

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

February
2011

Fremont Middle School: Planning for the Mid-Year Move



Above: FMS Staff and Dr. McCaudy plan for the move during the Professional Development Day on January 19th.

The new Fremont Middle School will be ready for occupancy in less than one year from today. Students in grades 6-8 will move to the new building once it is completed. The district has been carefully planning for this mid-year move to ensure that the children are comfortable with their new environment and that the educational process is not interrupted. To help with the planning, a Fremont Middle School Transition Plan was developed last summer. This plan outlines all of the work that needs to be completed before moving. A Fremont Middle School Transition Committee comprised of teachers, administrators and support staff meets on a regular basis for the purpose of monitoring the work within the plan.

Moving information will be shared with parents and students throughout the 2011 calendar year. Everyone is very excited about the new Fremont Middle School and about the sixth graders joining the middle school learning community.

If you would like additional information about the construction phase of the building project or our FMS Transition Plan, please feel free to visit our web site at www.fremontschools.net.

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Alumni News



Please Help! Soon we will be sending out our first official alumni newsletter via email. We need your help to gather reunion information and/or pictures of reunions that have taken place this past summer. We are additionally looking for information about notable graduates or graduates who are making a difference in today's world. If you would like to

share this information in our newsletter, please email it to alumni@fremont.k12.oh.us

Also, please don't forget to join us on Facebook and register on www.fremontschools.net, so you can receive our upcoming newsletter.

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

Attention Parents: Need Free Money for College?

If you have a child in Fremont City Schools who is currently in grade 8, then please continue reading. Your child can receive “free money” toward a college education through the University of Toledo Scholarly Savings Account Program. Some highlights to qualify are listed below:

- Minimum of 3.0 Grade Point Average
- Good Attendance and Discipline Records

Eligible students can bank \$2000 into an individual account through the UT Program starting in grade 8 up to a maximum of five years or a total of \$10,000. Upon graduation from high school they can access these funds toward the cost of tuition at the University of Toledo. This is a great opportunity for ALL students who are eligible.

To learn more details about eligibility or other information about this program, please contact your child’s guidance counselor, visit the UT Scholarly Savings Account website at www.utoledo.edu/admission/ssa/, or visit the FCS website at www.fremontschools.net and click on the UT SCHOLARLY SAVINGS button on the left.

THE SECOND STEP PROGRAM: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Second Step Program is designed to build the capacity of each student to maximize their unique strengths and abilities. These social and emotional “asset” skills are taught to help children succeed in school and later in life. The lessons are designed to fit the appropriate developmental stages of children from Preschool through Grade 8 and prepare them for the relationship issues they face each day.

FCS is implementing this program this year. Preschool students participate in a variety of structured lessons as they experience school for the first time. The kindergarten classes across the district then receive weekly lessons within their classes from the guidance counselors. The goal is to reach students early and reduce the amount of bullying incidents and other issues that have a negative impact that become evident in later years.

For children in Grades 1 – 6, students receive instruction through scheduled in-class lessons and small groups based on the needs of each specific building. Resources are also available for students in Grade 7 and Grade 8. Those materials are currently used to support existing efforts to address bullying and social networking.

The goal is to start early, build up our students and prepare them to successfully navigate the very fast-paced and pressure-filled social world they live in. Working together, parents and schools can provide the children with a framework to do this well. For more information, please contact the guidance counselor at your child’s school.

Stamm-4th Grade Science Projects



The 4th grade students at Stamm Elementary School have been learning all about the different types of landforms in the world. They began their quest by researching and working in small groups. Each group was assigned a specific landform to learn all about. After extensive research, the groups made up presentations to teach their peers about the landform that was assigned to them. The students were very enthusiastic and creative with their presentation and teaching styles. After learning from one another, the students were assigned the task of making a model

of the landform of their choice. The models were fantastic! They worked very hard and can’t wait for the next science project. All 68 students completed the model project with great success!

Hayes 4th Graders Learn about Weather



Do you know the parts of the water cycle? Can you use the clouds to help you predict the weather? Mrs. Marcha’s fourth grade science students at Hayes Elementary can tell you all about it. I think we have some future meteorologists in the making!

They recently made clouds in jars to learn the parts of the water cycle. The experiment also tested to see if more clouds would form over warm water or

over cold water. “We put warm water in one jar and cold water in the other jar,” said Jayleigh Sanchez. “They both made clouds, but the warm water jar made a bigger cloud,” said Isaak Parker. Students also learned that is the reason hurricane season is in late summer when the ocean water is warm and can evaporate quickly. Water was placed in the jars and then they were sealed with foil. Some of the water evaporated making a gas called water vapor in the air inside the jar. “Then we put an ice cube on top of the foil because when water vapor gets cold it condenses,” said Carla Dixon. The condensed water made a cloud inside the foil lid.

Now the students are using cloud finders they made to keep track of the weather for a week. They will learn how to identify clouds and to predict the weather based on the types of clouds they see in the sky.

