

# Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

This publication was paid for by Warner Mechanical Corp. and Crown Battery

April 2008

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## Fremont City Schools District Goals

1. Increase student achievement
2. Close socio-economic, ethnic and disability gaps in student achievement
3. Build hope, trust and respect with our community

Learn more about Fremont City Schools at ... [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net)

## Hayes learns about Hayes



Second graders have been busy learning about our 19<sup>th</sup> president, Rutherford B. Hayes, also a resident of Fremont. We ended the unit of study by visiting the Hayes' Home and found the tour of the home to be very educational. We also learned about our current president, George W. Bush. We spent time researching information about him through children's books, informational articles, and activity sheets and via the internet [www.whitehousekids.org](http://www.whitehousekids.org). We concluded with writing letters to the president and are anxiously awaiting a response.

In December both second grade classes published a book about our families. Each student wrote their own page of the book along with an artistic illustration. The pages were then bound together as a class book and parents were given the opportunity to purchase a copy of this book. At an Author's tea on March 20<sup>th</sup> the students were presented with their class book and all parents were invited to join in the celebration!

In Mrs. Lozano's class, students enjoyed playing the game, "Jeopardy" on Friday afternoons. The game reviewed the skills learned in class with a focus on math. The kids really got in to this fun activity!

Also, we had our second class auction which is held at the end of every month. Students used their "funny" money that they earned throughout the month by following directions, listening, following school rules, and respecting others. What a fun way to reward positive behavior!

## Student Author Spotlight

One hundred student authors were recognized at Hayes Elementary on March 20 at the Student Author Celebration. First and second grade students wrote and illustrated a page for their own class book. After writing and compiling the books here at Hayes, the books are sent to Student Treasures Publishing Company in Topeka, Kansas, where they are printed, color illustrated, and bound. Mrs. Jill Warga's students wrote articles on something they each knew a lot about; their book was titled "We All Have Schema!" Some of the topics the students knew a lot about were: dogs, football, ballet, and soldiers. Mrs. Michele Wilhelm's students wrote all about themselves, their hobbies and pets; their book was entitled "First Grade All-Stars."



The second grade students, taught by Mrs. Kourtney Jared and Mrs. Melba Lozano, wrote about their families telling about their brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents; their book being called "Our Families". The second grade students were so excited they are considering writing a second book this year! Parents and family members were welcomed by Daun Diedrich, Title I teacher. Students and parents shared and enjoyed the books, and were served cake and punch at the celebration. The student author program has been a success for many years at Hayes Elementary.

Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community



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## Ohio Tests

Just about everyone hears about testing in schools today. And, they hear that our students today take more tests than ever before. While it is true that the No Child Left Behind Law has increased state testing, the good news is that our teachers are working diligently with your children each day to ensure their learning is connected not only to the tests but also to the world around them. Fremont City Schools has updated elementary textbooks this year to help students make those connections. The new Social Studies, Science and Reading books are much better aligned to what our students need to know. The new textbooks will help teachers provide inspiration to learn with up-to-date charts, maps, facts and pictures of students and families.

Learning and school isn't exclusively about succeeding on the OAT, (Ohio Achievement Tests) but the tests are fast approaching. All students in grades 3-8 will take a Reading test on April 21 and Math April 23. Then fourth and seventh graders will have a Writing test, and fifth and eighth graders will complete the OAT's in Science and Social Studies. You'll see lots of smiles after testing is over, you can bet!

## History is Fun Math Olympics



To give students a visual understanding of several different themes during the antebellum period, Ms. Smith's 8<sup>th</sup> grade History class worked on constructing multiple-tiered timelines. The tiers of information allowed her students to make connections between the politics, economics, social changes, issues of states' rights and the presidencies during the antebellum era. Several comprehension strategies were used during this unit including a successful "jigsaw" activity which encouraged students to become experts in a particular theme.

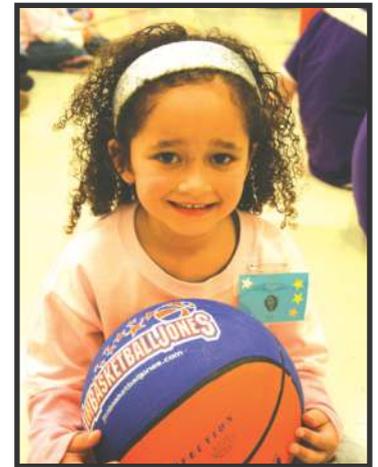
"The timelines look great. I look forward to reading the connections my students made," Ms. Smith said. Once their timeline was complete, the students' were to build connections between tiers, or themes. Students worked with partners, reviewed events on the various tiers, discussed possible connections, and then explained the connections in an extended response.



