

# Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Jan.  
2014

## January: Board of Education Appreciation Month



Thank you Fremont City Schools Board of Education Members for Serving our Community!

Dear Fremont Community,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2014!

January is School Board Recognition Month and Fremont City Schools is joining districts throughout Ohio in recognizing the significant contributions school board members make in their communities. Our school district is appreciative of the countless volunteer hours our Board members contribute by attending district-level meetings, working on committees, developing policies, and attending school events.

Our school district is very fortunate to have five very dedicated, caring individuals serving on the Fremont City Schools Board of Education. 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 McCauley,*  
Superintendent

Thank you and farewell to Linda Hershey  
for her 12 years of service on the Board of Education.

## Dr. Hernandez Announces Retirement

Written by Ross High journalism student, Catherine Hofacker

After nearly seven years, Fremont Ross's beloved principal, Dr. Hernandez, has announced his retirement. Dr. Jose Hernandez will step down from his position on December 30, 2013.

After nearly twenty-six years as an educator, Dr. Hernandez explains his retirement as nature taking its course. "It's time," he stated. Hernandez leaves some big shoes to fill. His first year as Fremont Ross principal was marked by the eventful transition of 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the high school. Dr. Hernandez has also been a great supporter of Fremont Ross's diversity, encouraging the leadership classes, Glee Club, freshman academy and increased enrollment in Advanced Placement classes. "Ross has made me a better educator," said Hernandez. "It is the students that make my work meaningful and everything they have done has put value in my life."

When the 2013-2014 school year resumes, Dr. Hernandez's position will be filled by Mr. Larry Kisabeth. Kisabeth has served as regular and interim principal at Tiffin Columbian High School. In a funny turn of fate, Mr. Kisabeth was Dr. Hernandez's high school algebra teacher. "Seeing him having fun every day with his job is what made me want to be an educator," Dr. Hernandez praised. "Mr. Kisabeth was a living example of the fact that you should have a job you love, no matter the pay." Mr. Kisabeth will serve as interim principal of Fremont Ross for the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Hernandez's presence will be missed at Fremont Ross.



## Strong Academics

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Strong  
Academics + Strong  
Character = Strong  
Community

## Atkinson: Trip to the Fire Station



The second graders at Atkinson have been working hard this year! We have focused on reading fluently and with comprehension. The students recently took a trip to the Fremont Fire Station. They were able to make connections to what we have been reading about in class. It was great to be able to see a real pumper truck up close and ask the firefighters questions about fire safety.

Reading fluently helps in our comprehension, so we read the Reader's Theater called "A Trip to the Fire Station". We also have Fluency Friends time. One student is the "timer" and the other is the "reader". The students are practicing their fluency and collecting data to show their personal improvement in reading. Second graders are not slowing down this year!

In the photo, a Fremont city firefighter explains fire safety to Atkinson Elementary School second graders. Submitted by: Connie Snyder, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher

## Strong Work Ethic at Otis



Work ethic is our word of the month for November. If you are a reliable and hard worker, you have a strong work ethic. Kindergarten students can start learning about work ethic by doing chores at home, doing their homework or practicing their word rings. This teaches them responsibility and helps to prepare them for life. In Kindergarten, students with good work ethic are given the responsibilities of being table captains and passing out supplies to everyone at their table. We show good work ethic by using our tidy table tubs to make sure paper doesn't end up on the floor to make extra work for the

custodian. We have a good work ethic when we do our homework and turn it in to get checked every week and when we return our F.I.S.H. (Family Involvement Starts Here) folders. Pictured here is Corrine Anderson getting her homework checked by Mrs. Quick. Submitted by: Terri Fielding, Kindergarten teacher

## Reading with an Officer and a K-9

The third graders at Lutz had a very special visitor this week. They were treated to a K-9 officer and his police dog. Deputy Brian McGrady and his dog, a German shepherd named Brutus, came to Lutz to talk about their job working for the Sandusky County Sheriff's Department. The visit corresponds with a story in our reading series titled



*Aero and Officer Mike*. The story details the relationship between a K-9 and the officer.

Deputy McGrady explained the rigorous training involved for Brutus to become a K-9 officer. The police dogs are purchased from Germany where they are specially trained to follow an officer's commands. While training, they learn to identify and seek out four different types of illegal drugs and find missing persons. Brutus not only works with Deputy McGrady, but lives with the deputy and his family. The deputy even joked that he sees Brutus more than he sees his own children. The two have a very special bond, and we are glad we had the opportunity to meet Deputy McGrady and Brutus. Submitted by: Darryl Edge and Sarah Anstead, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers

## Regional Wrap-Up at Washington

In studying the regions of the United States, the fifth grade students at Washington Elementary have completed several projects. The first project the students performed was to construct a regional map book which included two maps per region. The first map was a political map on which the students labeled the individual states and their capital cities. Each state was then colored a different color to show its border in the region. The second map was a physical map on which the students were given several



landforms/landmarks to label in the corresponding region. After reading an information booklet on each section, the students had to select a region and compile a poster which included a map of the region, as well as facts and pictures about its climate, natural resources, products, and foods and crops grown in the area. This was a hands-on way for the students to learn about this great country we live in. In the photo, left to right: Rebecca Jahns, Jayden Garner, Breeze Ollio and Jessica Shiets. In the back: Hannah Sebetto. Submitted by: Randy Brown, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

