

# Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community



## Acorns to Oaks and Students to Community Members



Although there seems to be a dwindling in celebration of this nationally recognized day, the Village of Lindsey and Washington School celebrate it as a community event. Songs will be sung, poems will be recited and the importance of Arbor Day will be shared.

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872, it is celebrated on the last Friday in April. (<http://www.arborday.org/arborday/history.cfm>) For more information, activities, and materials, make your way to the aforementioned website.

Please come and join the Washington staff and students as we, along with the Village of Lindsey, do our best to celebrate Arbor Day. This year the celebration will take place on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. A tree will be planted in the Wendelle Miller Park to commemorate the day. Contact Washington School 419-665-2327 for the precise location and the time of the tree planting.

As you can see from last year's picture, students and community members joined in to plant a tree. Paige Risch and Mrs. Barb Opelt worked together to make sure this young sapling has everything it needs to not only beautify the walking path, but also provide some much needed shade to those who walk the trail on the hot Summer days.

## Eat Pizza. Win Scholarships. Be Happy!

Like pizza? Need college scholarships? Sandusky County has just what students are looking for! On April 25<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the third annual Best of Sandusky County Pizza Challenge will take place. It will be at Jon's Dream Barn at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds.

This event is to raise money for high school student scholarships. All the schools in Sandusky County will receive one scholarship for a graduating senior. The schools in Sandusky County include: Fremont Ross, St. Joseph Central Catholic, Gibsonburg, Woodmore, Old Fort, Lakota, Clyde, Margareta, Bellevue, and Bettsville. Students must apply at their school to qualify for the scholarship. It will be based off of student's qualifications.

Last year, the scholarship amount was \$500, but it all depends on the money that is raised. Money will be raised from ticket sales and sponsorship. Only 875 tickets will be available because they are limited. Tickets purchased in advanced will be \$7 and tickets at the door will be \$9.

Seven pizza vendors are competing in this year's challenge. They are: The Depot, A.J.'s Heavenly Pizza, Domino's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Pisanello's Pizza, DC's Pizza Pies and Little Caesar's. There will be four awards for the top pizza venues. Some of these awards will be voted on by the public and yet others will be based of appointed judges.

To get tickets, go to the Chamber of Commerce in Fremont. Tickets are also available at The Old Fort Bank, First Financial Bank in Clyde, Clyde-Findlay Area Credit Union, The Depot, Pisanello's Pizza, and DC's Pizza Pies.

By Ross High student-journalist  
Ben Horne

### NAVIGATING THE TEENAGE YEARS: INTERNET SAFETY & CYBER BULLYING

The next *Navigating the Teenage Years* program will take place on April 29th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Fremont Middle School. Our guest speaker, Sheriff Kyle Overmyer, plans to discuss internet safety and cyber bullying. Please join us for this very informative meeting!

## Student Dress Code Policy



All FCS families should have received via postal mail information regarding the new Student Dress Code Policy for the 2010-2011 school year. Please visit the district's web site and/or call 419.334.5432 to receive a copy of this policy.

## Strong Academics

Otis Enriches with Chess...Pg. 2

Team 7-1 Prepares for OAA...Pg. 2

Curriculum Corner..Pg. 2

## Strong Character

Stamm 5th Graders are Characters....Pg. 3

Hayes Uses Small Groups...Pg. 3

UT Scholarly Savings Program...Pg. 3

## Strong Community

Jar Wars at Lutz....Pg. 4

Community Helpers at Atkinson...Pg. 4

Students-of-the-Month...Pg. 4

## Alumni News

Please visit our school website at [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net) to register for our new Online Community alumni database. Click on the alumni tab and the register link, once you are registered you will have access to update your online directory profile, view your personalized MyPage area including a sampling of recent class notes posted, and to add your own class/reunion notes.

While registering you will also have the opportunity to update your information with clubs/athletics you were involved in while at Ross. We now have a Facebook page, please join us.

If you have any reunion information you would like posted on the district website, please email us at [alumni@fremont.k12.oh.us](mailto:alumni@fremont.k12.oh.us)



Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

## Otis Enriches with Chess



Otis Elementary has been enriching the academic skills of students through the use of a new Chess Club. Beginning in January Otis began offering an exciting opportunity for students. Approximately 25 students have joined Chess Club and stayed after school to learn the rules of the game and strategically play against each other. Students involved say that they love learning a new game!