Students shown in the picture above: Dreveon Sanchez, Ailsa Smith, Carla Dixon, Franklin Scott

Curriculum Corner Life Long Learning at Fremont City Schools

Fremont teachers and staff opened books, logged on to computers and participated in hands-on learning opportunities during the January Professional Development Day.

Many teachers participated in district-wide training with Data Director, a student assessment technology application. Data Director allows teachers to monitor and track student progress and analyze curriculum and instructional decisions. Elementary math teachers received additional training in enVision Math, the new elementary math program.

Fremont Middle School and 6th grade teachers had the opportunity to work together as they continue to prepare for a smooth transition into the new Fremont Middle School. Teachers in other departments explored changes in their content areas and discussed how these changes impact curriculum and instruction of students.

Training was also provided to classified and support staff throughout the district. Some members participated in safety trainings, such as CPR or AED training, while others learned of new procedures in their field of work.

Life long learning is a commitment to high quality instruction, programs and services in Fremont City Schools.

View video clips of our Fremont City Schools students...

Character Counts: Making Good Choices at Lutz



Lutz School believes in building character. They chose ten traits as their pillars of character. These include: self-control, respect, honesty, responsibility, compassion, work-ethic, citizenship, caring, fairness, and trustworthiness. Signs were created and placed in each classroom and throughout the school. In addition, a front hallway bulletin board displays the percentages weekly of students in each

class who are choosing to follow these pillars of character. Together they are making Lutz a great place to learn!!!

Ross is Making a Difference

Written by: Lexi Clair
Fremont Ross
journalism student

"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion then it will start a chain reaction of the same," said Rachel Scott, and instead of one person taking this challenge, it is Fremont Ross High School. On February 10th, Fremont Ross High School will have the first meeting for the new club called "Make a Difference" and will be advised by Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher.

"We are expecting many students to come and join us! My husband and I are both alumni of Fremont Ross, and we want students to love coming to school. We want to encourage students to make this a place that everyone wants to be...everyday," stated Mrs. Gallagher.

The point of this club is to spread kindness and to bring students together without the pressure and judgment of high school, just like Rachel Scott wanted.

Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion along with the writings of her six diaries have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America. Fremont Ross is just extending it and spreading out the chain reaction.

Activities will include, but are not limited to: such things as helping more in the community, welcoming new students and making the general environment warm and welcoming at Fremont Ross High School. This is the first year for this club at the high school, but next year, the elementary schools will be forming their own clubs like this.

If community members have ideas that this club could help improve the environment or Fremont City Schools, then please contact Gregg or Heidi Gallagher at 419-332-8221.



Ross senior Stephanie DeLaSerda, member of the "Make a Difference" club, helps sophomore Cole Bowers pick up his books.

2nd Graders at Atkinson Help Others Read



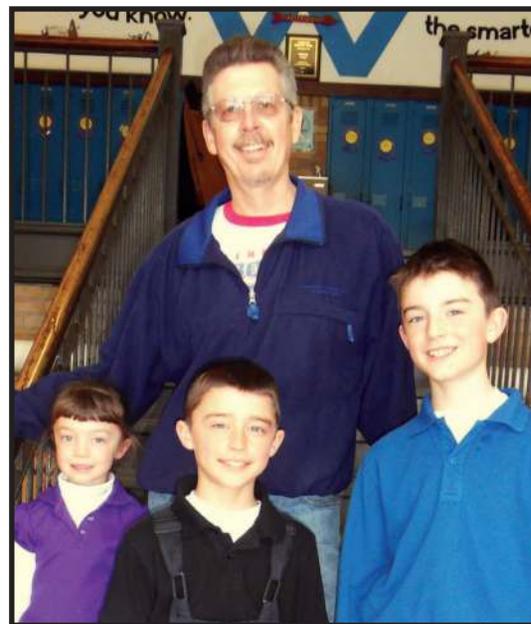
The second grade classes at Atkinson have been very busy learning and having fun! This year we have teamed up with the pre-school classes at the WSOS Stricker Center. The second graders each have a few preschool reading buddies. We are taking turns reading at each other's schools. This is promoting great reading practice! Our kids are helping the younger ones become

more familiar with the concepts of print while discussing the characters and settings in stories. The kids really look forward to meeting with their buddies.

We have also been teaming up within our building as a whole grade level. We are learning the Phonics Dance and practicing the different sounds letter "chunks" make. The second graders are finding those "hunks and chunks" in their stories and writing quite often! We meet three times a week to do the Phonics Dance. We have heard that the kids are practicing the Phonics Dance chants with younger brothers and sisters at home!

