

# Fremont City Schools

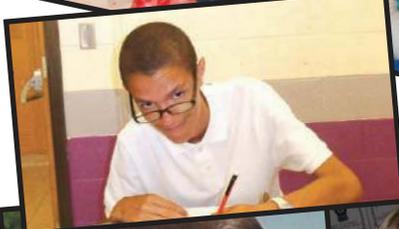


Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Nov.  
2014

## National Education Week-Nov. 16-22

Join Fremont City Schools in celebrating all the parents, support professional staff, educators and substitute teachers who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. They all work hard to keep schools running and students safe, healthy and ready to learn.



### Strong Academics

Reading is a Mystery at Hayes...Pg. 2

Reviewing Addition at Stamm...Pg. 2

Keeping Parents Informed...Pg. 2

Fremont Rotary and Literacy...Pg. 2

### Strong Character

Growing Good Character...Pg. 3

Character in Action...Pg. 3

Honoring Others...Pg. 3

FCS Honors...Pg. 3

### Strong Community

Croghan Helpers Receive A+...Pg. 4

Team Building-FMS Style...Pg. 4

Otis Battles for United Way...Pg. 4

## FCS Annual Report

Want to read more about Fremont City Schools? The FCS 2013-2014 Annual Report will be distributed via the News Messenger on December 6th. The report will be available on the district's web site @ [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net) and families with school-aged children will also receive a copy sent from school. Extra reports will be available at all school buildings and the FCS District Office.

## Reading is a Mystery at Hayes

Literacy is an important focus for Hayes Elementary this school year. As part of our literacy plan, we are focusing on becoming fluent readers. Fluent readers read text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and use expression. Teachers, staff, students and families are modeling fluent reading on a daily basis through activities such as: Weekly Fluency Homework, The Hayes Million Minute Reading Challenge, Reading Buddies and Mystery Readers.

The Kindergarten classes have been inviting parents, grandparents, family members, or other special friends into their classrooms on Fridays to be a Mystery Reader. Nancy Smith, grandmother of kindergarten student, Logan Wensinger, was the mystery reader for a week in October. These special surprise guests arrive with a story ready to read to help in modeling fluent reading to the students. This is just one way Hayes Elementary is focusing on literacy this year!

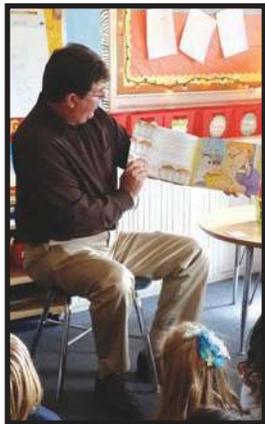


## Reviewing Addition Skills at Stamm

Reviewing addition skills in second grade is a common sight in any school, but at Stamm School the second grade teachers use different tools to help students have fun while they review their skills. The students use the Chromebooks to work on the IXL Math program; students use Skittles or M&M's as manipulatives then get to eat the treat after completing their work; and they also use dice to create math problems to solve themselves against a friend or a timer. Sometimes they use the dice to create a math project. At this time, they are working on math pumpkins to coordinate with the season. Pictured above: Cassandra Hoffman practicing her addition skills.



## Fremont Rotary Literacy Program



The Rotary Club of Fremont is excited about starting the second year of their Literacy Program held in partnership with Fremont City Schools. This project was started in 2013 to foster an appreciation of literature, to help increase reading comprehension and to help students meet state reading requirements. These goals were met with the help of Rotarians, who visited classrooms at Atkinson Elementary monthly to read to students to promote literacy.

The program has been expanded in 2014-2015 to further the outreach and increase the impact. Rotarians are now serving three schools including Atkinson Elementary, Stamm Elementary and Washington Elementary in Lindsey. With the addition of these schools, 7 kindergarten classrooms, 6 first grade classrooms and 6 second grade classrooms are being served which translates into approximately 475 students, compared to 175 in the program's initial year.

