

# Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Dec.  
2012

## Croghan 1st Graders Have Character



Mrs. Carrick's and Mrs. Nossaman's first grade classrooms have been actively engaged in a variety of character-building activities this school year.

Mrs. Nossaman's class worked closely as a team to be the building-wide winners of the Pennies by the Pound charity project. They brought in a whopping 30 pounds of coins, winning a class pizza party. Great job, first graders! While Mrs. Nossaman's class was the winner of this challenge, Mrs. Carrick's class was also busy.

As part of a building-wide week of Character Education, students and teachers were to decorate their classroom door with a unique idea focusing on their word. Mrs. Carrick was given the word "fairness". After reading the Dr. Seuss story, *The Sneetches*, students wrote text-to-self connections, applying what they had learned from the story to their own lives. Lorie Morin's connection was, "When my sister grabs toys, it reminds me of the Sneetches not being nice."

While Juan Gonzalez stated, "It reminds me of when my sister takes my toys." They even created a Sneetch of their own. These hard working first graders displayed their work on their door and won the building contest!

While winning competitions is fun...these first graders learned many life lessons along the way. Photo: Mrs. Carrick's class- Beau Overmyer, Briann McCoy, Marcus Osley

## Did You Know?

1. Did you know that Fremont City Schools was featured in an article entitled "From Suffering to Success: Overcoming Bullying" in the Fall 2012 *Your Health* Promedica magazine?
2. Did you know that Fremont City Schools student and staff wellness plans were highlighted by the Ohio Department of Education during Ohio's Annual Statewide Education Conference held on November 1st and the Findlay Area Human Resources Association meeting held on November 14<sup>th</sup>?
3. Did you know that the district hired the following local businesses for products/services for the month of November?

Bark Creek Lawn Care  
C & W Auto Supply  
Fremont Boiler Works  
Fremont Rec. Dept.  
Kroger Co.  
Metrotex  
Phaze 1  
Radio Shack  
Sorg Graphics  
Trico Glass

Bel-Aire Cleaners  
Croghan Colonial  
Fremont Floor Covering  
Fremont Uniform Shoppe  
Leshner Printers  
O.E. Meyer & Sons  
Plaza Lanes  
Sandusky Co. Sanitary Engr.  
Swim Rite Pools  
Universal Com Link

Bella Cosa  
Dollar Tree  
Fremont Music Center  
Healthlink  
Little Caesars  
Otto & Urban Flowers  
Post Net  
Securance Service, Inc.  
The News-Messenger  
Valley Electric

Benchmark Prints  
Fremont Athletic Supply  
Fremont Printing  
Hilty Office Supply  
Lowe's  
Papa Murphy's  
Quality Cleaners  
Sheets Supply  
Tireman  
Wm. S. Flower Operating

## School Emergency Situations and AlertNow Messaging System

The district utilizes the AlertNow messaging system to notify parents/guardians of important communications and/or school emergencies. Additionally, the district uses this system for school delays and/or cancellations.

If you would like to register for the AlertNow messaging system or have any changes in contact information, please notify your child's building secretary.

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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!



Get the free mobile app at  
<http://gettag.mobi>

## FMS Welcomes New Program



Fremont Middle School continued to break new ground with the addition of a class for students with Multiple Disabilities opening this year in a specially designed space in the BGSU wing of the first floor. This is the first time students this age of disability category have been housed in the district, and the coming home couldn't have been more welcoming.

To prepare for the move,

special orientation programs were made available to the new students, and the introductions to FMS staff included a special video made by the Otis students who were to be in this first class. Special attention was given to the sensory and learning needs of the children, with cafeteria times, lunch line practice, and schedule development to maximize the functional focus on instruction, a very important component to the social and life skill goals of the students.

The class partners with the Ross MD program, sharing resources, staff and special activities, such as the annual Thanksgiving meal prepared by students. It has also gained some volunteer assistance by students from Mrs. Smith's Giant Prep Time block. When asked why they volunteer, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Brooke Hankins said, "just to help."

Following the student council's annual Disability Awareness Week, outreach included finding this time for FMS's newest students. According to Mrs. Smith, "Give our students information, then watch them flourish. They wanted to get involved with Mr. Saunder's class."