## Team 7-1 Preparing for OAA Testing



Team 7-1 has been working diligently throughout the year on their academics, and soon it will be time to “show what they know” on the upcoming State standardized tests, the OAAs! This year, as 7<sup>th</sup> graders, they will be required to take the Reading and Math OAA with the rest of the State on April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have all been studying, reviewing, and preparing in every way to tackle these tests, and our students are almost ready. Our teachers have worked endlessly to provide students with course work that is aligned with the State content standards, and also by reviewing other skills needed to succeed on the OAAs. Within the next several weeks, our team will be

reviewing material that will be on the test, and revisiting test taking strategies that can help them succeed. We will also be incorporating incentives and rewards to keep our students motivated and focused. Testing week is almost here, and when it arrives, Team 7-1 will be ready for the 2010 OAAs!

## Authors at Croghan



Whoever would have thought that Mrs. Nossaman’s first graders at Croghan Elementary School would be famous authors and illustrators of their very own book, *If You Give a Bunny a Brownie*? As a part of a language arts unit, students participated in a week-long author’s study about Laura Numeroff, who is well-known for her book, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and many others too. Each day, Miss Buford, Mrs. Nossaman’s student teacher, read the first graders a different Laura Numeroff story. Throughout the week, the students discussed that these books are called circle stories, which are stories that begin and end with the same thing or in the same place. Students also discussed the importance of authors and illustrators. That discussion prepared the first graders to be authors and illustrators of their own book later that week.

To correspond with the focus skill in our Story Town reading series, the class learned about cause and effect. Then they applied this skill when they created their own class book. By the end of the week, these first graders understood that story events happen for a reason. Throughout the reading of the books, students were able to answer the questions, “What happened?” and “Why did it happen?” to help them better understand the circle of events in the stories.

The first two days of the unit were spent on introducing the author and the idea of a circle story and by the third day of the unit, the class began their rough draft of their very own class book. Miss Buford led the class in writing the rough draft by helping students vote on an animal and a desired food. That same day they began the writing process by brainstorming ideas and Miss Buford wrote down the ideas on large chart paper. The next day, Miss Buford brought in the book, ten pages long, with just words and no pictures. For the last two days of the author’s study, the students acted as if they were Felicia Bond, the illustrator of the infamous, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* series. The class discussed the importance of drawing the main character with the same exact details on every page, such as eye color, ear color, and accessories. The students collaborated with each other to carefully illustrate their pages with a partner. The result was a beautiful class book!

The first graders ended their exciting week-long events by reading Numeroff’s *If You Give a Pig a Party* and had a celebration of their own with a special treat. They also shared their special story with their sixth grade buddies and several other classes in the building. Mrs. Nossaman’s class had a fabulous time learning about how to be authors and illustrators! Furthermore, they were delighted to share their publication with others!

## Curriculum Corner

Kindergarten registration begins in late April and continues during May. If a child will be 5 years old on or before August 1, he or she is eligible to start Kindergarten during the 2010-2011 school year.

At the time of registration, parents must bring a copy of the child’s birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency and any custody papers, if applicable. All Kindergarten children are required to have the varicella (chicken pox) immunization prior to entering school in the fall.

Parents should call their school attendance area for an appointment for screening that both parent and child attend. Fremont City Schools uses an interactive play-based model for screening. Please plan for 1 ½ hours. There will be limited evening hours available for those who cannot attend during the daytime. If you have any questions please call the Office of Curriculum at 419-334-5441.

The schedule is as follows:

Date	School	Times	Phone
April 29 and 30	Otis	9:00 A.M./10:30 A.M./ 1:30 P.M	419-332-8964
May 3 and 4	Hayes	9:00 A.M./10:30 A.M./ 1:30 P.M	419-332-6371
May 5 and 6	Lutz	9:00 A.M./10:30 A.M./ 1:30 P.M	419-332-0091
May 6 and 7	Atkinson	9:00 A.M./10:30 A.M./ 1:30 P.M	419-332-5361
May 10 and 11	Croghan	9:00 A.M./10:30 A.M./ 1:30 P.M	419-332-1511
May 12 and 13	Stamm	9:00 A.M./10:30 A.M./ 1:30 P.M	419-332-5538
May 18 and 19	Washington	9:00 A.M./10:30 A.M./ 1:30 P.M	419-665-2327

