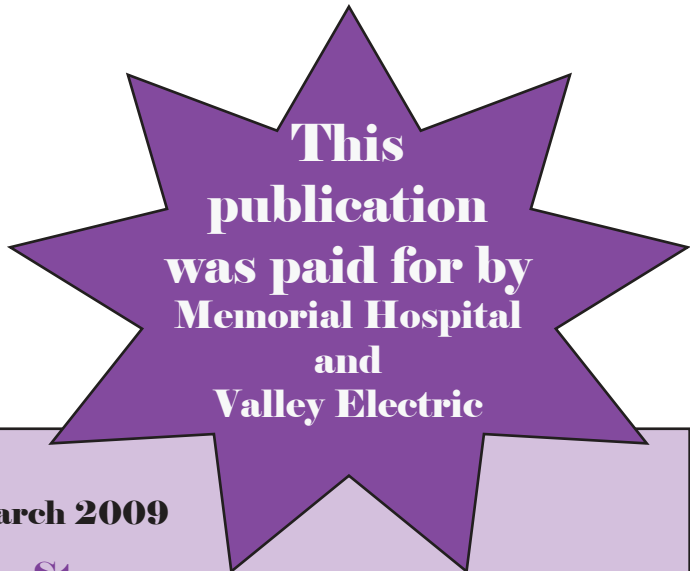


# Fremont City Schools

**Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community**



**March 2009**

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**Alumni and Friends Information:**

**All Ross graduates will be receiving a postcard soon. Please take a few minutes to call the alumni hotline and update your information for our new directory.**

**Check out the March video of The Fremont Focus at [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net)**

## Hayes gets Lesson in Energy



Sixth graders at Hayes are learning how to “Be E<sup>3</sup> Smart”, in an “Energy Efficiency Education” pilot program sponsored by the Ohio Energy Project (OEP) and funded by American Electric Power (AEP-Ohio). Be E<sup>3</sup> Smart provides energy related lessons and classroom materials that are correlated to the National Science Education Content standards and the Ohio Department of Education Science Standards.

Be E<sup>3</sup> Smart features a “school to home” model. In this program, the students learn about energy at school and then have the opportunity to apply their knowl-

edge at home by putting into action energy conservation lessons with their parents or guardians. Students receive items designed to help reduce electricity and fuel use at home. Once installed, these energy conservation measures give the students and their families the opportunity to see how low-cost and no-cost measures can make a substantial difference in lowering energy use. Students do additional research on their home’s energy use that shows that their efforts to save energy do make a difference.

Each student has received a kit that contains the energy saving items. After each lesson, students take home the appropriate items to install or use for testing. Items in the kit include: 4 compact fluorescent lightbulbs, an LED nightlight, a self-stick door sweep, a low-flow massage showerhead, a flow meter bag, a hot water gauge, a thermostat temperature guide, a refrigerator thermometer, a set of switch/outlet gaskets, a roll of weather-stripping, and a furnace filter whistle. Student comments heard after opening the kits included, “This is awesome!”, “I feel honored!”, and “I like this lesson already, and I haven’t even tried it at home yet!”

Thanks, OEP and AEP-Ohio for this opportunity!

## Campus Wear

On March 2, 2009, the FCS Board of Education approved a campus-wear policy for middle school students to be effective at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Letters were mailed to all parents of current 6th and 7th grade students regarding the campus-wear guidelines. The campus wear guidelines are also available in all elementary and middle school building and on the district’s website: [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net)

**Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community**

## Snow Inspired Second Graders

Second graders in Mrs. Villarreal's class at Lutz Elementary have been busy celebrating snow while practicing many academic standards as well! Beautiful pictures of snowflake symmetry were created and colorfully displayed for all to enjoy. The students also wrote individual stories about their favorite snow time activities and then shared them with friends. The class did a whole group writing on how to build a snowman and then worked in teams to make the different parts of the snowman.

The groups then added their part to a large paper to build our paper snowman that we can keep inside even after the snow melts! Students also enjoyed learning about the life of Wilson Bentley, better known as "Snowflake Bentley", while making a timeline of his life. The snow of winter has certainly been inspiring!



## 100 Days Celebrated at Atkinson



How many is 100? To the average adult, 100 may be the number of days left before summer arrives or the number of times they've asked their kids to keep their feet off the furniture.

But what is the number 100 in the eyes of a child? Most kids would say that 100 is just a big number, unless perhaps that child is a first grader at Atkinson Elementary School.

