

# Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Jan.  
2013

## Happy New Year from Dr. McCaudy

### Dear Fremont Community,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2013! It is hard to believe that it is January and we are starting the second semester of the school year.

The month of January has been declared by the Ohio School Boards Association as School Board Recognition Month. Fremont City Schools is joining other districts throughout Ohio to recognize the important contributions school board members make to their communities.

Our school district is very fortunate to have five very dedicated, caring individuals serving on the Fremont City Schools Board of Education. Our Board members volunteer countless hours each week attending district-level meetings, working on committees, developing policies, visiting schools and attending school events. I commend our Board members for their collaborative efforts in order to make Fremont City Schools an exemplary school district for our children.

Please join me in thanking our FCS Board for their commitment to our children's education. Sincerely, *Dr. Traci McCaudy*, Superintendent



## Did You Know?

1. Did you know the FCS district office staff collected food for the Food Pantry and sponsored 3 days for the Liberty Center of Sandusky County, Inc.? This sponsorship allowed the Liberty Center to remain open for 3 days (December 24, 25 & 26).
2. Did you know that the entire FCS staff collected \$7,270.00 for the United Way Campaign and our students collected \$3,910.46?
3. Did you know that the district hired the following local businesses for products/services for the month of December?

ACE Hardware	Associated Buyers	Baker's Diversified Vehicle	Beck Suppliers
Bel-Aire Cleaners	Bella Cosa	Benchmark Prints	C.A. Kustoms
Color Haven Paint Supply	Contractors Equip. Rental	Croghan Colonial Bank	Crown Battery
Culligan Water Condition	Damschroder Const.	De's L-P Gas Service	East of Chicago
Economy Plumbers	Famous Supply Co.	Fastenal Company	Flower Real Estate Holdings
Fortball Pizza Palace	Fremont Athletic Supply	Fremont Auto Parts	Fremont Music Center
Fremont Printing	Fremont Uniform Shoppe	Gordon Lumber Company	Healthlink
Home Supply Center	Joseph Wise Fine Clocks	Kroger Co.	Leshner Printers
Lowe's Co., Inc. Fremont	Memorial Health Care Systems	Metrotex	Nickel Paint & Supply
Northtown Storage	Northcoast Security Center	O.E. Meyer & Sons	Painter Supply
Papa Murphy's	PHAZE 1	Plaza Lanes	Radio Shack
Sabroske Electric	Sand. Co. Health Dept.	Securance Service, Inc.	Sheets Supply
Sorg Graphics	Streaker Tractor Supply	Subway	Terra Community College
The Party Starts Here	Tire Man	Trico Glass	Valley Electric
Vanguard-Sentinel CTC	Walter's Boiler Works	Willie's Sales & Service	Woleslagel Moving
Zimmerman Paint Contractors			

4. Did you know that school safety is a top priority in Fremont City Schools? The district has a comprehensive safety plan and each building has a school safety team that meets regularly for the purpose of implementing and monitoring building safety plans and drills. The district is in the process of purchasing new phone systems that will allow buildings to have "buzz in" security features at the front entrance doors.

## Strong Academics

**Croghan Learns Holidays...Pg. 2**

**Training for Teachers...Pg. 2**

## Strong Character

**Stamm Cares Across the World..Pg. 3**

**Hayes Students Give Back...Pg. 3**

**Students of the Month...Pg. 3**

**Fremont's Finances...Pg. 3**

## Strong Community

**Atkinson Learns about Hayes....Pg. 4**

**Lutz Makes a Difference...Pg. 4**

**Ace and STRIVE students....Pg. 4**

Use your Smartphone and scan the tag below to view *The Fremont Focus*, a video production of FCS  
Or go to [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net) to view!



## Croghan Learns about Holidays



This December, the students in Mrs. Cook's and Mrs. Price's second grade classes traveled around the world learning about different holiday traditions of today and long ago. The students "traveled" daily to different countries. They had passports, boarding passes and suitcases in hand as they traveled to their new destination.

The children began their travels in France. We

then went to Israel where one of the students, Elliott Thomas, shared about how he and his family celebrate Hanukkah. The boys and girls even got to see a real menorah! Then we went on to Germany, where they learned about the tradition of hiding the glass pickle in the Christmas tree. One of our final stops was Mexico, where we learned about the legend of the Poinsettia. They broke a piñata and enjoyed many different candies. Each child colored a flag and map from every country visited. They also made a souvenir from each country to pack in their suitcases to share with their families. We concluded our trip with the United States, learning about how our families celebrate today. We had a very exciting month of learning as we traveled the world! Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays Picture is Hailey Miarer, Kaden Gschwind, Elliott Thomas, and Kyla Olds

## Working Hard at FMS

The students on the Wright State Team have been working hard during the first trimester of school. Many students earned recognition by making the honor roll for their excellent achievement in their classes. Students, teachers and parents are getting used to the new trimester routine.

