

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Oct.
2012

Giant Pride is City-Wide



VOTE For
FREMONT CITY SCHOOLS
NO NEW TAXES!

Paid for by the FCS Levy Committee, Shantel Laird, Treasurer, 323 Croghan Street, Fremont OH 43420



On Sept. 28 during a football pre-game event, Fremont City Schools and the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities collaborated for an evening of pride. The Fremont Area Foundation honored Jacob Wukie and Myles Porter, Fremont Ross graduates and Olympic silver medalists. Wukie earned a silver medal in archery while competing in the Olympic games in London, and Porter earned a silver medal in judo while competing in the Paralympics, also in London. Both men signed autographs, took pictures and answered questions after pre-game. We were so proud to honor current students and alumni. From top left clockwise: Myles Porter, Paralympian, poses with Roscoe. Olympians Jacob Wukie and Myles Porter were honorary captains at the Ross vs. Toledo Central Catholic game. They joined captains Tyler Wolf, Kole Amor, Michael Egbert and Dylan Starks for the coin toss. Grant Mapus, fourth grader at Stamm, and Mr. Jonathan Torrence, music teacher, shared an original tune with the crowd. Grover Dowell, retired wrestling coach, was on hand at the pep rally to introduce the Olympians who were both 2004 graduates and wrestlers for Coach Dowell. FCS students and SCBDD students showed how they were "Learning Together" in this community.

**Keep the Pride Alive and
Vote "For" Schools on November 6th!**

Pathways 2 Employment



Transitioning from school to the world of work can be a challenging experience for every student. This transition can be even more difficult for students who have learning, emotional and physical limitations. Thanks to Pathways 2 Employment (P2E), more transition services are readily available to FCS and Sandusky County students.

FCS began partnering with the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities' P2E program in 2009. P2E Coordinators and FCS Intervention Specialists meet monthly to identify transition services that would benefit students and prepare them for life after graduation. According to Barb McNutt, Intervention Specialist Department Chair, "I am incredibly thankful for the partnership that has been established between P2E and FCS. As a high school intervention specialist who works with transitional aged youth, having this link to the community has been very beneficial to both myself and my students. The P2E program assists students in developing appropriate career goals and also in the development of essential employability skills. They are a valuable

resource to these students and their parents and play an integral role in the successful transition from high school to beyond."

P2E offers vocational rehabilitation services to eligible students who may experience difficulty in preparing, finding and learning a job. Program services vary but often include skill training, work experiences, job seeking assistance, and job coaching. The summer program is the most common service for students and offers structured on-the-job work experiences at local businesses. Over 30 students participated in this summer's program.

For more information on the P2E program please contact Barb McNutt at Fremont Ross High School or the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Otis Remembers 9-11



Julie Madell In Picture: Kaydee Walls

September 11, 2001 is a day we will never forget! However, most students at Otis Elementary don't even remember this horrific day for they were not even born. On the 11th anniversary of 9-11 we took the opportunity to remember.

Students brainstormed important monuments and memorials throughout the world. We discussed that many different cultures have monuments and memorials to either commemorate a great victory, to honor an important death, and to show that a civilization is capable of producing something physically impressive. The students then watched a short video capturing the events that unfolded on this day 11 years ago and watched the live streaming of the memorial service being held in New York City on the 9-11 Anniversary.

Students were then asked to design a memorial and to write a short paragraph explaining how their memorial commemorates September 11th. The 5th grade students then hung their memorials up in the hallway to remind the whole school about the importance of this day and to never forget. Submitted by:

Big/Little Buddies at Croghan

The third grade and kindergarten classes at Croghan have teamed up to strengthen their reading and writing muscles! Once a week, the students in Mr. Smith's class pair up with Mrs. Kayden's kindergarteners, and Mrs. Scherger's third graders join Mrs. Willey's class for 45 minutes of buddy reading, shared writing, and more. Last Wednesday, the students in Mrs. Scherger's class composed a paragraph describing something that they like to do in their free time. They shared these writings with their kindergarten buddies and helped the kindergarteners to write and illustrate a sentence about something that they enjoy doing. Pictured are buddies Samuel Gonzalez, Ella Klein, and Rianna Collins, showing off their collaborative writing pieces.



Team Ashland's (FMS) Success

Team Ashland's top 10 Academic success strategies!!!

10) Sign up immediately for ProgressBook access! Forms were sent home the week of September 10th.

9) Check your email daily for homework updates and other exciting FMS news.

8) Check your child's student planner for homework assignments that need to be completed.

7) Help your child study and prepare for upcoming tests.

6) Remind your child to pack his or her bookbag the night before.

5) Have your child lay out his or her schools clothes before going to bed.

4) Help your child prepare a healthy breakfast before coming to school.

3) Be involved in your child's education. Ask your child about his or her day.

2) Contact your child's teacher if you ever have any questions. We are here for you, too!

1) Put your best foot forward every day!



It Takes More to be a Little Giant!

The Video

View the VIDEO at:

<http://www.fremontschools.net/Levy2012/Levy2012.asp>

or use your SMARTPHONE, get the FREE AP and TAG!