"This was an awesome activity! Leaders emerged in each group and everyone was actively engaged with their own contributions to the timelines," Smith concluded.

Math Olympics was a huge success at Stamm Elementary School this year! The goal for this week-long event was to unite the students, staff, and community of our building as well as create an excitement for our mathematics state standards.

We held our "Opening Ceremony" the Friday before the events were to take place. All of the students and staff wore their Stamm Math Olympics t-shirts while they watched the parade of grade level flags presented and the lighting of the torch. We had a guest speaker, Mark Gedeon, the head basketball coach and a teacher from Fremont Ross. The students also sang one of their songs from their music classes with Mrs. Wright; "We're all in this together." The following week consisted of a planned "Olympic" event for each day. Every day of the week was linked with a math state standard and a character trait. The students were to learn about the trait and be a model of it while doing their activity for that day. For example, Thursday's activities were based on the standard of Geometry and the character trait of Responsibility. The student's were to act responsibly by riding on the scooters in the gymnasium while completing their geometry activity.



All of the activities were organized by skill level per grade in order to make it fair. Every day the students had a chance to win a gold, silver, bronze, or participation sticker for that daily activity. At the end of the week their points from each day were tallied. This is how their final award was determined for the week.

One day we also had Aaron Opelt, a Ross graduate who is now a quarterback for the University of Toledo, speak with some of our students about the responsibilities of being a student athlete.

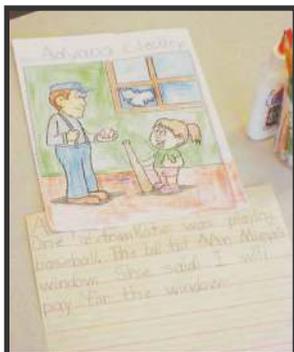
In order to bring our week to an end, we held a "Closing Ceremony." Everyone wore their t-shirts again, and Dr. McCauly was here to speak and to help with the presentation of awards. The gold medal winners received gold paw print Olympic medals (for Stamm Tigers), and the silver, bronze, and participation awards were ribbons. Math Olympics at Stamm Elementary was a great week for teamwork and unification in our building and everyone really seemed to have a great time!

## Learning is Everywhere at Otis

Evidence of learning abounds the walls, halls, and classrooms of Otis Elementary! There are reports in third grade, book talks in sixth grade, art work from fourth grade, and writing projects from first grade. We are proud of our learning that is taking place!

In Mrs. Conlon's first grade class, students are writing stories in their writing center. After completing a class brainstorm, students worked individually to put their ideas on paper. They worked through their ideas and checked with each other and the teacher to see that their ideas were in order. Students also considered correct spelling and punctuation. After crafting their work, students rewrote their story and added an illustration.

The picture shows a sample of Adyana's story. Her work demonstrates that first grade students are writing with complete ideas, age-appropriate spelling, and sequential thoughts. Mr. Myers, our school custodian, is simply pleased that the story is also fiction!



- As educators we realize the importance of sharing information with the parents of our students. In taking the next steps of this ongoing process both the middle and high school will open this parent access to you via web access. With this access you will be able to view your child's grades and attendance, and any other postings, such as homework, that our educators may have made available to you. A letter was sent home to all parents explaining the process to follow along with the website link, <https://parentaccess.noeca.org> Training sessions will be offered to parents showing how to access the information. If you did not receive the letter or are interested in future training sessions please contact either the high school or middle school offices.

## Atkinson's Blades of Glory

Second graders in Miss Randolph's class at Atkinson were recently rewarded with an ice-skating party at Fremont Rec Center. These second grade students received the reward for being the class that walked the most miles in the school's Walking Club.



Each week during the winter months, all Atkinson students can participate in Walking Club during recess. This program is organized by the building's PE teacher, Ms. Deb Miller. This year, Miss Randolph's class walked a combined total of **227.5 miles!!!** This was the highest amount for any class in the building.

On Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the second graders and their teacher bundled up and walked over to the ice rink for the reward party. For a majority of the class, it was their first attempt at ice-skating. What a fun experience!! We feel so fortunate to have this fabulous community center in Atkinson's neighborhood.



