

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

October
2011

Fremont Middle School Project Update

The new middle school is progressing per the established timeline and the district is prepared to start moving into the new building at the end of November. There are many activities planned for the students to help orient them to the new middle school. During the month of October, the FMS principal and assistant principals will meet with sixth grade and current FMS students to address any questions they may have about the new school and see a current slide show of the building. Prior to winter break, sixth grade students will be visiting the Fremont Recreation Center for a full-day of team building activities with their classmates and teachers. Lastly, students will get to spend a full day with their grade-level classmates and teachers at the new building prior to beginning classes there on January 19th. Please see the schedule below for student days and parent orientation meetings at the new FMS. Additional information regarding the tours and meetings will be forthcoming.



January 4	Grade 6 Tour	
January 5	Grade 6 Tour	
January 6	Grade 6 Tour	
January 9	Grade 6 Parent Meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 10	Grade 7 Tour	
January 10	Grade 7 Parent Meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 12	Grade 8 Tour	
January 12	Grade 8 Parent Meeting	6:00 p.m.

Strong Academics

Otis Sixth Graders Love Books...Pg. 2

PROPS Squad Popping Up...Pg. 2

Strong Character

Stamm Remembers Sept. 11th...Pg. 3

6th Grade DARE...Pg. 3

Hispanic Heritage Month...Pg. 3

Apple Day at Hayes...Pg. 3

Strong Community

Atkinson Studies Fremont...Pg. 4

Lutz Explores Backyard...Pg. 4

Busing Updates...Pg. 4

Artist in Residence



The Bethesda Arts Council of Sandusky County, in conjunction with the Fremont City Schools, is pleased to announce that Jude Bischoff will be Artist-in-Residence for the month of October. Mr. Bischoff was raised with a healthy love of the outdoors, he is an athlete, naturalist, dreamer, and artist who revels in the natural energy of the world around him. Following his graduation from Ross in 1975, he trained as a fine artist at Bowling Green State University, graduating in 1979. Jude will be working with Fremont students on an art project celebrating the watershed of the Sandusky River Eco System: students will be required to research the Sandusky River eco system. The goal is to make students and community aware of the delicate balance the river plays in the watershed. The final project will be featured at our new Middle School. Select elementary classes in the district will have the benefit of Mr. Bischoff's visiting their art education class. The final show featuring Mr. Bischoff's work will be October 27 from 6:30-8:30 at the Arts and Health Technology Center at Terra Community College.



Strong
Academics + Strong
Character = Strong
Community

Otis Sixth Graders Award Favorite Books



Sixth grade students at Otis recently completed a study of "The Best Books." Students discussed and read about how books receive special honors such as the Newbery, Caldecott, and Coretta Scott King Awards. Each student was responsible for selecting his/her personal favorite book, copying or creating a cover, designing a brand new award for that book, writing about why that book was selected, and explaining the significance of the award they bestowed upon it. This project allowed students to thoroughly explore one of the sixth grade state of Ohio Reading indicators, "using criteria to choose independent reading materials through personal interest, knowledge of authors and genres, or recommendation from others." Pictured at left is Trenton Perkins, displaying his report on the book The Silver Chair which is part

of "The Chronicles of Narnia" series by C.S. Lewis. Trenton gave his book "The Best Sit Down" Award. By Tracie Dye

FMS: Rocket to the Top

The goal for FMS this year is to increase student achievement. In an effort to reach this goal, Team Rockets has come up with an incentive program. All students who receive an "A" or "B" on a test, quiz, or graded assignment will receive a ticket to be put into the team bin. At the end of the week, a group of student names will be drawn to receive a prize.

We are also giving students work sessions to provide them with a second opportunity to complete work that was not done on time. Finally, we have created a planner check time at the end of core time so that we can remind students of what their homework is for the day. Pictured above: Ann Marie Wright, Uriah Haun, Cole Beckley and Mrs. Meyer



Ms. Prunty: an Asset to FCS

Patricia Prunty, intervention specialist at Stamm Elementary, presented a poster session at the annual ODE Special Education Leadership Conference. The conference was held in Columbus on September 19th and 20th.

Ms. Prunty presented her doctoral research entitled: "Twice Exceptional Students-Inclusive Practices." Ms. Prunty explained that twice exceptional students (gifted students with disabilities) comprise 2-3 percent of the overall student population. Twice exceptional students struggle in the 21st century classroom, and teachers struggle with appropriate strategies to serve them. Ms. Prunty pointed out that this is typically an underserved population. She discussed identification of twice exceptional students, along with strategies to assist this unique population.

Ms. Prunty has been teaching for 27 years, and has been with Fremont City Schools for 14 of those years. She is attending Bethel University and is earning a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus in Special Education. We are proud to have had Ms. Prunty represent the wonderful teachers of Fremont City Schools at the state conference.



