

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Nov.
2010

FMS students appreciate Community



As the new Middle School is being built, our excitement to move in to our new facility is building as well! Since the groundbreaking of the new Middle School last spring, students have been buzzing about what an amazing gift this is, and it is all thanks to the community of Fremont! When asked how the new building will help them educationally, Team 7-1 student Jordan Jeanette responded, "It is so hard to learn in an environment like this when the walls are literally crumbling around you. I am so excited to get out of this building!" Team 7-1 student Autumn Ollom said, "It will be a lot easier to learn and pay attention in some place new and different." Erin Parker, a resident of Fremont and a teacher on Team 7-1 at FMS, said, "I cannot express my gratitude to this community for their support in getting this building built. This is going to give our students so many opportunities, and a greater appreciation and outlook on their education. The fact that the community is making this possible also shows our students that they value education and I think that will help our students succeed." Thank you again Fremont!

The University of Toledo Scholarly Savings Program



Congratulations to Nick Hatcher who "banked" an extra \$2,000 for tuition at The University of Toledo. Nick attended the UT vs. Kent State University football game on October 16th and participated in a contest at half time. Reminder that all current 8th and 9th grade students have an opportunity to earn tuition monies this year if they meet the eligibility requirements. Students will also have the opportunity to earn extra monies by participating in special events sponsored by The University of Toledo. For more information visit the FCS web site at www.fremontschools.net.

FCS Strategic Plan

Did you know that the district has a comprehensive strategic plan? This improvement plan outlines all of the strategies that will be implemented over a three-year period in order to reach its goals of increasing student achievement; closing the socio-economic, ethnic and disability gaps in achievement; and building hope, trust and respect within the community. The district's 2010-2011 Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) is aligned to the district's strategic plan and illustrates all of the district work that will be completed this school year. Please visit our web site to view the district's improvement plans along with quarterly progress reports.

Strong Academics

Homework Tips...Pg. 2

At Ross, Parabolas are Fun...Pg. 2

Books are Magic...Pg. 2

Strong Character

Atkinson Character Building...Pg. 3

Pop Tabs @ Washington...Pg. 3

4 Paws for Ability at Lutz...Pg. 3

Strong Community

Your Money Matters...Pg. 4

Otis Reading Superheroes...Pg. 4

School Cancellation Information...Pg. 4

Alumni News

Please Help! Later this fall, 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

At Ross, Learning about Parabolas is FUN

Written by: Allison Schrader Fremont Ross journalism student



What can a math class do with half of a satellite dish? Well, they can do a lot of different things. For one, they can learn a lesson about graphing. Also, they can learn how to find an equation. Mrs. MacDowell's Pre Calculus class had fun with a satellite and graphing paper.

"In Pre Calculus, everything is forward and backwards. Earlier, the class was given equations, and they had to draw a graph. For this assignment, they drew the graphs and had to work backwards to find the equation," commented Mrs. MacDowell.

For this project, the students were given half of a satellite dish and a large piece of paper. MacDowell showed the students how to make a graph using this by marking points on the paper. "They [the students] had to put the curve of the dish on an "X, Y" axis and then had to find the equation that created that curve," MacDowell described the assignment.

How does this help in math class? Well, although it teaches students to do the work backwards, it was more of a real world application for what they were learning. Students always seem to want to know how to use the topic in the 'real world'. This assignment gave them that application. "It is the best example in the real world of the parabola shape. Also, this is something we will revisit later when we talk about properties of the parabola," explained MacDowell.

The students seemed to like the project, "Yes [they seemed to have fun]," commented MacDowell.

Student Josh Woughter explained his experience. "Well, I traced the satellite, and I made a parabola," he said. Later down the road, he will be able to apply this knowledge to topics that they are studying in the class.