Throughout the trimester, many areas of study were completed. Did you know that in 1960 Mary and Louis Leakey discovered a piece of a human-like skull in East Africa? Tests showed that the fossil was at least 1.75 million years old. Since then, even older fossils have been found in Africa. Students have enjoyed learning things about the distant past in social studies. Plants have been a popular topic that students learned a lot about in recent weeks. Do you know what chloroplast is? Can you add one fourth and two sixths? Fractions are being conquered in math over the next few weeks. One of the reading classes is reading a novel, while another class is studying mythical creatures. Again, the Wright State students continue to strive for excellence in the classroom. Continue to check your child's academic progress online in ProgressBook to help with his/her success.

## Student and Staff Highlight

Congratulations to Emily OU from Ross High School for winning 2nd place in the Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca County recycle, reduce, reuse and renew 2013 calendar contest. Emily's art is featured on the August 2013 page in the calendar.

Mark Gedeon has always dumped his heart and soul into the boys' basketball program, striving to send his athletes into the world with qualities they need to succeed in life. The wins and losses have always been secondary. But a 53-42 victory over Toledo Waite on December 1<sup>st</sup> had special meaning for the head coach of 18 years. The 11-point victory was the 200<sup>th</sup> win of his career.

To honor Coach Gedeon and his continued commitment and dedication to our student-athletes and the Ross basketball program, Fremont City Schools and its athletic department presented him with a dedicatory game ball during the first home game of the season.

## Letters for Dalton at Otis

Some children want a new PlayStation for Christmas, others a new computer game or iPod. All Dalton Dingus from eastern Kentucky wants for Christmas is to beat the Guinness Book of World Records for receiving the most Christmas Cards Dalton is just like any other fourth grade student, except for one thing; he suffers from Stage 4 Cystic Fibrosis. When Miss Babione's fourth grade



class at Otis Elementary heard about Dalton Dingus, they knew it would be a perfect time to spread holiday cheer and to work on their new letter writing skills that they have been fine tuning the last several weeks. Miss Babione said, "Often at Christmas, we get wrapped up in the hectic and stressful part of the season. I wanted to take time for students to sit back and realize what the holiday season is really about, bringing cheer to others. Not only did the students get to practice writing letters, but they got to bring holiday joy to a little boy the same age as them." Since Dalton's wish has gone public, he has actually beaten the record of 35,000 cards, but he is still receiving cards by the box every day. Otis students were proud to be a part of this heart-warming Guinness World Record! Submitted by: Becky Babione Pictured: Nevaeh Spradlin, Carlos Pena, Jared Adkins

## Staff Diversity Training

All new Fremont City School teachers have participated in monthly meetings to acclimate themselves to FCS. Participants have been provided information on the operating systems, procedures, population, and practices of Fremont City Schools. The most recent New Teacher Meeting included information about the diversity within the school system. Bonnie Weaver and Kim Beardmore, members of the Curriculum Department, led the staff in discussion of how our school community and student population are diverse. Using data from our 2010-11 Report Card, participants compared gender, ethnicity, economic status and academic achievement of the student population. Once the facts were shared, teachers were able to make connections to the students in their building and how this aggregate data correlated between students and staff. By building a greater awareness with our teachers about individual students sitting in the seats in classrooms, we are determined to establish relationships and close the achievement gap within our student population. After the meeting, one staff member shared, "I learned how diverse our district really is. It made me realize how different our students' experiences really could be."



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

## Stamm Cares Across the World



Caring is the word of the month for December. All Fremont City schools emphasize that caring is an important characteristic. The first graders at Stamm have been actively engaged in a variety of character-building activities this school year, and their focus has been caring.

This month the students decided they wanted to show they care by sharing Christmas cards with our military stationed

around the world during the holiday season. Each student created a Christmas card with their own holiday sentiment and decoration. In the cards, many students expressed their appreciation and love to the sailors and their families. These cards were sent to military families overseas at the U.S naval base in Guam. Students are hoping to brighten a sailor's holiday by showing that we are thinking of them and that we are thankful for what they do as they protect our nation and our freedoms. Submitted by: Korie Lather and Pictured: Rhien Hottinger, Brooklyn Holland, and Isabel Kreilick are creating their Christmas cards for sailors.

