



# THE FREMONT FOCUS

Volume I \* Issue 2

## From the desk of Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to the second issue 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 the journalism students at Fremont Ross High School and will be available on the Fremont City Schools website monthly and a quarterly newsletter will be printed and sent home near the end of each of the nine week grading periods.

I would like to express a heartfelt Thank You to the thousands of citizens of Fremont who voted to support our recent emergency school levy. Your vote was a vote for children's education and few gifts are as worthy as the gift of education, the gift of a bright future. Money spent on such a gift is, indeed, money well-spent.

Many of you shared your commitment to that gift and to the effort that was made to provide the information that would make our case to the Fremont community. Many of you expressed encouragement and offered time and money to the campaign itself. I appreciate that so much.

Unfortunately, a clear majority of Fremont voters rejected the



photo courtesy of Ken Dumminger

levy proposal. Though I feel that district leadership made a strong case for the need, the outcome of the levy vote obviously disputes that feeling.

Regardless, I want to assure every parent of every child that attends or will attend a Fremont school that this school district will always "Think Kids" and we will utilize every available asset, every available resource, to provide a quality education for every child.

Unquestionably, the defeat of the levy provides a challenge to the district's ability to

deliver on that assurance. This school district was in fiscal crisis before the levy vote and, now, will certainly not be able to operate at current levels of programming and services.

We will, however, meet this challenge. Cost-saving measures that were outlined prior to November 7 will become effective immediately. Additional cost-saving measures will, no doubt, have to be determined and implemented in coming months.

### Inside This Issue:

- Many schools remember veterans
- Atkinson hosts Annual OSU/Michigan spaghetti dinner
- Croghan shows off their murals

## Fall Fest at Hayes

Hayes Elementary held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Family Festival in September, with over 500 students and their families attending. It was a time for families to eat together, play games together and join in all the fun. Many prizes were given at each event, including a cake or cupcakes won during the cake walk. While decorative paper hats were being made, the D.A.R.E. officer was being duct taped to the wall. However, the tape still could not keep him attached when the crate was pulled out from under his feet. Parents and students



purchased tickets to place into the envelopes for the “theme baskets” raffle. Each classroom chose a theme and the students brought in items to fill their basket. Some of these were a red, white and blue basket, snack basket, movie night basket and a sports basket. Over seventy businesses donated to this wonderful event and were very generous in their giving. Hayes’ students, parents and staff had a wonderful time at this special event and are looking forward to the festival next year.

## 50’s Day at Lutz



Lutz Elementary School went back to the 50’s to celebrate the fiftieth day of school. Many activities were planned during the day. Teachers read books from the 1950’s to their classes. Some even showed what reading textbooks looked like during the 50’s. Classes did a variety of math activities

revolving around the number 50. During recess time, students competed in a hula-hoop and bubble gum blowing competition. Lutz celebrated with root beer floats and had a school-wide assembly. The students and teacher enjoyed dressing up and celebrating the era of the 1950’s.

## Croghan Thanks Veterans

The Annual Veteran’s Day Program entitled “Letters From Home” was held on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at Otis Elementary. There were seventy-three attendees representing all branches of the military service. Bethesda Volunteers of America

brought seven of their residents who are military heroes. Letters From Home were read by community leaders and teachers. The fifth grade choir under the direction of Mrs. Peggy Dorr sang many patriotic songs. The program had special meaning for all those participating and in attendance.



## OSU/Michigan

The Atkinson Elementary PTO hosted the fourth annual OSU vs. Michigan Spaghetti dinner on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The dinner was a huge success with lots of wonderful raffles, including OSU and Michigan beanbag chairs, jerseys, coats, etc.

There were many games for the kids to play and win fun prizes. There was music, fun, and excitement for all!!!



# Atkinson Hosts Veteran's Day Activities



On Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Atkinson School observed Veteran's Day. Mr. Rex Postlethwait set up a *WWII Living History Museum* on the front lawn of the school. Many items from the Northcoast Veterans Memorial Museum in Gibsonburg were transported to the school for the day. Every class took a turn visiting the military display. Students received a snack in the Mess Tent, visited an Army Hospital tent, sat in an authentic 1953 Army Jeep, and learned a great deal about the armed forces.

Additionally, the third grade students performed a musical tribute to veterans for the entire school under the direction of music teacher, Ms. Eunice Koebel. Area veterans were invited to attend the programs and be recognized for their important contributions to our country. Five 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students served as an Honor Guard for both programs and dressed in authentic military uniforms representing the various branches including: Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard.

Many classrooms wrote thank you cards and poems that were sent to area veterans to honor them for their service to our country. Atkinson students learned a great deal about service, honor and patriotism during our celebration.