On Target: The AIMSweb Screening Tool

Monitoring student progress requires much more than assigning letter grades on a report card. How much is the student learning? Are they on track to reach end of the year goals? What strategies can be used to help? These questions come up throughout the year and can be answered when we know where everyone started at the beginning.

FCS just completed a screening process for all K- 6 grade students to identify that starting point using AIMSweb. AIMSweb is a universal screening and progress monitoring tool that each elementary building is using in the area of reading.

Data from the screener will be collected three times over the course of the 2010-2011 school year. This will help building teams identify and support students who need extra help along with students who need enrichment activities. It also provides an indicator of who is "on target" for doing well on the state assessments in the spring.

The goal is to provide help during the year to students when they need it and to help all students move forward and upward in their learning..

Books are Magic

The theme for this year's Title I Family Night was, "Books Are Magic" which was held at the administration building. While parents attended an informative meeting about Title I and its function in the schools, students participated in fun activities. The activities took place at different stations: Reading directions on how to do a magic trick, making magic wands out of melted chocolate and pretzel rods, and choosing books to take home. Then Ronald McDonald entertained the students with magic tricks. Afterwards, parents and students were reunited and enjoyed refreshments which included McDouble sandwiches and drinks. The program was well attended. The next Family Night will be held on Thursday, April 7th, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Try these "Tricks" to help your child become a successful reader:

- Visit the library.
- Talk about what you and your child read.
- Revisit familiar and favorite stories often.
- Make reading a priority in your home.
- Read, read, read...

Curriculum Corner Helpful Homework Tips

Below are some basic guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education that may help parents/caregivers with the task of homework.

- **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**
- **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**
- **Help your child with time management.**
- **Be positive about homework.**
- **When your child does homework, you do homework.**
- **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**
- **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.**
- **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**
- **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**
- **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.**
- **Reward progress in homework.**



These tips follow the same guidelines as the Fremont City School District's policy on homework. The purpose of homework is based on the learning objectives and the state standards taught in the classroom. Homework objectives should be clear to the student when assigned. One valuable characteristic of homework should help the development of the students' sense of responsibility by providing independent practice on skills and concepts already introduced to the student.

The teacher's role in homework is to provide timely feedback and set a valid learning purpose for the completion homework. Homework is a learning activity and is a component of your child's education. Following these homework tips and guidelines will help your child be successful and avoid the negative feeling toward homework.

Building Character at Atkinson Pop Tabs Reflect Character at Washington

At Atkinson, we build character in our students every day through many different activities. One of these activities is when we have students practice and present oral speeches. In Fifth Grade, we work on many different oral communication skills, including diction, tempo, and tone. Each month through the year, students are asked to memorize a poem. They then present the poem to the class at the end of the month. This activity builds their presentation skills, which are vital in the community, whether for an interview, job, or even just in conversations. As students build their character and improve their presentation skills, they are also preparing themselves for our Annual African-American Wax Museum, which is done in February. Character is an important skill set to be productive in our society and it's never too early to start learning.



Thank you to Volunteers

The first and second graders at Stamm love to have Ron Wetzel visit their classrooms. He comes once a month to read a story to each class and to talk about what lesson they might learn from the story. In addition, he usually brings a treat along for each student.

Mr. Wetzel was a former Stamm student and has been reading to classes for the past eight years. He began volunteering when his own children were students at Lutz because he really "loves kids." Ron takes vacation time from his job to make his monthly visits. The Stamm family really appreciates his contribution to the school.

Growing Healthier Children

Written by: Lexi Clair Fremont Ross journalism student

"I like to eat, eat, eat, apples and bananas!" With the new garden planted at Fremont Ross High School, this is what most students will be thinking while eating a healthier lunch through the Fremont City School district.

Starting at the second semester Fremont City Schools will see a lot of changes with the lunch rotation, including a salad bar at Fremont Ross High School. While doing so, the entire district will benefit by having less money spent and healthier children.

There are going to be new recipes implemented while using the items from the garden. For example more soups will be added, with using vegetables like zucchini and sweet potatoes.