Parents who were anxious about such a new and large school are happy, also. Linda Brown, Sam's mom, offered, "Sam is thriving in his new environment, both academically and socially. The staff at the middle school deserve a round of applause. The transition from Otis Elementary to FMS was flawless."

Principal Tony Walker added, "These students are Fremont students, and I'm glad they're back home with us."

## Atkinson Reading Interventions



In order to strengthen the third grade reading skills at Atkinson Elementary we have implemented several strategies. After assessing students, they were assigned to groups based on their reading level. In these groups students are taught skills that reinforce what the students are learning in the core reading curriculum.

During FOCUS groups students work on specific reading and math strate-

gies to increase fluency. Our goal is to build their confidence in these areas and increase their academic success. The FOCUS tutor also has a before school help session. During this time these students have the opportunity to receive help with homework or review for upcoming tests.

## iPad is iDeal for Education

At the start of this year, the district purchased an iPad cart with 10 iPads for a Lutz Elementary intervention room. The teachers and students were thrilled to learn about the new technology, and it enhanced learning opportunities. These iPads are great technology sources for instruction, behaviorally and academically. The students use the iPads for a variety of subjects but specifically focus on math and reading



through the use of apps. Additionally, they use it as a research tool and to record notes. The teachers use the iPads to track positive and negative behaviors throughout the day with the use of a program called Class Dojo.

In the picture above, Ms. Lawrence is instructing a small group of students on how to conduct research using the iPad. The iPads have given the students a new perspective on learning new things and has sparked an enthusiasm to explore new avenues in participating in the daily curriculum.

## November Learning and Liberty Foundation Students of the Month - First Grade



Pictured from left to right. Front row: Alexis Gonzalez, Liviya Turner, Zoey Chestnutt, Elijah Garza Back Row: Luke Durbin, Emma Wieszorek, Adriane Halbisen

## Curriculum Corner

K-12 students of Fremont City Schools have recently participated in common assessments in both English Language Arts and Social Studies. These teacher derived assessments are designed to check in with students to determine if both the teacher and learner are on track to be successful with the standards by the end of the quarter. These assessments vary in format, but all are designed to mimic the new state and national assessments that are coming in 2014-15. Each English Language Arts and Social Studies common assessment is aligned to the new learning standards which are being introduced throughout this school year. As always, what we teach and how we teach it is changing. Fremont City School teachers are proudly committed to staying ahead of the change and implementing new ideas.

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



## All in the "Spirit" of Giving

This past week, FMS Spirit Club worked to collect canned goods to benefit the Sandusky County Food Pantry. Over 2000 non-perishable items were collected! Any homeroom that collected an average of 2 items per student was allowed to attend a staff/student volleyball game. Every homeroom was invited to attend!! We are very proud of the giving spirit our students show.

Helping to load some of the boxes are: (pictured left to right) Jacob Schott, Caleb Calvillo, Kyle Montgomery and Max Hufford.



## Otis Students are Social



Learning social skills such as saying hello, holding a conversation or playing a game with a peer comes easy to many. However, for our students with Multiple Disabilities learning social skills can be a life long journey. To teach social skills we use video modeling and visual supports. We practice taking turns in conversations, greeting our teachers and peers and taking turns in group games. It is also important for these students to have

opportunities to practice these skills with their 'typical' peers in the general education setting. Our students learn through experience and by example of others. "Life is a dance you learn as you go... sometimes you lead and sometimes you follow." (Pictured left to right: Alex Lippert and Sam Garcia) Submitted by: Courtney Schuster

## Stamm Welcomes a New Teacher



Fremont City Schools would like to welcome Mrs. Patricia Huskey to the fourth grade team at Stamm Elementary. Mrs. Huskey will be teaching Science and Social Studies to all fourth grade students for the rest of this school year. Prior to coming to Stamm, she mainly taught fourth grade at St. Joe for 11 years.

Mrs. Huskey grew up in Parma, Ohio and went to college at the University of Akron. She currently lives in Port Clinton, Ohio with her husband, Dennis, and their son, Patrick, who is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In her spare time, she enjoys doing crafts,

reading, and traveling. Welcome to Stamm Mrs. Huskey! Submitted by Liz Kern

## Alumni Feature

Life is a big race. Some might even say a marathon, and Fremont Ross definitely prepares students to cross the finish line.