Croghan Kindergarten "Sounds" Like Fun!



The Croghan Kindergartners are already hard at work (and play) learning their letters and sounds in order to become good readers and writers. Over the past two weeks, they have learned the letters m, r, s, and t and the sounds that they make. For the letter Mm, they enjoyed writing in the "mud" (chocolate pudding). Last week, they participated in "Silly Sock Day" to celebrate the letter Ss and made the letter using cooked spaghetti. They ran a relay race in which they had to roll rings and jump rope in

honor of the letter Rr, and wore plastic "tiger teeth" on Tuesday to practice the letter Tt. Pictured above: Philip Richardson, Lorie Morin, and Lorenzo Theobald

PROPS Squad Popping Up



The PROPS Squad will be entering four elementary buildings this fall! Croghan, Otis, Atkinson, and Stamm will be participating in an exciting new program involving elementary students, high school student-leaders, recess, and physical activities. PROPS (Peers Running Organized Play Stations) is a program that encourages children to use their time productively during recess to help them learn new and traditional games. In playing these games

and doing these activities, students are more likely to be active and less likely to engage in bullying behavior on the playground and in the classroom. PROPS will be taught by Link Teens and Leadership Teens. This new program will take place regardless if recess is inside or outside. After reviewing the progress of these schools, the district's hope is to add three more elementary schools in 2012-13.

The PROPS Squad is an addition to the district focus of promoting and educating students on the importance of life long wellness. During the 2010-11 school year, Wellness teachers established PE-x-4-30. This program invited elementary Wellness teachers onto the playground and into the classroom during recess times to engage students in activities that would promote movement and fun! That existing program will continue this year in the elementary buildings.

FCS: Staff Professional Development Day

Fremont City Schools will participate in a Staff Professional Development Day on October 17, 2011. Although this is a day off of school for our students, our staff will be working to gain additional knowledge in a multitude of areas. Some items of study on this day will be the new national Common Core State Standards which Ohio has chosen to lead our curriculum and instructional work, exploration into ways to utilize technology in the instructional setting, bullying curriculum, and analysis of district and building student data. Each and every department and staff member will have a specific task on this day. All of our Professional Development plans are consistent with our district Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan and Race to the Top plans, which have previously been established and supported by our Board of Education.

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

Stamm Remembers



As the citizens of the United States took time to reflect on the events of September 11, 2001, on its tenth anniversary, the 3rd grade students of Stamm Elementary began to ask Mrs. Morrison, their Social Studies teacher, a lot of questions. Mrs. Morris answered many of their questions and helped the students identify with the events through quilt making. Mrs. Morris explains, "Many Americans turned to quilting as a way of remembering the heroes, victims, and feelings of September 11th. Our students created simple

paper quilt squares in order to understand and honor the heroes of September 11th and inspire hope in those that remain". This lovely quilt now hangs in the hallway of Stamm School.

DARES to Build Character



This fall, 6th grade students at Stamm Elementary School are participating in the D.A.R.E. (Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education) program. For nine weeks Detective Tony Emrich will visit each 6th grade classroom and educate them on the dangers and consequences of engaging in risky behavior. The D.A.R.E. program allows students to be active participants in learning how to make smart choices in life through role play, observations, and in-class assignments. Detective Emrich provides an open and safe environment for students to demonstrate good decision making skills.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Students across the Fremont City School district are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month which takes place from September 15-October 15 each year. Each building, K-12, has implemented various lessons and activities which will include crafts, assemblies, and displays. Students and staff will celebrate the great diversity our district encompasses. The Fremont City School district realizes the importance of recognizing this diversity not only this month but throughout the school year. Cultural awareness is emphasized throughout the curriculum and will continue to be a focus of the district. **Stamm Picture:** Left to Right Antonia Levario, Mr. Lopez, Joaquin Puente, and Makai Lopez



Apple Day in Kindergarten

Students in Mrs. Vanderveen's class spent the week cooking up their knowledge of apples. The students learned about Johnny Applesseed and how he was important to Ohio's history. Students found it interesting that he was so generous and kind to others. They also studied the different changes an apple tree goes through during a year. At the end of the week the students experienced Apple Day in which they worked together to make applesauce in the classroom. They tested and then graphed their favorite kind of apples. The Kindergarteners then moved throughout centers which included making caramel apples, Johnny Applesseed hats, and trying different foods made from apples. Pictured above: Joelle Jared and Alexia Baumer



Submitted by: Lindsay Vanderveen

Ross Hosts "Hitting to Heal"

Written by: Alyssa Palmer
Fremont Ross student-journalist



Fremont Ross Volleyball is "setting" out to stop cancer through a program called "Hitting to Heal". Ross has been through a lot of changes over the past few years, but one thing that will never change is the motivation students have in helping the community.

