

Fremont City Schools



Dec.
2015

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Thank You to Retiring Board of Education Members



Cindy Young



Jaunita Sanchez



Daniel Sanchez

Fremont City Schools extends its appreciation to Cindy Young, Juanita Sanchez and Daniel Sanchez for their service as Board of Education members. Cindy Young was elected to the Board in November 2007 and Juanita Sanchez served on the Board of Education for the past four years. Daniel Sanchez was appointed as a Board Member in September 2014. The three Board members will retire on December 31, 2015.

Changing Opportunities into Blessings at Stamm

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” - William Arthur Ward

The Stamm Make a Difference Club (MADC) created blessings for families in need during this Thanksgiving season through their annual canned food drive. Each year, the Stamm MADC donates non-perishable foods and paper products to the Liberty Center, which provides temporary shelter for families in Sandusky County. Last year, Stamm began a new tradition, competing with Lutz’s MADC to collect the greatest number of donated items for their respective charities. (Lutz collects items for the Sandusky County Food Pantry.) Stamm took the trophy last school year, donating over 700 items to be delivered to Liberty Center. When asked why she participates in the food drive, fifth grader and Stamm MADC member Kyra Jones says, “So other people who don’t have food can eat and have a better life.” Although the friendly competition is fun for MADC members, the students’ real motivation for the food drive is to transform a common day into a thanksgiving for a family in our community.



Ross Student Recognized

Ross High School Principal Gracy Hinojosa-Lloyd announced that Johanna Alexander has been named a Commended Student in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2016 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“These young men and women being named a Commended Student demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource: recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”



3rd Grade Writing is Taking Off at Croghan!

This school year, Croghan students are increasing their focus on writing. We are accomplishing this in several different ways. One way is integrating writing into all subject areas. For example, in math, students write about how they solve various types of problems. The writing helps the students to think about what strategies they are using and why, which in turn helps them to recognize any mistakes they may have made.

In addition, in language arts, students have ample opportunities for both formal and informal writing. As part of the Daily Five rotations, students have writing notebooks in which they are able to write about any topic they wish. Students are also practicing formula writing. In formula writing, they are given a topic to write about. This serves as good preparation for state tests in which students are asked to write about a particular topic. Formula writing also encourages students to expand their details and to make their writing flow naturally. A lot of what students are working on in formula writing is becoming evident in students' informal writing as well, which supports that students are internalizing these skills and applying them to other writing situations.



Writing is an integral skill that will be utilized by students throughout their educational career and beyond. It is our hope that the steps we are taking in class now will prepare students for success in the future.

FMS Exploring Career Options



Team BGSU took students to the Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers to explore future career options. The students had a great time walking around the school completing hands on activities. They loved getting hand massages in Cosmetology, playing with the little kids in the Pre-School

Unit, practicing painting cars, and learning the dangers of alcohol use with the Criminal Justice students. Many said that they were very interested in attending during their high school years. We want to extend a big thank you to all of the Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers staff and students for taking the time to show us around their wonderful facility.



Hayes Helpers

Hayes Elementary School has many opportunities for students to showcase their leadership skills, their volunteerism, and their willingness to help others. However, no other club offers quite the same opportunity all at once like the Hayes Helpers. Under the direction of school guidance counselor Kari Hatfield, the Hayes Helpers program offers students the opportunity to assist teachers with clerical tasks and do other important jobs in teachers' classrooms. It is not easy to become a Hayes Helper though. The program requires interested 4th and 5th grade students to apply by writing an essay on the importance of being respectful, responsible and safe – our school rules. Students then are selected for their leadership potential as well as their overall character. This year the program has 28 students participating, who are truly learning the importance of hard work, leadership, and having the willingness to help others.



Mapping at Atkinson

The fourth graders at Atkinson Elementary have been focusing their efforts on various maps and map skills in the first quarter of the school year. A couple of them are elevation maps that tell the height of the land and product maps that tell the various goods that are grown or manufactured in Ohio. They have learned how to map the distance between cities and landmarks on maps by creating map scales using sticky notes. Learning how to use map keys has been an essential lesson so they can locate important places on a map when traveling on vacation. Even more important is the use of cardinal and intermediate directions which many of them have already mastered at this point in the school year.

Recently both Mrs. Fisher's class and Mrs. McBride's class have completed an Ohio Regions Mapping Project to culminate their unit on Regions of Ohio. The project required them to create a map of Ohio to include the five geographical regions in which the state is divided into. The regions are: Lake Plains, Till Plains, Bluegrass Region, Glaciated Appalachian Plateau, and Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau. The glaciers that came across Ohio have much to do with how Ohio is elevated. The Lake Plains, in which Fremont is located, and the Till Plains are located in the flattest portion of Ohio due to the glacier making its way across the state. Students needed to place the regions on the map in the appropriate location, create a map key that matched the color of the region that they chose, include a compass rose, and give a brief description of each of the five regions. Final projects were displayed in the hallway and discussed at Parent Teacher Conferences.



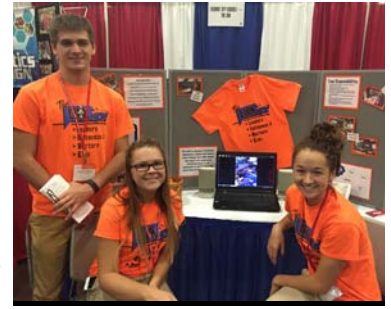
New Tradition at Otis Elementary

This is the second year that students and staff at Otis Elementary dressed up in Halloween costumes and walked over to Bethesda Care Center next door to the school. Students and staff paraded through the hallways of the center and then out back to the assisted living apartments where residents waved from their doors and windows. Seeing the students in their costumes really put a smile on the residents' faces. The students and staff also enjoyed getting to show off the costumes they wore. Every student received a special treat at the end of the parade from the employees of Bethesda Assisted Living Apartments. This new tradition will hopefully continue on for many more years to come.