We will continue to expand our learning in fun, meaningful ways and share our learning with those around us! By: Mrs. Snyder, Ms. Quaintance and Mrs. Kimball

Washington Says Thank You to Mr. Rod Opelt, Mayor of Lindsey



Character is demonstrated in many different ways. Sometimes we only see the results. But, if you watch West Lincoln Street after a steady snowfall, you'll eventually see the Mayor of Lindsey, Mr. Rod Opelt, (pictured at left with his grandchildren, Owen, Isaac and Ava) removing the snow from the sidewalks with his unique snow shovel. It doesn't matter how cold it may be, Mr. Opelt will be out there making sure the sidewalks are free of snow and safe for our Washington students. It's not just in the winter season that Mr. Opelt demonstrates his strong sense of civic duty and character. He'll be out there if a limb falls and blocks the sidewalk, and you'll see him at nearly every Washington event. Mr. Opelt's work ethic, kind manner, and sense of responsibility are only a few of the strong character traits he role models for the students of

Washington School. Thank you, Mr. Opelt. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to Lindsey's Washington School students. Although it may be hard to catch you in the act, your display of true character is appreciated by us all.

Visit www.fremontschools.net and Click on Communications

Money Matters

The buzz around the Statehouse in Columbus has been that school districts should learn to consolidate services. Consolidation will allow districts to see cost savings thus reduce costs to taxpayers.

Consolidation is not new to school districts.

The Fremont City School District has been using consolidation on a number of services for many years. The district is a member of the Ohio Schools Council and receives reduced rates for natural gas usage. We have placed the district property, fleet and liability insurance out for bid along with 37 other districts to receive better rates. We have used the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program for the Ross roof replacement to get the product we wanted at the best installation rate.

In education, the district works with numerous educational service centers to provide for students with specific learning disabilities. Using these service centers helps to keep staffing levels lower. The district uses the Northern Ohio Education Computer Association for its student software, accounting and payroll software and technology support. This computer association provides service to 55 school districts, education service centers and non-public schools.

These services and others are used by the district in cooperation with school districts throughout the state to save money. The Fremont City School District continues to look for opportunities through consolidation of services in order to reduce costs for our taxpayers.

Washington Elementary annual fundraiser, the Chili Festival, will be held Saturday February 26, 2011.

Croghan First Graders are Small in Size but Big in Heart



the United States Army. Robert, who is currently serving a second deployment overseas, is very excited to be in contact with the students; and looks forward to their letters...and yes.. even their many questions!

Each month, students show-off their excellent writing skills by writing individual letters to send off to their new friend. The letters are then packed by the students in a special box along with snacks and other donated items and sent on its way. When asking students what they are learning from Robert, here is what they had to say: Alissa Berry believes Robert is a hero "because he has dangerous jobs to do. Sometimes he can't tell us what he does." Spencer Franks states, "Robert is a hero because he fights for our country"; while Cameron Cooper has learned that "Helping people in new places like Robert does is cool. Robert passes out candy to little kids at the places he goes to." Cameron voted for purchasing a bag of lollipops for Robert this month!

While Mrs. Carrick's first graders are certainly small in size, they are definitely big in heart! With each letter they write, and box they stamp with handprints; they are learning lasting lessons about the importance of community.

What is a hero? The dictionary defines a hero as any person admired for courage or great strength, often highly regarded for their achievements. Mrs. Carrick's first grade class is honoring someone they feel is a special kind of hero.

With the help of the Adopt a US Soldier organization, the eager students now have their very own First Grade Hero, Robert, a Sergeant in

Otis has Respect for Community



Within the Otis Community, each class of students strives to earn an extra break each week. Sometimes these breaks include some time in the gym, possibly some extra time outside, or even a snack and an extra game in the classroom. Students earn these extra breaks by turning in their work, following the school rules, and remembering to respect themselves, each other, and the property in the building.

Each week, teachers keep track of which students earn this weekly reward. At the end of the month, teachers report to Mrs. Hirt the percentage of students who earned the reward each week of the month. Mrs. Hirt combines and averages the entire grade level and grade levels earn stars on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Anytime students want to check their progress, they can stop by the bulletin board and count their stars.

The grade level with the most stars at the end of the year will be rewarded with an extraordinary break! Currently, grade 3 has edged grade 6 out of first place. However, since we are only at the half way point of the school year, all of our students have the chance to show their respect for community at Otis Elementary!

FMS: Showcasing Knowledge

Students on Harvard team 7-3 are gearing up to show the community what they know and the skills they have attained while attending Fremont City Schools. The team has representatives who are prepping themselves to enter into the Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical contest. The Oratorical contest is sponsored by the NAACP and will be held Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., at Terra Community College.



Students will be required to write and present a speech on the topic of their choice. Students will be required to then present the paper in a four minute speech. If you can take yourselves back to seventh grade, presenting a speech is a very intimidating thing to do! The kids are excited about the new opportunity though! They will be judged on their poise, voice, posture, physical dynamics as well as originality, time limit and their written composition. Pictured above: Riara Holland practices her speech.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Fremont City Schools is to develop well-educated, lifelong 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

Fremont City Schools does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its employment opportunities, educational programs or activities for any reason including on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, military status, ancestry, sexual orientation, age or genetic information.