## Students of the Month - Second Grade



In an effort to recognize young boys and girls who are positive influences for their classmates and community, The Learning and Liberty Foundation of Fremont City Schools and Old Fort Bank are pleased to announce their December, 2012, second grade student of the month winners. Pictured left to right: Row 1: Julian Lopez-Atkinson Elementary; Shaunice Knott-Stamm Elementary; Easton Silva-Washington Elementary;

Sydney Aberg-Croghan Elementary Row 2: Evan Gerwin-Otis Elementary; Noelle Polley-Lutz Elementary; Alex Sims-Hayes Elementary and Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent

## School Supply Assistance

St. John's Lutheran Church, 212 N. Clover Street in Fremont, will once again have a mid-year school supply give away on Saturday, January 19th from 1- AM to noon. They will be handing out pencils, pens, markers, crayons, glue, notebooks, highlighters, paper and folders. Along with the school supplies there will be new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves given away. Refreshments will be served and a craft for the children to make and take home. Those children in the community who are in need of these items are welcome to come to the Parish House auditorium on the 19th!

## Hayes Students Believe in Giving Back

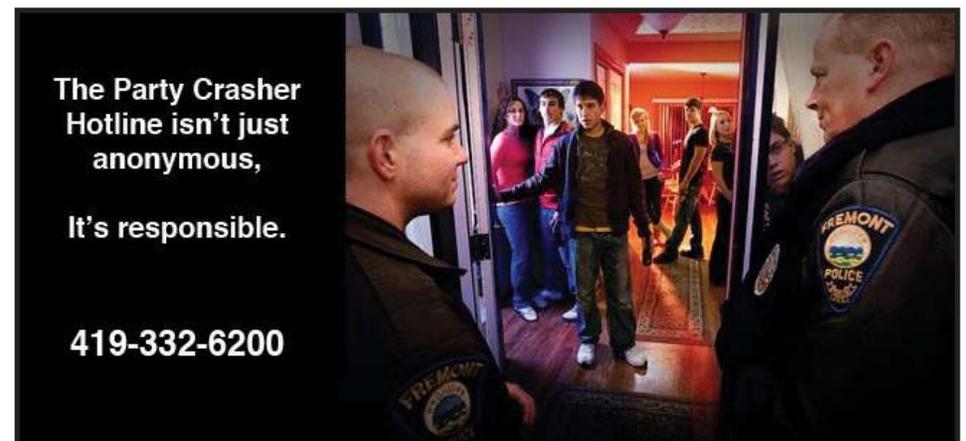
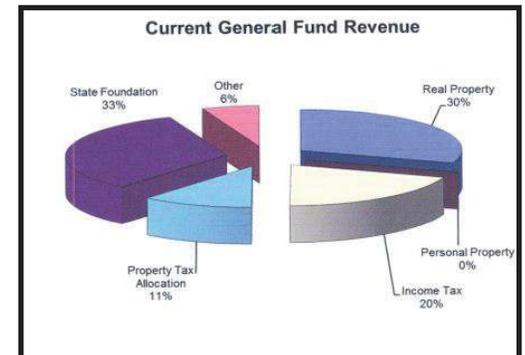
Students at Hayes Elementary School volunteered their time to participate in the Macy's Believe Program. By participating in this program, Macy's will donate one dollar for every "Dear Santa" letter that the students write. The money will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This organization is known nationwide for granting wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Macy's will donate up to 1 million dollars to help grant wishes to these children.



Every month at Hayes Elementary School, the students learn about character, and this month their character word is "caring". Each student who participated in the Believe Program either drew a picture or wrote a story about the caring things they did this year. Students were able to learn about how important it is to help people while practicing their writing skills. Submitted by: Jennifer Spurlock and Pictured : Siara Preston

## Focus on Fremont's Finances

Homeowners within the school district will be receiving property tax bills within the next few weeks. You will note on your tax bill that property taxes help to financially support Fremont City Schools. Additionally, your property taxes may support the city, county, township, parks, library, career center, School of Hope and others. Public school districts have limited sources of income, so they must rely on property and income taxes in order to operate and provide an educational program to its children. Fremont City Schools appreciates the community for its support and commitment to excellence in education.



The Party Crasher  
Hotline isn't just  
anonymous,

It's responsible.