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

Building Character by Practicing Responsibility



Responsibility is a characteristic that is being taught through the October Word of the Month at Hayes Elementary. Responsibility means knowing what is expected and doing it. Learning to be responsible is not always easy, but Hayes students are practicing to be responsible every day. Each school year provides many opportunities for all students to practice

being responsible by coming to school on time, completing and turning in homework, returning library books, listening in class and being responsible for their actions. Being a Hayes Helper is another way to build responsibility. Hayes Helpers are students who are responsible for helping teachers, younger students and making announcements. School Counselor, Mrs. Hatfield, selects and organizes a schedule for Hayes Helpers. Pictured from Left to Right: Jerrick Gamble and Jady Rapp are helping a first grade teacher by stapling pages together. Submitted by Susan King

Washington Walks

It was Monday, September 3 – Labor Day. There were people lined up all along Main Street. There were fire trucks. There was a band. There were even clowns riding around on mopeds. What in the world was going on? I soon found out that everyone was getting ready for the BIG Lindsey Labor Day Parade. It felt like the whole community of Lindsey was there. There



were children, parents, grandparents, and even our new principal, Mrs. Smith, was there. Being an advisor of our “Make a Difference Club” I decided to step in and volunteer my time to try to make a difference in promoting our school levy. Wow, was I in for a surprise! We had several parents and many students volunteer their time to also promote the school levy, too. We passed out fliers, decals, pencils, held banners and signs, and even passed out candy. This experience for me was a lot of fun because I saw a lot of my past students and current students sitting along the parade route with his/her parent(s) waving and cheering us on. It was a great feeling to see so much support from the community! It also gave me the opportunity to meet one of our district goals: to build hope, trust and respect with our community. Submitted by: Evilia Sandoval

Did You Know?

As part of our student wellness plan, the district offers unlimited fruits and vegetables to students in grades K-12 who purchase a school lunch. Also, all elementary students receive a FREE fruit or vegetable snack three times a week during the school day.

Stamm Schools Works to Improve Character



“When you have good or positive character, you act in a manner that is honorable, courageous, compassionate, and ethical (Ron Kurtus).”

One of our district goals is to “build hope, trust and respect with our community.” This begins with helping our students to build good character. To meet this challenge, the students of Stamm Elementary are being recognized for their good character in many ways. Whole school: When students are “caught” having good character (e.g., holding a door open for others, pushing in other people’s chairs, picking up litter, etc.) they are awarded with either a “Pizza with the Principal” coupon (which enters them into a drawing for a pizza party with the principal) or a “Stamm Silver” (which provides them with an immediate prize choice from the principal’s office).

In the classroom: In the first grade classrooms at Stamm Elementary, students are using the “Rainbow Clip Chart”. Students who are caught using good character are

moved up the clip chart and earn special rewards within their classrooms. The real reward for showing good character is the reputation that students build for being trustworthy, dependable, confident and hard working. Through modeling and positive reinforcement, Stamm Elementary is committed to helping our students develop good character. Submitted by Barbara Carvalho Pictured: Hannah Rios and Colin Booher

It Takes More to be a Little Giant

Violence is never the answer, but getting paid for kicking butt definitely is, and no one enjoys their job more than Myles Porter.

This real-life Little Giant competed in the 2012 Paralympics, taking home a silver medal in judo. Never did he think that something he started for fun could take him so far.

“After dropping a chemistry class that was kicking my butt, I needed an extra credit in college to be a full-time student. Judo was the next best thing,” Myles explained.

Graduating from Fremont Ross in 2004 is something Porter is extremely proud of. During a pep rally held on the September 28th at Ross, Porter exclaimed, “I’ve met the President three times, been to numerous countries, and have met many people, but no place is greater than Fremont.” Porter has very fond memories of Fremont Ross. “I loved all the teachers here. I loved my years at Ross,” he said.

Many of his fond memories of Ross have stuck with him after all these years. “There is still a lot of stuff my friends and I talk about,” he said. “We often reminisce about football, wrestling, school dances, and things that happened around here.”

Despite all of Porter’s success, there has been one big obstacle that he has to overcome every day. This super Paralympian is legally blind. “My blindness has made me a stronger person because no matter how easy of a day there is, it is always an obstacle to overcome,” he shared. “Nothing comes without work. The harder you work today, the easier tomorrow will be,” he explained. “No one ever let me take the easy road because I was blind.”

Now living in Colorado, Porter spends his time training at the Olympic Center, where he has been training with some of the best since 2007. Although he is a busy man, Porter still seems to find time for love. “I proposed to my girlfriend, Betsy Quick, this past November, on my birthday,” he said.

There is nothing Myles Porter cannot do if he puts his mind to it. He is a symbol of overcoming the “little” things in life, and becoming a “giant.” Myles Porter is a “Little Giant,” and by overcoming the odds, he has achieved “giant” goals.

Written by: Erica Conley, Ross High student-journalist

Golden Rule Followed at Lutz



Second grade students at Lutz Elementary have been having fun learning about what builds a good community by participating in activities to build their classroom community. Learning about the Golden Rule and how following it helps us to lead a more pleasant life has been reinforced with using the Cube of Love. Class books are helping us to get to know

each other better because it is fun to read about our friends and what makes them special! Enjoying our individual traits and how we each have something special to share to make the group better was celebrated in making a puzzle for teamwork.