The program is funded by a grant from the Gannett Foundation. Rotarians will be volunteering over 150 hours throughout the school year for this project. They will be purchasing and reading books selected by school administration to ensure topic

and age appropriateness. Students will get to meet new Rotarians each month and learn about Rotary International. Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Locally, the Rotary Club of Fremont has 70 members.

## Keeping Parents Informed

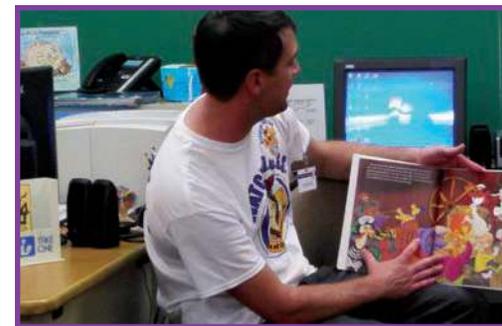
Keeping parents informed is a goal of the district. This includes providing parent involvement opportunities, Title I information, building and district information on a variety of topics, and for the first time, providing specific information to the families in our district with migrant status.

Families with migrant status have unique needs, mainly receiving important information in their native language. This year, FCS provided those families with information that covered a variety of topics specific to those needs. District staff provided information explaining the importance of registration, parent teacher communication and learning at home. Guest speakers from the Ohio Migrant Education Center provided families with U.S. regulations regarding parent's rights and responsibilities when it comes to their child's education.

The families appreciated the family meal and time to ask questions in an inviting atmosphere. As one parent stated, "The topics covered were very important to us and the way it was explained was excellent."



## WANTED: A FEW GOOD MEN



**WANTED:** A few good men! No, not the movie, but honorable, trustworthy, responsible, men who appreciate and value education and who can be a positive male influence in the lives of children. Studies have shown that involvement of a father or a positive male role model in the lives of children has profound effects on them. Father-child interaction promotes a child's physical well-being, perceptual ability and competency for relating with others. These children also demonstrate

greater ability to take initiative and evidence self-control.

How is the Fremont City School district making an impact in this area? Otis Elementary is piloting the Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) program. As a program of the National Center for Fathering, it is recognized as a step toward involving and engaging males in the school building. Dads, grandfathers, uncles, brothers or father figures are encouraged to volunteer and commit to one full school day a year. They can expect to follow the detailed schedule that will involve them in various areas of the educational experience from assisting with safety in the parking lot before and after school, spending time in their own child's classroom, monitoring students during lunch times, and even participating in scheduled building events and activities throughout the day. Mr. Ken Luc, father of two children that attend Otis Elementary, is the district's first Top DOG. On his first day as a Watch DOG he was first introduced to the students on the morning tv announcements. He greeted children and their parents in the morning with a high five and even assisted with the Halloween parade to Bethesda. Mr. Luc will be assisting with future Watch D.O.G.S events to encourage others to participate. When asked about his first day as Top DOG he stated, "Believe me, if I can do it, anyone can." Interested in becoming part of the Watch D.O.G.S. program at Otis Elementary?

Please contact:

Laura Bryant  
Otis Elementary School Principal  
419-332-8964

[bryantl@fremontschools.net](mailto:bryantl@fremontschools.net)

OR

Bonnie Weaver  
Parent Involvement Coordinator  
419-332-4394

[weaverb@fremontschools.net](mailto:weaverb@fremontschools.net)

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

## Good Character Grows From Working Together on Goals



Lutz second graders are showing good character by demonstrating unity while setting and surpassing reading goals. Students at Lutz are reading at home to increase their reading skills. We are trying to travel “to the moon” by reading a minute for each mile it takes to get there. The second graders are doing a fabulous job and celebrating top readers each week. Together, the class sets a goal for the number of minutes they will read collectively. The goal

is readjusted each week by the students. One week the students realized that they would have to embrace our word of the month, “unity”, to attain the goal while one of our top readers was out ill. They showed good character in wanting to perform well for their classmate and surpassed the goal with their hard work and honored him well! At the rate they are reading, we will travel “to the moon...and back!” Pictured, standing: Skyler Gullett, Evan Franks, Joshua Cooper and Kyrah Messer; kneeling: AriNyah Rendon and Lyndi Wolf; seated: Joshua Jackson, Sydney Miller and Adriana Lape