With this being the first year of using a school garden, it sure will not be the last!

Learning in our own Community



The fourth grade classes at Croghan spent an afternoon at Ms. Grace Sidell's Old Garden House in Fremont. This tradition has been a community favorite for many years. While there, student's experienced life from the pioneer days from washing laundry with a washboard and putting cloths through the wringer, to grinding corn into cornmeal. The students learned through hands-on experience just what it was like to live back then. Although the whole afternoon was memorable most students said their favorite parts were making

homemade butter and enjoying it on bread that they made over the campfire. Ms. Grace and her dedicated crew consisting of Ms. Janet, Ms. Angie, and Ms. Clara made this such an enjoyable field trip for all students.

Pop tabs, pop tabs, who has the pop tabs? Well, it looks as though the students and staff at Washington School have them. The Washington School community has been collecting pop tabs and donating them to the Ronald McDonald House to help off-set the cost of housing needs for the families of children who must be hospitalized. The Hasselbach and Ramirez families know first hand the benefits of the Ronald McDonald House and have been our "delivery people." This trip to the Ronald McDonald House will be an incredible haul! Mrs. Koch, Washington's Speech and Language Therapist, brought in 2 garbage cans and a huge bucket of pop tabs that her father has been saving for years! Pictured at right is Anthony Blasiak, our latest contributor of pop tabs.

Mrs. Hibbler, Washington's secretary, is contributing, too. For every gallon jug that is filled, Mrs. Hibbler bakes cookies for the entire school.

The Ronald McDonald Houses collect pop tabs instead of entire aluminum cans because it's more hygienic to store tabs than cans, and collection and storage is easier. The program is an easy way for people of all ages to support Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) and know they are making a difference for families and children.

If you would like more information regarding the Ronald McDonald House Charities and the pop tab campaign, please check out the web-site below.

<http://rmhc.org/how-you-can-help/other-ways-to-get-involved/pop-tab-collections/>



4 Paws for Ability at Lutz

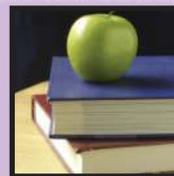


Lutz second graders had special visitors this month. Ehlana Fry and her service dog Wonder, gave a presentation to the classes about assistance dogs. Wonder is a "4 Paws for Ability" certified multipurpose mobility dog. Ehlana has cerebral palsy, a condition that makes walking and other fine motor skills difficult. Ehlana had Wonder demonstrate many of the ways he assists her during the day. Wonder helps her by picking up things off the floor, opening doors, providing support when she stands, taking off her shoes and jacket, and going to get her parents for her

when she needs them.

Ehlana's parents explained that Wonder also helps Ehlana be more independent and responsible for her own needs. They told the class about the training they both had before Wonder became her assistance dog. They reminded the students that when you see a dog working, you should not treat it as a pet or try to pet it, because the dog can become distracted from his work.

After the presentation, Wonder took off his working harness and students were able to come up and meet him.



**November 14-20 is
American Education Week.
Thank a teacher during this
very important week!**

Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

Your Money Matters

I. What is a five-year forecast?

A five-year forecast is a listing of anticipated revenues and expenditures for the current year and next four years for the school district. It is required to be submitted in October and May from each school district in the state. The forecast is a combination of the district general fund, state fiscal stabilization fund and education jobs fund.

II. Can you provide some highlights from the current forecast?

- Positive balances over the next three years
- Slow growth in Property Tax revenues
- Evidence Based Model funding remains stable throughout forecast
- Loss of \$870,000 with end of State Fiscal Stabilization monies
- Loss of \$500,000 per year beginning in 2014 due to State reducing personal property reimbursement monies

III. On what does the money get spent?

School districts are service industries providing education. Funds are spent on salaries and benefits, services to children who may be gifted or in need of additional help, utilities, repairs, instructional and office supplies, textbooks and workbooks, tires, fuel, furniture and equipment, auditor and treasurer fees, and property/fleet/liability insurance.