On February 19th in a special assembly to honor the 100 Days



Celebration, students invited family members to participate in math activities that emphasized the 100 day of school. The gym was decorated with balloon and streamer as parents walked in geared up to join in the festivities. Mrs. Buckley, Ms. Wilson and Mrs. Yoder planned activities such as counting forward and backward on a number grid, rolling dice and adding the numbers until they reach one hundred and everyone's favorite counting 10 groups of snacks to make one hundred. These were only a few activities that were stationed around the gym. The parents and their child would rotate about every fifteen minutes to participate in a different activity. Most every student was represented by a parent or relative. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the 100th day of school.

## Washington is a "StoryTown"



Mrs. Traczek and one of her fourth grade language art groups sit down for a comfortable reading session. At Washington Elementary School, the fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes work with Mrs. Traczek in leveled reading groups. It is a major component of the StoryTown Reading curriculum purchased by the district last year. Mrs. Traczek said that the continuity of the vocabulary is consistent throughout all of the leveled readers and within the StoryTown text. It creates a class lesson with similar goals although the reading selections may vary in difficulty. Mrs. Traczek also mentioned that students in tutoring session use the StoryTown materials and activities too. The tutoring sessions are designed to assist students in reaching their

academic grade level goals. What do the kids think? Well, Chanc Wyss, a fourth grader in Mrs. Traczek's class said that he prefers the group over reading alone and it also allows him to practice his reading while he listens to others read aloud. The groups are arranged to be flexible according to the particular skills the students are working on in a particular week. Keep up the hard work kids.

## Curriculum Corner

Students and teachers at Fremont Ross High School have been feeling the "crunch" leading up to the big test. The BIG TEST being the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). It's finally here! The OGT comes in five parts with each test taking up to 2 ½ hours. Testing begins on March 16 with one test per day. It's the state who determines the order that the tests are to be given: Reading, Math, Writing, Science and Social Studies. Though make-ups are given through the following week, everyone agrees that taking the test on the first day is best practice when possible.

If you are interested in seeing just what the OGT is like, check out this website <http://portal.success-ode-state-oh-us.info/> where you can answer questions on former tests and find out *if you're as smart as a tenth grader.*



## Gentlemen Jets



Young Gentlemen of Croghan Elementary have been given an opportunity to join a club that will help them to better themselves by learning the proper etiquettes of everyday life. They are learning how to shake hands properly, the importance of making eye contact when talking to someone and even how to groom themselves appropriately. The program has asked these young men to become more involved in school and within their community. Examples of this could be: helping around the house or helping out nearby neighbors, and maybe even becoming involved

in the student council.

These boys became a part of this program by submitting a one page essay on why they wanted to join "The Jets' Gents" and also through a small recommendation of teacher or principal.

The program is asking that all young men who have decided to become part of such exciting program to follow certain guidelines, such as behaving in a well-mannered fashion at all times. The boys are meeting each week and are learning to tie their ties and proper dress attire.

## Building Character



First grade students enjoyed building some CHARACTER in their Physical Education class with Mrs. Michelle Morris. Students were engaged in a game of Paddles and Balloons. While playing this interactive game, students needed to work together, talk kindly to each other, and encourage each other to pass the balloon back and forth. Putting this many skills together at once is a challenge for our students-but they did it!

PE classes are currently concentrating much of their time on building their jump rope skills and endurance. They are working to meet the different levels and surpass their recent best. Encouraging each other to do their best is a daily part of PE. The students love to build their character skills while they build their physical skills as well!

## "Purple Power" to the People

Character education is an important component of everyday learning at Fremont Middle School, and recognizing those who exhibit strong character assets every day is a vital tool in ensuring that every child can learn in a respectful, caring environment. The Purple Power Award recognizes students who make others feel welcome and accepted, who are kind, respectful and willing to help others, and who do things without being asked. Congratulations Purple Power winners! We all appreciate you!

Students of Team 7A chose four students who exhibit these qualities daily for the month of January. Winners are:



**David Detwiler**

"Every time someone is being mean, he tells that person to be nice and asks why they are making fun of that person," wrote one student, complimenting David's daily behavior. Another wrote, "David is hardworking and is a very good friend to have."



**Mike Muffler**

"When I needed someone to help me, Mike said OK," wrote one voter. "He's nice to people. He's friendly. He helps people if he needs it. He's funny," said another. Other comments included, "He's able to make fun of himself and has good sense of humor." "He makes me laugh."



**Kendra Shelley**

According to her classmates, Kendra "does the work she's asked to do. She helps students if they don't know the answer to a question." "She comforts me when I need her. She does all her work. She is very good at things and pays attention in class."