## Alumni play to honor Stierwalt

*"I bare my cross now, so I guess I'll be rewarded later."* This is a comment Billy Stierwalt once made to his dad, Bill. Billy Stierwalt was a senior when he passed away on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 at St. Vincent's Children's Hospital in Toledo. He was the manager of the Fremont Ross Boys' Basketball team.

Fremont Ross held the 2nd Annual Billy Stierwalt alumni game on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ross High gymnasium.

The purpose of the alumni game was to raise money for the Billy Stierwalt foundation. The foundation is set up to award a scholarship to the boys' basketball player who represents Billy's strive for commitment, positive attitude, loyalty, citizenship and the desire to do your best.

The foundation earned \$5000 from the ticket



sales for the game. Bill and Cindy Stierwalt were also given a \$700 check from the parents who attended the pre-game tailgating parties this fall.

Jared King, junior at Fremont Ross, commented, "Billy was not only my cousin but my best friend as well, and it brings a smile to my face when I see all the people and money come together in his memory."

The two alumni teams were made up of 35 alumni basketball players from many different decades. Players who played in the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and even some more recent graduates attended.

Coach Gedeon commented, "It was neat to see players from all different era's come together and play. He also mentioned, "All thirty five players were key players, without them the game would not have happened."

Top: The alumni players pose for a picture between games.

Bottom: Bill and Cindy Stierwalt accept a check from Mark, Sue and Jared King from the "Tailgate Crew".

# Fremont City Schools District Calendar

December 4	Board of Education Meeting FMS – Choir Concert FMS Yearbook Sales – 12/4 – 12/8 Hayes – Music Program
December 5	Girls Basketball – Toledo Start (H) Hayes – PTO Meeting Lutz – PTO Meeting Otis – Fall Program Ross Swim/Diving – Northview (H)
December 7	Girls Basketball – Napoleon (A) Music Booster Fruit Delivery
December 8	Boys Basketball – Marion Harding (A) Music Booster Fruit Delivery
December 9	FMS – Wrestling Tournament @ Ross High Music Booster Fruit Delivery Ross – ACT test Ross Swim/Diving – Ned Reeb Invit @ OSU (A) Wrestling – Ashland Invite (A)
December 11	Croghan – PTO Meeting Music Boosters
December 12	FMS – PTO Meeting Lutz – Christmas Program Otis – PTO Meeting Ross & FMS Orchestras Ross Swim/Diving P.C/Oak Harbor (H)
December 13	Ross Swim/Diving – Findlay (H) Ross/FMS – Teacher In – Service – NO SCHOOL
December 14	Boys Basketball – Lima Sr. (H)
December 15	FMS – Student Council Dance Girls Basketball – Lima Sr. (H) Wrestling – Rogers Invitational (V) (A)
December 16	Ross Swim/Diving – St. Francis Invite (A) Wrestling – Rogers Invitational (V) (A)
December 18	Hayes – Santa Shop – 12/18 – 12/ 22 Ross Choir
December 19	Board of Education Meeting Boys Basketball Whitmer (H) Ross Swim/Diving – Perkins (H) Wrestling vs. Ashland @ Genoa (A)
December 21	Girls Basketball Findlay (H)
December 22	Boys Basketball – Sandusky (H) NAS College Tea Winter Sports Parent's Night (Seniors Only) Wrestling @ Clyde (JV) (A)
December 27	NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK Ross Swim/Diving Marion Harding/ Lima Sr. (H) Wrestling – Tiffin Invitational (A)
December 28	Girls Basketball – Woodward (H) NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK Wrestling – Tiffin Invitational (A)
December 29	Boys Basketball (Frosh) Northview (A) NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK
December 30	Girls Basketball – Perrysburg (A)

# Croghan's Murals are Marvelous

Croghan School recently received a new facelift thanks to the generosity of the Local Lowe's Improvement Store. The former president of the Croghan Parent Teacher Organization, Lynette Kirsch, wrote a \$5,000 grant proposal.

After learning that they received the grant, the school approached a local artist, Beth Sage, to paint murals and inspirational sayings all around the first floor of the building. After Lowe's, through another grant, painted the playground equipment and gave all the walls in the hallways a good white base coat, the halls were ready to be splashed with color and inspiration!

It was so much fun watching Mrs. Sage paint every day. The kids enjoyed seeing what she would come up with next throughout the two weeks she was at the school. Mrs. Sage revitalized the look of the school and, as a result, made everyone feel even better about its appearance. The Croghan Staff and students appreciate the generosity and hard working efforts of Lowe's as they sent employees from the Fremont store to do all of the playground painting and base coat painting. What a difference it has made in the lives of the Croghan family and all who enter the

building.