## Washington loves Mr. Draeger

**Washington Bulldogs Get Weekly Visits from BEARS.** No, not grizzlies, nor polar, not even the Golden Bears from a neighboring district, but the BEARS volunteer readers at Washington Elementary School. B.E.A.R.S. stands for Building Early Achievement in Reading Skills. Bill Draeger, pictured at right, does just that. By simply reading with a student, having the student read to him, and by asking just a few questions about the story, students are becoming better readers. Bill, who has been reading to Washington students for five years, said, "I see myself as an encourager and a motivator. These boys are real a joy. I just want them to know that they have the whole world ahead of them."



Thanks to individual community members like Mr. Draeger and the other BEARS volunteers, our younger readers are improving their skills word by word, minute by minute. It is just the boost many of these students need to really start enjoying reading. Not only do these community members read to students, they build solid relationships and model good reading skills which these students will use later in life. This is very apparent when you hear it from Austin Moyer, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, when he says, "I like it when Mr. Draeger reads and pays attention to me; he has great stories."

Without BEARS working with our Washington Bulldogs, these students would not only miss out on some quality reading time they would miss out on hanging out with someone who really cares. Mrs. Traczek, a Washington Language Arts teacher, said "Mr. Draeger gives unlimited time, patience and caring to our students. His endless knowledge and examples for learning are an exceptional gift he freely shares." As Aristotle was quoted "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." Mr. Draeger definitely sweetens education for those with whom he reads.

Thanks Mr. Draeger, and all of the BEARS volunteers. Thanks for reading, thanks for sharing, thanks for caring. Thanks for showing the Washington students what it looks like when a community cares about the learning and the lives of their children.

## Volunteers at Lutz



What a treasured gift Lutz School second graders receive each week from the Fremont Community! Every Tuesday morning students from the class of Jane Stotz are given the opportunity to share individual reading time with Mrs. Jean Seem and Mr. Ed Seils. These special senior volunteers review skills as well as share smiles with the children. They generously donate their time to help each child gain confidence in his/her reading ability.

Mrs. Seem and Mr. Seils have worked with students from Mrs. Stotz' classes for the past five years. Many children in the Lutz School family have benefited greatly from their dedication to the Fremont City Schools. Mrs. Seem and Mr. Seils have surely contributed to the academic and social development of the children's lives they have touched!

## '08-09 Freshmen Will Make History

Fremont Ross's upcoming freshmen class will be geared toward a more successful education pathway. In fact, two men are working hard to make the freshmen's first year at Ross go more smoothly. The transition between the Middle School and Ross can be rough, and they are trying to change that. Mr. Smith, the assistant principal, will coordinate next year's, first-ever, Freshmen Academy. Mr. Schell will remain the freshmen guidance counselor to continue helping out the freshmen at the new academy.

"It's very important for us to serve the students the best we can to keep them in school," remarked Mr. Smith.

The freshmen of 2008-2009 will be making history at Ross High School. They will make up the first small-learning community at Ross. It is considered a school within a school with three teams, which include four core teachers per team. This concept will help students' movement in the building, student achievement, and the interpersonal relationships between students and teachers.

Statistics show that freshmen have the highest number of absences, tardies, discipline problems, and failure rate. This new academy will make immense changes and rise above these current statistics. Each team will have a math, English, science, and social studies teacher. Freshmen will take these four classes within the academy (the current history wing), but will take their electives (band, choir, woods, etc.) with Ross's upperclassmen.

"It's about more than just grades; it's about building relationships between each other. A lot more positive things can happen for our school," commented Mr. Smith.

For any further information, contact Mr. Smith or Mr. Schell at Fremont Ross. There will also be a parent information session about the Freshman Academy in the Ross Little Theatre at 6:00 PM on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 2008 Women's Federation Art Winners

### Atkinson / Thorbahn

1. Lillian Abdo
2. Anaya Wise
3. Cayden Michael
4. Maggie Anquiano
5. Kajai Poe
6. Jurnee Price

### HM Delaney Kralik

### Croghan / Thorbahn

1. Cassidy Price
2. Miranda Palacios
3. Kaitlynn Kieffer
4. Leah Watson
5. Lilly Gardner
6. Janet Navarro

### HM Charlie Anstead

### HM Jose Zacarias

### HM Geraldo Bonavidez

### Lutz / Detzel

1. Alexander Huff
2. Victoria Kiser
3. Aquisha Johnson
4. Dejsha Pettiford
5. Shannon Tea
6. Emily Hamilton

### Hayes / Thorbahn

1. Garrett Bauer
2. Alyssa Farrier
3. Joshua Isaacs
4. Valerie Samson
5. Devante Daniels
6. Cassie Woelsgel

### Otis / Detzel

1. Sam Lewis
2. Elizabeth Haynes
3. Micaela Vargas
4. Julia Zucker
5. Marquis Crawford
6. Ashley Mitchell

### Stamm / Detzel & Warren

1. Alivia Gill-Glenn
2. Keevyn Skelton
3. Mariah Smith
4. Lance Lopez
5. Miranda Stevenson
6. Caleb Costilla

### Washington/Warren

1. Cole Below
  2. Kenneth Waggoner
  3. Nicholas Arnold
  4. Michelle Dyson-Petrucci
  5. Holly Fisher
  6. Alexander Forneris
- HM Matallyn Overmyer