## FCS Honors

Fremont City Schools Communication Committee implemented a recognition program designed to reward and recognize members of the community and/or former employees or educators who have contributed much to educational excellence. Excellence is defined as “Distinguished by superiority; surpassing others; outstanding or valuable quality; very good of its kind; eminently good; first class”. Volunteerism and service are important considerations. Pictured Left to Right: Front Row: Kris Lucius, Dr. Douglas Bowman, Pastor Kevin Pinkerton Pictured Back Row: Dr. Ryan Hoehner, Pam Jensen and Shannon Reardon



Fremont City Schools Communication Committee implemented a recognition program designed to ensure all Fremont City Schools employees feel valued and connected to our system.

We will reward and recognize individual achievements in the following three categories: Leadership, Motivation and Dedication.

Nomination forms are available on both the Intranet and Internet along with nomination boxes at each building. Each nominee will receive a certificate and Giant Step pin to wear on a lapel or staff ID. Giant Step Award Winners are Wendy Eakin, Peggie Rios, Kelley Scriver and Marcy Cooley. Not pictured-



Lori Gallagher, Diana Vara and Robert Decker.

## Atkinson Has Character in Action

This year we have been working hard to be respectful, responsible, and safe while demonstrating good character in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. We visited Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and the students paired up for a terrific educational migration activity. The students demonstrated teamwork and cooperation while learning about the migration patterns of Ohio cranes. Students needed to work together to gather food and habitat items to show survival skills which animals would exhibit. This was a wonderful day of learning for our students!



## Washington Honors Others

This year Washington Elementary School decided to do something a little different for Hispanic Heritage Month. We wanted to honor the three Hispanic gentlemen that lost their lives last spring by trying to help someone. These brave gentlemen were Jose Andy Chavez, Romiro (Ronnie) Sanchez, and Daniel Ramirez. In their memory, Washington Elementary is donating a book to each school library where



these gentlemen’s children currently attend school or where they attended elementary school. One school will be receiving a book entitled *Goal* in memory of Mr. Chavez because of his love of soccer. One school will be receiving a book about the Star Spangled Banner in memory of Mr. Ramirez because he was in the U.S Army. The final school will be receiving a bilingual book about Tito Puentes, the Mambo King in memory of Mr. Sanchez because of his love of music. All three gentlemen attended Fremont schools during their school years. The Washington P.T.O. paid for these books that were hand selected by Ms. Sandoval, Kindergarten teacher at Washington Elementary. Pictured above from left to right: Tommy Gallegos-5th grade, Domenick Estrada-KG and Graciela Pina-3rd grade

## Congratulations to Crawford

Congratulations to Marquis Crawford. He was named as an Outstanding Participant in the 2015 National Achievement Scholarship Program. Marquis scored in the top 3% of more than 160,000 Black Americans taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The National Achievement Scholarship Program began in 1964 specifically to honor academically promising Black American high school students. The scholarship is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which also conducts the National Merit Scholarship Program that is open to all U.S. high school students. Marquis took the PSAT/NMSQT as a junior.



## Croghan Students & Helpers Receive A+



Croghan first grade students received a huge amount of help from grandparents, parents and family friends during their hands-on Apple Centers. First grade students were beyond excited to take part in Apple Center activities relating to all content areas. Within the Math Apple Center the objectives were: to display data in picture graphs, read and interpret picture graphs, estimate and measure weights and lengths using non-standard and standard units. The students used paper clips to measure varying lengths of

apple peels. Additionally, the students used teddy bear counters and a balance to discover how many counters were needed to equal the weight of their apple.

Within Language Arts the students enjoyed apple cider and a cookie as they used their comprehension skills to answer questions referring to, two non-fiction apple texts. Furthermore, through a read aloud several Social Studies and Science objectives were introduced. These objectives included: analyzing a series of events or seasonal cycle and predict what will occur next, recognize seasonal changes can influence the health, survival or activities of organisms and explain ways people obtain goods and services they do not produce. The students actively participated in creating seasonal apple trees and created their own apple flip book.