While building the teamwork puzzle each student held one piece of the puzzle and found how it fit with all the other unique pieces to make a beautiful picture...reminding us that we each have something special to share that makes us important and needed in the group to make it the best it can be! Then we all had fun making our own team huddle...BIG SMILES for our community! Submitted by: Julie Villarreal

1st Graders Explore Community Laws



As part of the new Common Core Standards, first graders need to be aware of rules and laws in different settings. To begin the school year, in socials studies the first graders in Mrs. Yoder and Mrs. Davlin's first grade classes have been discussing the three school wide rules at Atkinson: Respect yourself, Respect others, and Respect property. They have read stories and made charts showing what respect looks like in all areas of the school. As they have explored the laws and rules in the community, the first graders have discovered they need to be respectful in the community as well. They learned that laws are needed in the community to help people live together safely and to help keep their community clean. Finally, students have learned that when people break rules and laws it causes problems for themselves and those around them.

As a way of thinking about laws in the community, Atkinson first graders took a neighborhood walk to observe and discuss laws in their neighborhood. They looked for signs that help us follow important laws and help us be respectful citizens. They found and discussed stop signs, handicapped parking signs, school walking signs, stop lights, littering, and cross walks. The first graders learned about the importance of being an outstanding

student as well as an outstanding community member. Students pictured: Aiden Chavarria and Laci Sayre Article Submitted by: Julie Yoder and Julie Davlin

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many Fremont businesses did the district hire to provide products or services last year?

The district hired 156 Fremont businesses during the 2011-2012 year.

2. How many new employees were hired for the school year and how many of these new employees were from Fremont?

Due to retirements and resignations, the district hired 36 staff members for the current school year. A total of 20 new hires were from Fremont!

Facts about the Renewal Income Tax (1.25%) Levy

On November 6, 2012, Fremont City Schools will ask the Fremont community to vote on the RENEWAL Income Tax Levy.

- This 1.25% income tax generates approximately \$6.7 million per year.
- These monies are used to pay the day-to-day operating expenses of Fremont City Schools.
- Passage of the Renewal Income Tax Levy will NOT increase taxes.
- Passage of this levy is necessary in order to maintain the district's current services and programs for our students.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Will this RENEWAL Income Tax Levy increase my taxes?

No. This is a RENEWAL levy.

2. Who pays the RENEWAL Income Tax?

All Fremont City School District residents pay the 1.25% income tax through employer withholdings, individual quarterly estimated payments or annual returns.

3. Why is the levy on the ballot now and what is the length/duration of the RENEWAL Income Tax?

This 1.25% income tax was RENEWED in March 2008 for five years. The tax will expire in December 2013, thus, the district is asking the Fremont community to continue their support by renewing this levy for another five years so we can maintain the current services and programs for our children.

4. Have there been any decreases in state funding?

Yes. The district lost approximately \$2.6 million over a two-year period (2011-2013) with reductions in state funding. In order to maintain a balanced budget, the FCS staff and Business Advisory Council have been working collaboratively over the past several years analyzing expenditures and finding ways to reduce costs.

5. What has the district done to reduce costs?

To date Fremont City Schools has:

- Reduced 47 staff positions.
- Reduced 33 support staff members from North Central Ohio Educational Service Center.
- Negotiated employee contracts that included no raises to annual salaries for two years.
- Developed a cost-effective staff wellness plan that has saved the district over \$952,000 in health insurance costs.
- Joined councils and consortiums in order to reduce utilities, materials and supplies costs.
- Pursued and received over \$775,000 in educational grants to assist with General Fund costs/expenditures.
- Created a "staff safety and transitional work program" and reduced workers' compensation costs by \$233,000.
- Increased pay-to-participate fees for athletic programming.
- Renegotiated all service contracts with service providers.
- Utilized business "best practices" that includes obtaining 3-5 quotes for all contracts and the use of local businesses.

6. What improvements have been made with student services and programs during the past five years?

Fremont City Schools:

- Purchases new textbooks by following a textbook review/adoption calendar.
- Offers full-day kindergarten at all elementary buildings.
- Provides tutoring during the school year and offers summer school.
- Provides updated technology, including SMART Boards and laptops for classroom instruction.
- Develops new curriculum guides for teachers by following a curriculum adoption calendar.

Fremont City Schools Board President, Alex Gorobetz, stated the following about the levy, "Passage of this levy is crucial to the financial health and stability of the district as it comprises 20% of the district's total budget. The improvements to the district in the areas of curriculum, facilities, budgetary operations, technology and student services during the past six years have been unprecedented in the school district's history. All of these improvements have resulted in markedly better performance of our students. The renewal levy is not a new tax and passage of this levy will enable the district to continue the positive momentum we are now experiencing and allow us to maintain the excellent programs which are designed to benefit all of our students."

QUESTIONS? Contact Dr. Traci McCaudy, FCS Superintendent at 334-5432 or superintendent@fremont.k12.oh.us

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.