Abby (Cominsky) Trombley, an alumna of Ross, and alumna of Team USA, has run many races. Trombley, who graduated in 2000, has run six marathons, including the Boston Marathon. She has recently just competed in the world Duathlon Championships, which took place in Nancy, France, back in September.

"Ross was a great place for me to face challenges academically through honors and AP classes, and learn to balance my time with athletics, band and other activities," Trombley said. Balance seems to be something Trombley has mastered. Along with competing and marathons and duathlons, she was also a member of Team USA!

Now residing in Findlay OH, Trombley reminisces about high school life. "I miss family and friends, and I miss the feeling of pride and community of Fremont Ross."

Fremont is a gateway to many new experiences. Being a part of something so special is a great honor. Written by Erica Conley, Fremont Ross student-journalist

## Thanksgiving at Hayes

The kindergarteners at Hayes Elementary were busy this November learning about the first Thanksgiving. They talked about what they were thankful for and they compared the differences and similarities between their lifestyles and the lifestyles of Pilgrim and Indian children. The kindergarteners read a story called *My Thanksgiving Story Bracelet* that taught them about the first Thanksgiving. The students had the opportunity to make their own bracelets using beads where each color bead had a special meaning. They also made a friendship salad where each fruit symbolized a different meaning about being a true friend.

Before Thanksgiving break, the kindergarteners gathered together in the gymnasium and participated in activities, some of which were believed to have been present at the first Thanksgiving feast. The students were divided into groups and were engaged in different activities led by parent volunteers. Some of the activities included were a ring toss game, bowling, bingo, board games, bracelet making and more. The students also had the opportunity to make their own butter which they later used on their rolls. The groups rotated from each station to ensure that all the students partook in all the activities that were aligned with the Common Core Standards.

After the fun games and activities, the students performed two songs, *I'm a Very Fine Turkey* and *I'm Thankful*, which were prepared by the music teacher Ms. Ballmer. The students worked hard to create their own costumes for the festivities during art class with the help of Mrs. Kerper. The students also made their own placemats in their classroom for the event.

After the students sang, they were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. The students experienced a sense of togetherness as they ate the delicious food prepared by the wonderful parent volunteers. This tied in with the Storytown Curriculum Themes 1 and 2, which focuses on families and friends at school. Submitted by: Mrs. Colvin, Mrs. Quiroga and Mrs. Vanderveen. Pictured: Katie Berger and Elijah Sanchez from Mrs. Colvin's Class



## Why is FCS important to you as an alumni?

As a Fremont Ross Alumni, I am thankful for my education. I learned the importance of a good education in preparation for my future. Even better yet I am a Croghan School Alumni, and now can give back to my students what I was given as a former student. Thanks FCS for my start, and helping to build my future as a Fremont City Schools employee! Go Giants!!! Tonya Cook, Second Grade teacher at Croghan

Visit [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net) and Click on Communications



## FCS Board Approves Strategic Plan



“Ohio Department of Education representatives with the district’s HSLI team on a recent visit to Fremont.”

During its regularly scheduled meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>, the Fremont City Schools Board of Education approved the new strategic plan developed by Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent and the Race to the Top Transformation (RttT) / Healthy Schools Leadership Institute (HSLI) committees. The strategic plan outlines specific strategies and action steps to be completed by district personnel during the next three years (2012-2015). The comprehensive plan builds upon the successes of the past three years while also targeting areas for improvement. Listed below are just some of the strategies outlined within the strategic plan.

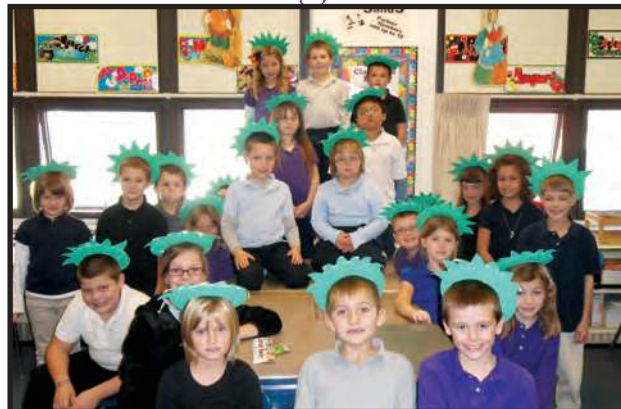
- Continue to develop new curriculum guides for teachers utilizing Ohio’s new learning standards and continue to purchase new textbooks per the textbook adoption calendar.
- Continue to develop new common assessments for teacher utilization throughout the academic year for the purpose of checking student learning.
- Continue to integrate technology within the curriculum by providing professional development for teachers and purchasing additional technology tools.
- Develop and implement Ohio’s new evaluation systems for teachers, principals and the superintendent.
- Provide extended learning opportunities for select students (tutoring, intervention plans, summer programming and after-school programs).
- Implement strategies in order to achieve the following wellness goals:
  1. Reduce student alcohol and drug use at Ross High School as evidenced by pre and post survey data and discipline referrals.
  2. Increase nutrition/fitness knowledge at all grade levels as evidenced by pre and post survey data for students.
  3. Decrease student bullying/harassment and insubordination incidents at all grade levels as measured by pre and post survey data and discipline referrals.
  4. Improve district/building climate as measured by pre and post “My Voice” survey data.