## The University of Toledo Scholarly Savings Program

Fremont City Schools is participating in The University of Toledo's Scholarly Savings Program. Beginning with our current (2009-2010) grade 8 students, The University of Toledo will make annual deposits of \$2,000 into individual student scholarship accounts for a maximum of five years for eligible students. Upon graduation from high school, eligible students may have accumulated a maximum of \$10,000 in the scholarly savings account to be utilized toward The University of Toledo tuition. Scholarship funds will be disbursed in annual increments of \$2,500 for each of four years in attendance at The University of Toledo. In order to receive these tuition monies students must meet the following eligibility requirements each year:

- Grade Point Average: Minimum of 3.0
- Discipline: No out-of-school suspensions, court probation, expulsions or placement in JDC.
- Attendance: No more than five unexcused absences per semester or three unexcused tardies per semester.

The University of Toledo requirements for scholarly savings account disbursement include:

- The student must meet requirements for regular admission to UT including satisfaction of the academic core curriculum requirements including:
  - 4 years English
  - 3 years math
  - 3 years science
  - 3 years social science
  - ACT or SAT exam including writing segment

- The student must maintain an annual UT GPA of 3.0 and complete a minimum of 30 credits annually.

This is a wonderful partnership with The University of Toledo and an exciting opportunity for our students. For additional information visit the district's web site @ [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net).

## Jar Wars at Lutz



For the past five years at Lutz Elementary School, we have participated in Jar Wars. Jar Wars is a way to help raise money for research for Cystic Fibrosis. CF is an inherited disease that affects the respiratory and digestive systems of 30,000 children and adults in the United States. In addition, more than 10 million Americans are unknowing, symptom less carriers of the defective

CF gene. The defective CF gene causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus, which accumulates in the lungs and intestines. This leads to malnutrition, chronic lung infections, and breathing problems. Our own, Abby Havice, a fifth grader, has this disease. To help combat this disease, each class at Lutz Elementary School fills their classroom jars with change. This year, alone, Lutz students and staff collected \$872.93 making a five year total of \$5355.27. This year, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students collected the most money and 4<sup>th</sup> grade came in a close second. Thanks to all the Lutz participants who helped to make a difference.

## Thank you to FPD

A BIG thank you goes out to Sgt. Roger Oddo, the Fremont Police Department and the Dare Program for donating pencils to the Fremont Middle School. The 600 pencils are being used for the students to take their Ohio Achievement Assessments. The testing will take place the last two weeks in April. Thank you again, Sgt. Oddo!

## Stamm Fifth Graders "Stepping Into Character"

Every year at Stamm Elementary, the fifth graders have the opportunity to "walk in someone else's shoes" as they choose a famous African American to study and portray in a wax museum. After almost two months of preparation, the students stepped into character on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for Stamm students, parents, and community members. This project not only takes the students through the research and writing process, but allows them to learn about the life characteristics and qualities that made their person a positive influence on American history.

Our project began with a visit to Birchard Public Library where they were taught research skills and tips for using the library and its website. The students learned about plagiarism, how to use index cards for note-taking, and how to outline their information for their rough drafts. We also discussed the importance of revising and editing before writing the final draft as a biography of their person.

Many of the students showed an improvement in work ethic as they worked to meet the deadlines given for the writing process. Next, the students had to "step" into

character and craft a speech from first person point of view to present at the museum. The students built confidence and self-esteem as they took notes and then memorized their speech to practice in front of the class before taking on their new personality on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. As fifth graders, they have had an opportunity to experience public speaking and feel successful in their new "shoes". Afterwards, the students were beaming as they stepped out of character and "became" themselves again.

By Nichole Almroth



## Small Group Intervention

Small intervention groups are utilized at Hayes Elementary in order to intervene early and give students immediate and necessary intervention in language arts. Hayes has a Schoolwide Title I program allowing any of the students to receive Title I intervention. Students are evaluated using a variety of tests from the current reading series, as well as the OAA test, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Language test throughout the year to help determine which students need intervention. The Title teachers use the Strategic Intervention portion of the reading series during the small group or one-on-one sessions, and sometimes provide in-class intervention during teacher-directed whole class lessons. Intervention progress is monitored and documented so that students move in and out of the focused groups when adequate progress is made. Currently students in kindergarten through third grade receive Title I intervention. Hopefully through these measures we will be producing not only proficient readers, but children who appreciate literature and LOVE to read!