### **FEA Winner**

Owen Smith 2nd Atkinson



## Learning and Liberty Foundation Students of the Month



From left to right: Bryce Moreno - Atkinson; Zachary Baker - Hayes (From January); Joanna Arguelles - Washington; Meagan Lilley - Lutz; Hannah Pena - Otis; Jamie Montgomery - Hayes

### SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE

**Due to inclement weather and school cancellations the LAST DAY of school for students will be June 10, 2008.**

**The LAST DAY of school for students attending Croghan Elementary or Fremont Middle School will be June 11, 2008.**

**\*Additional information will be included in the May building newsletters.**

## Letter from the Treasurer

Twice a year, the Fremont City School District is required to create and submit a Five-Year Forecast to the State of Ohio. This forecast is to show the estimated revenues and expenditures of the school district for the current year and the following four years, plus the actual revenues and expenditures of the prior three years. The State uses the forecast to determine whether the district is financially healthy. They say school districts are to use the forecast to determine when to look at a need for an operating levy.

School Districts throughout the State are the only government entity required to submit a five-year forecast. This may be because most school districts in the State rely on property taxes and State taxes to survive. However, Cities and Villages rely on income taxes and State taxes, but are not required to submit such a forecast. The State of Ohio doesn't even create a five year forecast. The State creates a two-year budget which changes continuously.

The requirement of the five-year forecast for the Fremont City School District provides additional information to our community. It allows the people of the community to see where revenues were generated and where monies were spent. It also gives a glimpse to where the school district sees future revenues and expenditures. If you would like to view the most recent five-year forecast of the Fremont City School District, visit our website at [www.fremont.k12.oh.us](http://www.fremont.k12.oh.us). Click on *Treasurer's Office* on the left side of the page, and then click on *Five-Year Forecast* on the left side of the Treasurer's Office page.



The Fremont Middle School team 8C recently sponsored a "Pennies for Patients" campaign that asked students to raid their piggy banks and their parents' ash trays for spare change for cancer research. Each team had a goal of \$120 dollars with a building goal of \$820. To help encourage the flow of money for the charity, the Principal,

Assistant Principal, and the Dean of Students have agreed to be duct-taped to the wall and silly-stringed if the goal is met. Currently we have collected \$302. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact the Fremont Middle School office, and we will gladly take your donation.

## From the desk of Dr. McCaudy

Dear Fremont Community,

Quality teaching, high expectations and a challenging curriculum are all key ingredients in a recipe for success for our Fremont students. By implementing the strategies outlined in the district's Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan, the district continues to make progress toward meeting its goal of becoming an "Excellent" academic school district as defined by the Ohio Department of Education.

In addition to improving our academic program, the district utilizes the permanent improvement dollars provided by the commitment of Fremont's voters for the purpose of improving facilities for our students. This year the district has been collaborating with the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission on the development of a facilities master plan for Fremont City Schools. The district is not eligible for state funding for approximately five years, but the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission requires districts to complete this cost-free master plan process many years prior to becoming eligible for state funding.

However, a few months ago the district applied for an "Exceptional Needs Program" with the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission. The Exceptional Needs Program allows districts to apply for state funding for a specific building that requires immediate attention. After a careful analysis of all of the district's facilities, it was determined that Fremont Middle School is in the poorest condition. The Ohio School Facilities Commission has responded requesting that the district selects an architectural firm that can assist the Commission with the middle school's Facility Assessment Report and complete some preliminary design drawings.

The Ohio School Facilities Commission will notify the district in May regarding the status of the Exceptional Needs Program application. As soon as the district receives any response from the state, I will provide an update to the Fremont community. Of course, the Board of Education and I will keep the community regularly informed about all of our work with the OSFC. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding any of our educational or operational initiatives. Thank you for your continued support in making Fremont City Schools a great place for our students!

Sincerely,

Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent of Fremont City Schools