## Orchestra students at Ross Will Play Sweet Notes for OMEA District

Written by Ross High journalism student, Melinda Smith

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 2013, four Orchestra directors of the OMEA District 2 reviewed student applications for the 2014 Honors Festival Orchestra. Students from six different schools, including Port Clinton, Sandusky, River Valley and Willard applied. A total of 68 students were selected to be in this fine orchestra, with 13 students representing Fremont Ross High School. These students were carefully hand-selected to be in this prestigious orchestra, which is one of the best in the North/Central Ohio.

"I am very proud of every one of the students that were selected. They work very hard on their instrument," Tom Ziebold, orchestra teacher, said very proudly.

The Honors Festival Orchestra will perform February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. It will be at the Port Clinton High School. The cost is \$4 for an adult, and students are admitted free of charge. There will also be a guest clinician who has accomplished many things in their teaching career, and he will be working with all the students on the day of the concert. This person so far is unknown.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the students, their parents, and the people who attend the concert," said Ziebold, an orchestra director of the OMEA District 2.

Attendees need to arrive by 6:15 to get a good seat, seats fill up fast! Those who arrive later will have to sit in the bleachers behind all the action.

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

## The View is Bright for Ladies at Ross

On November 14, 2013, ten junior and senior Ross High School girls, accompanied by Mrs. Joerg and Mrs. Kelly, attended *The View—Networking Opportunities for Bright Young Women* sponsored by the gifted education coordinators from the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center. Held at the Educational Service Center in Tiffin, the program was host to approximately 120 young women from fifteen area school districts. Various sessions were held throughout the day, starting with a panel of eminent local women—including a women's head basketball coach, a financial advisor, a hospital CEO, a civil engineer, a veterinarian, an orthodontist, a city administrator, a nurse practitioner, an occupational therapist, a social worker, and a lawyer—who discussed careers and the skills needed for success. The students then broke into smaller groups to discuss topics such as financial responsibility, goal setting, and time management, with the discussion being led at each table by one of the panelists. After three small group sessions, lunch was served, and then students were treated to a lesson on "Professional Etiquette" by Mrs. Susan Martin, the First Lady of Tiffin University. Attending from Ross High School were seniors Valerie Bixler, Cira Hill, Catherine Hofacker, Alison Ou, and Jessica Schell, and juniors Meghan Cook, Erica Ebert, Brina Hrynciw, Faye Sloma, and Jersie Spears. Submitted by: Chris Kelly, senior guidance counselor



## FMS: The Character of Giving

The giving spirit of the students and staff at Fremont Middle School has donated more than 2,000 items to the Sandusky County Food Pantry for this holiday season! Students were challenged to average two items per student, per team, in order to earn their way to a student and staff basketball game. The team with the most giving spirit for the whole school was Team Heidelberg, who brought in nearly 350 items. It is the hope of the FMS Spirit Club along with the Campus Culture and Climate Committee to encourage students to become responsible citizens in their community by being charitable givers. Their next opportunity to help those in need this holiday season will be the Toys for Tots campaign sponsored by the FMS Student Council and will kick off right after Thanksgiving.



## Students of the Month

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 2013 first grade student of the month winners: Pictured left to right: Logan Kilgore son of Kris and Cory Kilgore, Atkinson Elementary; Anastasia Sipperley daughter of Stacie Vittitow, Otis Elementary; Karson Kayden son of Jennifer and Kyle Kayden, Croghan Elementary; Marco Antonio Gutierrez son of Myrella Vastag, Hayes Elementary; Mary Campbell daughter of Linda Arreola and Bryan Campbell, Stamm Elementary; Cole Kinsey son of Justine Opre and Chad Kinsey, Lutz Elementary; Not Pictured: Madison Bassett daughter of Lyn Bassett, Washington Elementary



## Croghan Kids Care



December's Character Word is "CARING". This will be the third year that our entire school, grades K through 5, has shown that we care about others by participating in Macy's *Believe* Campaign for Make-A-Wish. Each class watched a Make-A-Wish presentation that showed some of the wishes that our students helped grant by writing letters last year, and then students wrote letters and drew pictures about what Christmas means to them. Some students and teachers wrote wish lists, others wrote thank you letters to Santa, and most of the students included

festive pictures and decorations. Mrs. Overstreet collected and delivered our letters to Make-A-Wish, and this year Croghan School once again donated over \$300 worth in letters. We love being a part of this program! Pictured with Amanda Seigley, 1st grade teacher, left to right: Lezlie Glick, Keaton Gurney, Zachary Wilber

## Kindness at Christmas

Six members of The Leadership Class at Fremont Ross gave up their Christmas Eve to volunteer at the Pontifex in Fremont. Jan Nowak, President of the Pontifex, along with many others community members coordinated this effort. Connor Martin, member of the Leadership Class, began to have a conversation with one of the men attending. Connor was so touched by the hardships that this man was facing that he literally took the shoes off his feet and gave them to the man. The student walked out of there barefoot! What a loving, kind example about character. Connor is the son of Rick and Kristy Martin of Fremont.