## Money Matters

This past February the County Treasurer sent out property tax bills and asked you to make a payment based upon the value of your property in order to support your public agencies.

Taxes collected are distributed to the County and its different departments, the City/Village/ or Township, the School District and the Vocational School. Property tax collections made up 31% of the Fremont City School District total revenue for the last school year.

Taxes are determined by voted levies and the total value of property of each taxing district. A taxing district is an area which encompasses the same County, City/Village or Township, School District and Vocational School. The Fremont City School District consists of eight different taxing districts. These are Fremont City, Lindsey Village, parts of Ballville, Green Creek Township, Sandusky Township, Riley Township, Rice Township and Washington Township. As property valuation grows in each taxing district, the voted levy is reduced to a rate on your tax bill known as the Effective Tax Rate. It is this rate that is the basis for the distribution of your taxes.

Your property tax bill shows a Tax Distribution to all the taxing agencies in your taxing district. You may notice a larger distribution of your taxes goes to the school district as opposed to any of the other taxing entities. The reason the school district receives a larger portion is the reliance on the property tax to maintain operations. Cities and Villages rely on income taxes and Counties rely on sales taxes as their main source of operating income.

Finally, the property tax bill shows 35% Taxable Value. This is the value of your property by which taxes are based. All property tax levies list millage per one dollar per tax value and per hundred dollars of tax value. If you want to determine what the county auditor has on his books for the value of your property, divide the total taxable value by .35. An example is:

$$\text{Total Taxable Value} / .35 = \text{Market Value}$$

$$53,940 / .35 = 154,114$$

The Fremont City School District is truly grateful to all our property owners for their help in the support of our operations.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
FREMONT CITY SCHOOLS**

Invites you to join us for the groundbreaking ceremony of the new

**FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
1250 NORTH STREET, FREMONT, OH



THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010 AT 1:00 PM  
RSVP TO 419-334-5427

**GROUND BREAKING**

## Community Helpers at Atkinson



On Wednesday, March 24th, the kindergarten classes at Atkinson Elementary expanded their study of communities by having a grade level Community Helper Fair. Each student designed his/her own poster about a community helper of his/her choice. The posters answered the questions Who?, What?, Where? and How? about their community helper. Community helpers ranged from fire fighters to doctors

and police officers to county employees. The students shared their posters with their classmates and some students even dressed in attire that suited their community helper. Community Helper Fair was a fun learning experience for all of our kindergarten students!

We will culminate our study of communities with a Career Day on Thursday, April 1st. On this day, Mark Fisher, Sheriff, and Jeremy McMullen, firefighter, will join us to talk about their careers and their importance to our community. We can't wait!

## Thank You Volunteers

The week of April 18-24 is the time to say thank you to all volunteers. Our volunteers are ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve our schools. Thank you goes out to all our volunteers for their time and dedication which makes a real difference in the lives of our students.

## Learning and Liberty Foundation

March Students of the Month are pictured left to right:  
Lutz - Morgan Hawk  
Otis - Samantha Smith  
Washington - Logan Lamalie  
Croghan - Logan Laurer  
Hayes - Cierra Gonzales  
Atkinson - Cheyenne Kanyuh (Not pictured)  
Stamm - Mariah Smith  
(Not pictured)



### PARENT UPDATE: NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

One dose of Tdap or Td vaccine must be administered prior to entry into 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2010-2011 school year. This new immunization is for all students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2010-2011 school year. Parents and guardians of current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive a letter from their school nurse explaining this in more detail. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse of the elementary building your child attends.

### Mission Statement:

**The mission of Fremont City Schools is to develop well-educated, life-long learners prepared to be responsible, productive and respectful members of their communities.**

### District Goals:

- \*Increase Student Achievement
- \*Close Socio-Economic, Ethnic and Disability Gaps in Student Achievement
- \*Build Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

**The Fremont City School District will not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its educational programs or activities for any reason, including on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, military status, sexual orientation or ancestry. Additionally, it will not discriminate in its employment policies nor practices.**