419-332-6200

## Atkinson Learns about Fremont's President



This month Atkinson fourth graders enjoyed touring the President Hayes Museum at Spiegel Grove, and learning many historical facts about him and his family. We are very fortunate to have such an important resource right here in our community. Both classes spent a few days prior to the tour building up our knowledge of the president and his accomplishments. We learned about many of his firsts; for example, hav-

ing the first telephone in the White House, and his wife, Lucy Webb Hayes, being the first president's wife to be called 'First Lady'. From touring the newly renovated home to the weapons room and the beautiful doll houses, we came away with much appreciation for our hometown president.

Many thanks to the US Bank for sponsoring our trip this year.

Pictured in photo: Front row- Amber Price, Shayla Barberis, Camryn Kidwell, and Ariana Cunningham, Back row – Mariah Corona, Gabi Baez, Tyler Durbin, Santos Martinez, Lorenzo Alejandro, and Jaylnn Davis. Submitted by: Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Strayer, Atkinson 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

## ACE and Rotary STRIVE

ACE (Assisting Children to Excel) and Rotary STRIVE (Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) are fabulous programs that benefit students. FCS is appreciative to those community members who volunteer to mentor.

Community members partner with Fremont City Schools to play a pivotal role in student success by mentoring a student at Ross. January is National Mentor Month, and January 17 is "Thank Your Mentor Day". Fremont City Schools would like to take this time to applaud and thank our ACE and STRIVE mentors for their dedication and commitment to our students. Our mentors come from many professional backgrounds and represent every faction of our community, both public and private.

ACE is supported by our local United Way and contributions offer an opportunity for all community members to share our children's success. For more information on these programs, you may contact: ACE Mentoring coordinator, Mrs. Violetta Rhea at: (419)332-4453 or E-Mail: rheav@fremont.k12.oh.us.

## Washington's Dictionary Detectives



definitions! They have been working on continuous word-building tasks including vocabulary, parts of speech, pronunciation, multiple meanings, homographs, guide words, syllables and undefined entries. The students are thankful for this important educational tool.

Mrs. Traczek's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Washington have been learning all about the endless uses of reference sources including the Dictionary! Students recently received dictionaries from the community group SCORTA-The Sandusky County of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. The students have learned that dictionaries are more than just words and

## Lutz Makes a Difference to Many

The Lutz Make a Difference Club has been making a difference this year. We recently made handprint calendars and cards to brighten the lives of residents at the Rutherford House. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, about fifteen Make a Difference Club members joined the Lutz Choir at the Rutherford House to visit with the residents and to pass out the special gifts. The residents enjoyed the company of the students while listening to the Lutz Choir sing.



The Make a Difference Club at Lutz is comprised of over 70 students in grades three through five. The club sponsors many projects throughout the year including fundraisers such as candy sales and the school bookstore. They are also involved in many community projects including an annual food drive and shopping for a needy family at Christmas time.

One of our annual projects is collecting silver pop tabs for Shrine Hospitals. The Shriners use the proceeds from the tabs to purchase items for patients in their burn hospitals throughout the country. If you have any pop tabs that you would like to donate, please drop them off at Lutz Elementary School. Pictured above is student Christian Neiling and resident Mrs. Bixler.

## Safety is a Top Priority

The Fremont Board of Education is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment. Unfortunately, natural and man-made disasters do occur. Emergencies are best met by preparedness and planning.

Board of Education Policy states that all threats to the safety of district students and facilities shall be identified by appropriate personnel and responded to promptly in accordance with the district's emergency preparedness plan.

Fire, tornado and school lockdown drills are conducted in accordance with State law. Fire drills are conducted nine (9) times a year. School lockdown drills are conducted on a monthly basis. During a school lockdown drill, students are instructed in the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building (rather than evacuated). Local law enforcement agencies work in collaboration with the district schools periodically when conducting these drills.

All Fremont City School employees have also been trained in a secondary lockdown procedure known as ALICE. ALICE stands for Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate.

The safety of each and every one of the students and staff attending Fremont City Schools is a top priority each and every day. It is the goal of the Fremont City Schools to keep all students in school every day focused on academics, but if and when emergencies occur, each building staff member will be ready to protect all students. We appreciate the cooperation of all parents and guardians in understanding the need for drill practice and reinforcing the district safety procedures.

## Old FMS Site on Croghan Street

Abdo Wrecking, LLC has completed their work for the season. All concrete work is complete and topsoil and dormant seed have been placed.

Any low areas found to be holding water will be filled with topsoil in the spring and some areas may require re-seeding. Asphalt at the Park Avenue curb will be replaced in the spring once asphalt plants are again open for the season.

The district plans to create a memorial of the old building and the British soldiers for that site in the near future.

**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.**