The Link

Fremont Ross High School's The LINK program was recently recognized at the OSBA Student Achievement Fair. Mrs. Susan Frye, Program Coordinator, and The LINK were nominated for the Northwest Region Excellence in Community Service Award. This award showcases exemplary programs that improve student achievement and each program that was chosen to participate was showcased in a booth during the fair. The LINK being chosen is a special honor, as only 100 nominations were accepted to participate.



Ross Quiz Bowl

Quiz bowl kicked off the year by beating their competition. With a much larger team than years past, they used their collective brain power to defeat their opponents.

In their September meet, they beat perennial favorite Clyde HS, but lost to St. Wendelin and Fremont St. Joseph. They improved their record in the October meet, beating Put-In-Bay and Old Fort, and losing a close match to Tiffin Calvert.

This year the team has grown in size to 20 active members. The team's success has been solely based on the large group of students and their dedication, with the help of seasoned veterans Sam Berlekamp (team captain) and Josh Recker (assistant captain). In addition, some of the first year players have made a significant impact, including Nick Dorobek and Clara Diaz.

Quiz bowl coach, Mr. Wright said, "As other team members gain more experience, I am confident they will make significant contributions to the group, as well. That's the great thing about having such a large base of players ~ as older students move on, there will be a number of quality players to step up and fill the leadership roles of the team."

Article written by Ross student, Alexis Green

Lutz and the Light Bulb

Recently third graders at Lutz Elementary took a trip to the Thomas Edison Birthplace Museum and Milan History Museum in downtown Milan. The Edison Birthplace Museum includes the house where Edison was born, as well as artifacts from his life donated from his daughter and granddaughter. Students are able to see original inventions and how life was in the late 1800's. Students learned that Edison was responsible for the phonograph, motion pictures, and most notably, the light bulb.

The Milan History Museum also allows students to see how life has changed in the last 150 years. The students toured a number of old homes during the trip. They saw a home with traditional furniture and a cast iron stove that heats the entire home. The presenter explained how Milan was built and grew due to the canal system in place. They learned how transportation has changed the community over time from canals to railroads.



Reader's Theatre at Washington Elementary



Washington Elementary along with Fremont City Schools takes pride in the teaching of the taught and tested curriculum outlined in the District's Curriculum Management Plan. A third part of the curriculum is the hidden curriculum which came alive as the Washington staff members performed a reader's theatre of *The Day the Crayons Quit* written by Drew Daywalt. Each staff member took on the character traits of their color. Yellow, played by Mrs. Smith and orange, played by Mrs. Wendling argued over being the color of the sun, while green, played by Mrs. Hetrick just wanted her friends, yellow and orange to get along. Beige crayon, played by Focused Intervention Tutor, Mrs. Curran, expressed her dissatisfaction of only being used to color things like turkey dinners and wheat. The entertainment of this staff debut prompted students to stop Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wendling

later that day, pleading for yellow and orange to "just get along". Another student listed all of the things he could think of that could be colored beige in an effort to make Mrs. Curran's character feel better--a true example of how colorful learning happens all over, all the time at Washington Elementary.

Staff Spotlights

Crystal Walker - Student Monitor - Hayes



Why did you choose to work for Fremont City Schools?

I enjoy being able to help students and their families.

How does your current position help students in the District?

I try to encourage them to follow the rules, stay out of trouble, to be safe, and to have fun - always have fun.

What are some traits/skills you possess that help with your position?

I think that raising six children and volunteering around the community have given me the skills needed for my position.

Nicole Kulasa - Intervention Specialist - Croghan

Why did you choose Fremont?

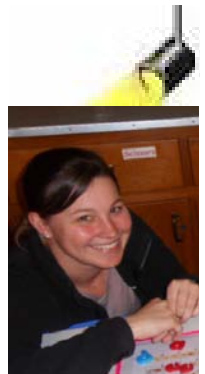
I chose Fremont because I felt after investigating the school district it truly believed in giving every student an opportunity to learn and grow by strongly believing that every student is a priority. Additionally, after speaking with Dr. Pierce about the demographics and learning more about her vision of inclusion, I felt that it would be a great opportunity for me to further my career.

What is your philosophy in the classroom?

I believe that an effective teacher understands the development of all students in his/her classroom. By understanding these characteristics I am able to use the data from what the students are able to do as a foundation to build off of to decide how each student can achieve their full potential. I provide material that will be fun and engaging, but will challenge the students to critically think to figure out solutions to questions. In my classroom it is essential to learn the diverse backgrounds of the students that make up our classroom. Every student has different experiences growing up, so it is important to continue having an open mind and using each experience as schema to begin making a home to school connection. Since all students are coming from different backgrounds, it is important to teach students that everyone is going to have different opinions or believe a variety of ideas, but all students should learn to be supportive of the other students in our class and school. I believe in providing an environment where all students can learn and grow and achieve their full potential.

What new ideas are you implementing this year?

This school year, Croghan is using the inclusion model throughout the school. So this means that all of my special education services are done inside the general education classroom. We have it worked out that when I come into the room, we break up into small groups so every student is learning at his or her instructional level. This is happening in both reading and math. The students will be grouped in flexible groups so it is constantly changing. This allows students to be in groups with all of their classmates.



Apology

We would like to offer our apologies for omitting East of Chicago in our last newsletter of the FCS Supports Local Business section. We appreciate our partnerships with all local businesses.

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

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, transgender identity, age or genetic information.