All of this would have been very difficult without the help of our community members. Thank you for your support in making this a huge success! Adult Left: Tim Johnson Adult Right: Tori Marsee Student Left: Brayden Prater Student Right: Ashtyn Marsee Student Left: Jace Miller Student Right: Ava Lynch Student Left: Adam Young

## Otis Students Battle for United Way

Students at Otis are once again raising money for the Sandusky County United Way through a friendly competition among the grades that we call the annual "Penny War." For one week each fall, students bring in pennies that they put in buckets at lunchtime by grade level. The unique twist with this fundraiser is that students can "sabotage" a rival grade level with silver coins. Each day after lunch the buckets are weighed on a scale. The weight of the sabotage bucket is subtracted from the weight of the penny bucket for each grade. Both students and staff enjoy tracking the progress of each grade level through daily announcements and a large graph that hangs in the gymnasium. The winning grade level at the end of the week earns a pizza party. In the last five years, students at Otis have donated 1,160 pounds of coins totaling \$3,023.59 for the Sandusky County United Way though our Penny Wars, and we anticipate our largest donation yet this year. The best thing of all is that the proceeds donated to United Way stay right here in Sandusky County, with some of the money coming back to support program partnerships with Fremont City Schools. (Pictured above right: Kindergartner Roman Meza)



## Team Building-FMS Style

The Ohio Bobcat team takes pride in how hard we work to build rapport within our school and community. The students and teachers meet once a week as a team to discuss different ways we can encourage, motivate and show respect for one another. We share stories and encourage each other to do the best we can do with each day! During one team meeting, Micheal Born, a Bobcat student said the following, "When you are nice to someone, you might not think you are doing much, but actually, you might have changed their life." Aaron Chavez, another Bobcat student, shared with the team, "It's good to be nice to people and not always expect something in return. Be nice just to be nice!" And we even had student, Bryan Fisher, share a personal story he wrote that expressed the power of kindness. We are beyond impressed with the feedback and heartfelt words these students have shared!



In conjunction with building rapport, the Bobcat's participated in a team building activity through the Fremont Recreation Center. During this event, students completed various obstacles and challenges. Students walked away from the event with new friends and a greater respect for one another as it forced them to step out of their comfort zone and work together to complete the challenges. Way to go, Bobcats!

We believe in the importance of building *strong individuals* that recognize the power of respect. We believe in the importance of building a *strong team* that demonstrates hope and kindness. These beliefs will follow our student's into their everyday lives and bring us one step closer to the district goal of building hope, trust and respect within our community.

## Designing an Award-Winning Plow



2014 brought a new contest from ODOT and a new challenge to Art Club - paint an 11 foot wide snow plow! 16 members excited and unafraid of this imposing piece of machinery mashed up their sketches into a dynamic Pop-Art / Comic Art design. Tasked with the themes of school spirit or snow safety the Art Club combined both themes and created an unstoppable little giant barreling through the deep snow to clear the path for a school bus and a full day of school. The plow bursts to life with a "KAPLOW" and boasts the

clever tagline "Winter is SNOW match for the Little Giants!" Completed in only 4 after-school meetings, this mural truly exhibited the talent and strength of our Ross High artists. Their efforts were rewarded as they received the Community Spirit Award, \$250, and a 50 pizza party. Keep an eye out for what they'll do next! Left to right: Amber Otemat, Carianne Smith, Carissa Krauss, Austin Estep, Clara Diaz, Tähti Palojärvi, Cassidy Ratliff, Mr. Scherzer, Jenna Acevedo, Savannah Krueger, Jazlin Fawley, Sam Contreras, Kendra Buchele. Not pictured: Alexis Green, Genesis Palacios, Kiaria Sanchez and Lauren Sieving.

- **Mission Statement: The mission of Fremont City Schools is to develop well-educated, life-long 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**