Not Pictured: Zamiya Pruitt, daughter of Cherise Thompson and Donald Pruitt, Hayes Elementary

## Chromebooks at Hayes

You may ask, “What is a Chromebook?” Chromebooks are laptop computers. Hayes School recently received a cart of 30 Chromebooks. These laptops are portable and wireless. Hayes students are being taught everything from the basics of logging on and off, where to find different keys, how to research information and creating projects. Some classes have begun using Google Docs to submit assignments electronically instead of using traditional paper and pencil. Our students are very excited to learn how to use the Chromebooks. We are preparing for the future by getting technology into the hands of our students as often as possible. Pictured: Mrs. Quiroga’s first grade students’ Mason March and Ellie Kuck



## FMS Achieves Gold LEED Certification

Fremont Middle School has received Gold certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED certified buildings have been designed to make a positive impact on the health of the building’s occupants and the environment and reduce building operating costs.

Along with building construction and design innovation related credits obtained, other credits achieved were:

Design application: bicycle storage, preferred parking for fuel-efficient vehicles, vegetated open space on the site and stormwater management

Water Efficiency and Energy and Atmosphere: water efficient landscaping, water use reduction and energy cost savings

Indoor Environmental Quality: use of low-emitting paints, sealants and flooring; thermal comfort controllability, design and verification; daylighting; enhanced acoustics; and mold prevention

An exciting credit received was for development of school curriculum based on the high performance features of the building. Along with this, Fremont City Schools is partnering with Christy Farm Nature Preserve to provide access to a natural, outdoor campus for endless educational opportunities for district students.

Opened in January 2012, Fremont Middle School is one of just twenty-five gold certified school buildings in the State of Ohio.

## Safe Routes to School

Last June the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) notified Fremont City Schools and the City of Fremont that its Safe Routes to School (SRTS) travel plan grant application was selected for funding. Superintendent Traci McCaudy and the Safe Routes to School Committee submitted the grant application last March.

This Fall ODOT assigned a lead facilitator to assist the SRTS Committee develop a school travel plan, which will contain infrastructure needs such as sidewalks and safety programming for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Last month parents and students completed surveys about how students travel to and from school and their reasons why they carpool, walk or bike.

Ohio Department of Transportation representatives plan to observe student entry and dismissal at schools on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, they plan to meet with the SRTS Executive Committee to discuss the next steps to be completed for the grant application which is due March 1, 2014.

This past year ODOT offered another grant opportunity to schools throughout Ohio. The District partnered with the City of Fremont to identify areas that needed additional school safety signs. The District and City of Fremont requested 333 signs and 319 reflective posts from ODOT via the Safe Routes to School Program. Thanks to City of Fremont employees Tucker Fredericksen, City Engineer, Erica Williams, Assistant Engineer, Randall Duncan, Engineering Technician and Bill Guhn, Street Department Superintendent, for assisting Tom Anway, Fremont City Schools Director of Facilities & Operations, on this project.

## Inclement Weather School Notices

The District utilizes the AlertNow messaging system to notify parents/guardians of important communications such as school delays, school cancellations and other school emergencies. If you would like to register for the AlertNow messaging system or have changes in contact information, please notify your child’s building secretary. In addition to the AlertNow messaging system, school delays and cancellations will also be announced on the following stations:

Radio: WFRO - Eagle 99.1  
Television: WTOL - CBS 11  
WTVG - ABC 13  
WNWO - NBC 24

Announcements will be made as early as possible but it can be very difficult due to the timing of the storms or conditions. Please note that the safety of our children is a top priority and road and weather conditions are checked thoroughly before a decision is made to delay/cancel or keep schools open for a particular day.

## Border Battle Helps Others



Although the actual “Border Battle” between Ohio State and Michigan wasn’t until after Thanksgiving, the students at Stamm had been preparing for the big game with a contest to help those in need. Each classroom had two boxes, one labeled Ohio State and the other Michigan. The students were asked to bring in non-perishable food items and paper products to place in the box of the team they wanted to win the football game on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The team with the most items would be the “predicted” winner of the game. The

final outcome of the contest was Ohio State 42 and Michigan 41. This event was sponsored by Stamm’s Make-A-Difference Club, and the items collected were donated to the Liberty Center.

## Changes at Ross



This past summer the athletic hallway received a much needed face-lift. With just a few gallons of white paint and some elbow-grease, the salmon colored tiles of the 1960’s were all but removed. The newly painted hallway was also equipped with two television monitors, which continuously display upcoming athletic events and other important events occurring within the district. The hallway project was enhanced through the generosity of the Athletic Boosters, whose financial backing helped to hire a local graphic artist who was able to create a contemporary vinyl wrap which now adorns much of the hallway.

The hallway is the first of many projects that the athletic department look to complete during the course of the next several years. Stay tuned to see what project is completed next.