Dr. McCaudy stated the following about the strategic plan: “This comprehensive plan is simply an extension to the district’s strategic plan from 2009-2012. The district has demonstrated that good planning and quality implementation of initiatives lead to high levels of student performance. I am confident that the district will continue to show improvements in all of the district’s operational and educational areas.”

Dawn Ayres, Coordinated School Health Program Manager from the Ohio Department of Education added, “I am very impressed by Fremont’s vision and enthusiasm as well as the dedication of its staff. By successfully integrating health and wellness strategies into Fremont’s strategic plan, the district has begun the process of changing the overall environment through policy and systems change. The FCS strategic plan is very comprehensive and addresses the whole child. Fremont City Schools is to be commended for their diligent work and their “Excellent” rating on the State Report Card.” A complete copy of the district’s strategic plan is available on the district’s web site: [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net).



## Washington Honors Veterans



Washington Elementary in partnership with the Fremont VFW provided veterans with added joy at their Veterans Day banquet held at the VFW on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The kindergarten, first grade and second grade all provided handmade decorated placemats sharing their interpretation of military life. The third, fourth and fifth graders wrote letters of gratitude for the service the Veterans provided.

We enjoyed brightening the Veterans’ banquet. Submitted by: Dorothy Priesman, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

## Financial Five-Year Forecast

During its regularly scheduled meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> Fremont City Schools Board of Education approved the Financial Five-Year Forecast. The complete forecast is available on the district’s web site ([www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net)) under the Treasurer’s link. Listed below are some of the highlights: In order to maintain a balanced budget, the district has been very conservative with its expenditures over the last six years while continuing to improve the educational services for Fremont’s students.

- The entire Fremont City Schools staff and Business Advisory Council have been working collaboratively over the past several years analyzing expenditures and finding ways to reduce costs. Additionally, the staff has been very successful writing grants in order to increase revenue for the district.
- The district lost approximately \$2.6 million over a two-year period (2011-2013) with reductions in state funding and therefore had to further reduce its expenditures.
- As a result of this loss in revenue, the district further reduced personnel and service contracts in spring 2011. This saved the district approximately \$1.7 million.
- Then in Spring 2012 the district reduced expenditures again and estimated the following savings per year for the forecast:
  - District Office Lease \$43,000
  - Medical Insurance \$264,000
  - Prescription Drugs \$6,100
  - Department Budgets \$400,000
  - And lastly, the district will utilize left-over FMS Project construction monies for textbook purchases instead of the General Fund for the next five years.
- The aforementioned reductions have allowed the district to have a balanced budget during the following years on the Financial Five-Year Forecast: 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. The Financial Five-Year Forecast includes the passage of the recent Income Tax Levy.

## Special Message from Warren Brown

Sandusky County is now using an emergency notification system, Everbridge Aware, for citizen alerts. This alert messaging system will allow the county to notify residents about emergencies such as severe weather, fires, floods and toxic environmental issues. Additionally, the county can use the alert messaging system to notify residents about other important issues such as road closures and utility matters. Messages can be sent to residents on any communication path desired—cell phone, home phone, e-mail and text messaging. Currently, phone land lines listed in the Sandusky County white pages will receive weather alerts but you can register other communication devices and receive additional emergency notifications by visiting the county web site @ [www.sandusky-county.org](http://www.sandusky-county.org) and click on the Citizens Alert System link. If you need assistance please feel free to call 419-334-6108.

**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.**