**Tara Winters**

"Tara is nice to everyone, and is kind and respectful," one student said. Others noted, "She lets people borrow books," "She gets all her work done," and "She is a nice person and deserves to have this award because she fits all the requirements."

## Stamm Wax Museum

On Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February the community was invited to see the Stamm Wax Museum. Parents, friends and neighbors as well as fellow students crowded into Stamm Elementary School's gymnasium to see historical African American "Wax" figures and hear their life stories. From Cassius Clay to George Washington Carver to Althea Gibson to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, visitors heard of childhood tragedy, overcoming racism and successes against all odds. Mrs. Almroth, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts teacher at Stamm, taught her students the elements of a thorough research project and of a well designed oral presentation. With February designated as the National Black History month, Mrs. Almroth had the fifth grade students select a Famous African American to be the subject of this very comprehensive project. During the afternoon of the Wax Museum students were assessed on their memorization of the information, prompt, presentation and costume. Although it is a great way for the community to see the kids in action it serves so many other purposes. The repetition of the presentations reinforces student concrete knowledge of a particular famous American. It also forces students to do solid research and formulate a presentation chronology. For a few students it allows them a stage to showcase their talents and progress of over their time at Stamm School. More than just a few tears were shed as adults, both parents and teachers saw students speak in front of complete strangers when just a few years ago, they were so incredibly shy that simply getting them to say hello was nothing short of a miracle. Special guest, Fremont City School Board Member, Marc Glotzbecker said that it was really cool. Mr. Arnold, Stamm's Assistant Principal agrees. A huge "Thank You" goes to Mrs. Almroth, Mr. Barbour, all the fifth grade students, the Community for supporting this truly awesome event. If you see a fifth grade students from Stamm ask them who they were for the Wax Museum. I bet you get an earful.



## Ross Helps Out Pantry

By Jessica Clinebell  
Ross High journalism student

It is time for the local can food drive which helps local food pantries! The Key Club and advisor Mrs. Morehart decided to have the drive in February. It is usually during Christmas time, but there was just so much going on this year that it was hard to organize it. They did not have anything going on in February, and they knew there is always a need for canned goods.

The drive lasted from February 17<sup>th</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Morehart said that she did not want to drag it out too long because people end up forgetting about it.

The Key Club decided to give out prizes to the Ross High School class that collected the most canned good. The first place winner gets a Dairy Queen ice cream cake! Second place gets a Papa Murphy's pizza and third place will receive doughnuts!

The Fremont Ross Swimmers also brought in food which helped out a lot. Mrs. Morehart said, "I am thankful for everything we could get."



## From the desk of Superintendent Dr. McCaudy

Dear Fremont Community,

Many community members and district personnel have been working diligently on the FMS project for the past several months. I extend my sincere appreciation to all of the committee members for their commitment to design a cost efficient, educationally sound middle school. Please visit our website at [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net) for a complete list of all the committees and committee meeting minutes. The list below includes a brief summary of the work completed by the FMS project committees this past month:

- The Program of Requirements (POR) Committee completed their work by determining the number and size of classrooms, office areas, gymnasium and other educational space for the new middle school. The POR document was sent to the Ohio School Facilities Commission for approval.
- The HVAC Systems Committee is in the process of selecting a heating/cooling system for the new building. The chilled beam system is currently the committee's first consideration. Although the chilled beam system is relatively high in price to install (more than traditional HVAC systems), the system's longevity is high and maintenance/operating costs are considered very low.
- The Design Team is currently analyzing issues that affect the design of the new building and exploring classroom organizational options. This committee has been meeting on a weekly basis.

Members from all committees continue to analyze factors that will help determine the site location of the new middle school. The land west of the high school and the area north of the high school (next to The Tech Center) are two potential sites for the middle school. Several factors that may determine the new middle school site are as follows:

- Soil bearing capacity (soil borings) to determine the structural capacity and potential costs of the building.
- Traffic circulation (car drop-off/pick-up, bus area, service vehicles) and how that can interface with the high school and Vanguard traffic circulation.
- Pedestrian access between the high school, Vanguard and new middle school.
- Being a good neighbor in the neighborhood.
- Utility tie in capacity, location and cost.

A traffic study sub-committee has been developed for the purpose of studying some of the aforementioned considerations.

Thank you for all of your assistance with our FMS project and I look forward to sharing additional updates with you as we progress with our project.

Sincerely, *Traci McCaudy*