IV. How does the district spend the money?

Over the past four years and continuing today the district analyzes staffing and makes adjustments to meet student needs, works with the unions to minimize healthcare increases, has reduced special education service costs, renegotiates service contracts, obtains multiple quotes from vendors, participates in State and local consortiums to obtain purchasing discounts on supplies and materials and discounts on natural gas pricing.

The forecast shows the district has been very conservative in its expenditures over the last three years. The district will continue to live within its means and make adjustments to meet student needs.

If you wish to view the five-year forecast, visit the Fremont City School District website at www.fremontschools.net and click on Treasurer's Office, then click on Five Year Forecast.

David Chambers-Treasurer

Otis...Be a Reading Hero



The Otis Community was invited to come together to Be the Reading Hero, Save the Day by Reading, and for a week long Superhero event! We recently held our Scholastic Bookfair at Otis Elementary. During this week, we celebrated Grandfriends Day and an evening reading event.

Grandfriends Day encouraged students to invite their grandfriends to join them at school for a classroom visit, lunch, and recess. It was an event that was enjoyed by 187 grandfriends. The busy day at Otis included smartboard demonstra-

tions, a classroom sharing of what school was like then and what school is like now, and a special visit in the cafeteria and on the playground. Students were thrilled to introduce their grandfriends to their teachers and to share what academic activities they have been completing. Grandparents shared with us that they love having a window into the school lives of their special children.

During an evening event over 100 people joined us to complete a variety of reading and learning activities. Families read directions to complete crafts, read enough books to "keep away the scary villains", and enjoyed a superhero snack in the cafeteria.

Pictured above: Staff member Mrs. Denise Knipp and parent Mr. Dennis Ragas complete superhero masks with Mr. Ragas' sons, Elijah and Lorenzo.

Did You Know? School Closing/Cancellation Info

- Did you know that the Alert Now Cancellation system will automatically contact you via your telephone, text, or email in case of an emergency, early release, or if school is delayed or closed? You can contact your child's school if you need to update your contact information.
- Did you know that you can check the Toledo TV stations, WTOL-CBS, WTVG-13 ABC, and WNWO-NBC 24, to check for a school delay, cancellation, or early release? The television stations are usually contacted between 5:30am-6am with the closing information.
- Did you know you can listen to Eagle 99 WFRO to hear all of the school delays and cancellations?
- Did you know that you can check 13abc.com, wtol.com, and nbc24.com for internet school closing and delay information?
- Did you know that starting this school year, Ohio school districts only have 3 calamity days and not 5 as in the past? Any additional closed days after the three will have to be made up at the end of the school year.
- Did you know that all after school activities will be canceled in the event of an early release.

FCS staff & students perform at FCT

Written by: Lexi Clair Fremont Ross journalism student



Spencer Pendleton, Washington Elementary, and Scott Havice, Ross science teacher, play Ralphie and adult Ralph respectively.

"You'll shoot your eye out!" Students may not shoot their eyes out, but students from across the district will be performing in a Christmas play called "A Christmas Story," at Fremont Community Theatre.

With seven students from Fremont City Schools, including: Spencer Pendleton and Isaac Fraley from Washington, Diego Lopez from Atkinson, Max Hufford from Hayes, Sam Detwiler from Fremont Middle School, and Alexea Wagner and Katie Magnuson from St. Joe. Also one teacher from Fremont Ross High School, Mr. Havice, will be adult Ralph, the on-stage narrator.

"I think the show was well cast. We've been practicing for a few weeks now, and I can't imagine anyone else," stated Mr. Havice.

The production dates are December 3-5 and December 10-12 with all Saturday shows Matinees along with the evening performance. Ticket prices are \$12.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students/seniors.

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 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, including employment opportunities.