Nov. 9 Croghan – Veteran’s Day Program
FMS – Group Pictures
FMS- Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
Mobile Dentist – Lutz
Ross PLAN Test
- Nov. 10 Hayes – PTO Movie Night
- Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day Service – Marching Band
- Nov. 13 Atkinson Book Fair 11/13 – 11/17
Children’s Book Week 11/13 – 11/19
Croghan - PTO Meeting
FMS 7/8/9 Band Concert
Football Awards Nights
Music Booster Fruit Sale Ends
- Nov. 14 FMS – PTO Meeting
Otis – PTO Meeting
- Nov. 15 Ross/FMS Teacher In – Service – NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 16 Atkinson-PTO Spaghetti Dinner
Stamm – PTO Meeting
Winter Sports Pictures
- Nov. 20 Ross- Parent/Teacher Conference (Evening)
- Nov. 21 Board of Education Meeting
Ross – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
- Nov. 22-24 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 25 Girls Basketball – St. Ursula (H)
Holiday Parade – Marching Band
- Nov. 28 Girls Basketball – Toledo Rogers (A)
Ross Swim/Diving – Sandusky (H)
- Nov. 29 Hayes – PTO Assembly
- Nov. 30 Ross – Drama Club Poinsettia Pickup
Stamm – Market Day

Ross Water Tests

Students in Mr. Havice’s Environmental Biology classes and Mr. Bates’ AP Biology class are participating in a Sandusky River Watershed Environmental Study. Fremont City Schools, along with several other area school districts, is participating in this nearly \$20,000 grant provided by the Martha Holden Jennings foundation. Partner agencies include the Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association (NOECA), Sandusky

River Watershed Coalition, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves Ohio Scenic Rivers Program (Sandusky Scenic River). Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory scientists and researchers will contribute their expertise in the field of water quality.

Each team will conduct their research at selected sampling sites within the Sandusky River watershed (Fremont’s location is at the Tindall Bridge) and record their findings on the interactive, dynamic SRWE Study website.



Busy Bucci

Art Bucci, Fremont Ross Athletic Director, has been very busy lately, and he loves it.

In the middle of September, Bucci gave 2nd graders at Stamm Elementary a special treat: an inside look at the stadium and a talk from some “really cool” football players. Students at Stamm had been learning about how to deal with bullies. To help with

this training, the football players, along with Art Bucci, stepped up and led the discussion.

Mr. Bucci was also named Ohio Athletic Director of the Year. He has been involved in education for 33 years; he taught health and physical education for 23 years and was the swim coach from 1974-1985 at Fremont Ross High School.