Saturday October 1st, Fremont Ross High School hosted Hitting to Heal Kids Therapy. The game was a triple header

between the Fremont Ross Lady Giants and the Sandusky Blue Streaks.

The game was to raise money for Alexa's Butterflies of Hope Foundation. Alexa's Butterflies of Hope has a goal, and that goal is to provide financial and emotional support to children with life-threatening health conditions, primarily juvenile cancers. The foundation is named for Alexa Brown who died of cancer two years ago. She lived in Clyde, Ohio.

Athletic Director Mr. Bucci said, "This is done for two reasons, and one being it is a good community service project, and two it is also going to a great cause."

Sophomore Pam Michael said, "If I could speak to someone who was helped by the organization, I would say I was happy to help, and I hope research can be done to help your cause."

Coach Blasko confirmed that the volleyball team raised just shy of \$2,000 dollars. Coach Blasko said, "When we participated in previous charity games, we didn't know where the money was going. But, through Hitting to Heal we were able to meet Alexa Brown's family and hear their story. We know exactly how the money will be assisting other families through Alexa's Butterflies of Hope Foundation."

To many, the purpose of this game is more than just a win or loss. It is about raising money for those in need, and helping people in the community.

Atkinson Studies Fremont's Culture

The sixth grade students at Atkinson Elementary School have been studying the specific culture of Fremont, Ohio in correlation with their unit on Early Humans in Mr. Steinmetz's Social Studies class. After learning that culture is "how people live," the students worked through a mnemonic device for the word 'culture' (C- Clothing; U- Use of Tools and Technology; L- Language; T- Types of Food; U- Under Shelter; R- Religion; E- Entertainment) and looked at that word in relation to our community, state, and nation. The students enjoyed working through the letters in class and identifying the specifics they see in our city on a daily basis. Finally, using SMARTBoard technology, the students compiled an excellent snapshot to display how people live in Fremont, Ohio. We hope to add to our list as community members join our classroom this year in programs like D.A.R.E. and Career Day.



Lutz Explores the Backyard of Fremont

On September 20, Lutz 4th graders attended a program called Exploring Your Backyard, at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds. Sandusky County volunteers set up their stations and shared first-hand knowledge with the students. We learned about bees and pollination and were able to taste a sample of honey. The students learned about sheep and goats from area farmers, and were able to pet and feed them. Students also attended a station about weather and learned about different kinds of clouds.



One of the favorite stations was aquatic life, where students were able to pick up and hold crawdads caught from a local creek. Also popular with the students was the Back to the Wild station, where we learned about owl, snake, and lizard adaptations.

Reinstatement of Transportation for Grades 9-12

Fremont City Schools is experiencing many changes this year, one of which is the opening of our new middle school. When that occurs in January, and the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are at the middle school/high school campus, another exciting change will be instituted. Bussing to the high school will be reinstated for our ninth through twelfth grade students who live two or more miles from the school. In order to make this smooth transition for all families, a registration process will be started very soon for our high school students. It is imperative that families who would like to take advantage of bussing communicate with our transportation department, so that all student needs are met.

On October 31, 2011, registration will begin. Registration information will be distributed to qualifying students during homeroom meetings that will be held at the high school. In addition, registration information will be mailed home for students with no homeroom assignment, and the information will be available at parent-teacher conferences on November 21 and 22, 2011. Formal registration ends on November 22, 2011. This must be done in order to assure that students in grades 9-12 are assigned to a bus route and families are accounted for when bus route times are determined and posted.

Please watch the News-Messenger in mid-December for bus route information. Bus route information will also be distributed to the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade bus riders at the parent meetings January 9, 10, and 12th at the new Middle School. The routes will also be posted on the district web site www.fremontschools.net on the Transportation link, which is located in the right hand column. If any family of a 9-12 grade student has a question about the bussing changes that will occur on January 19, 2012 or would like to register their student for bussing, please call Dawn Horn at 419-332-7352. Parents can also email Dawn at hornd@fremont.k12.oh.us

Ms. Gutierrez helps at Washington

By Owen Smith

Ms. Gutierrez is a bilingual assistant. This is her second year working as a Limited English Proficient Aide at Washington Elementary. Ms. Gutierrez helps students with academics in all classes. She speaks fluent Spanish and helps with interpreting needs for Spanish speaking students and families.

Ms. Gutierrez is always willing to help Mr. Arnold and the teachers anytime they need it. Recently, she helped decorate our gym for the Hispanic Heritage assembly. Mr. Arnold thinks, "Ms. Gutierrez has been a fantastic asset to not only students but to all the staff and



Washington as well."

Another characteristic of Ms. Gutierrez is her friendliness. She always has a smile and seems very happy when you are around her. She is very kind to all students. We think she is a great addition to the Washington School family!!!!

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Why did the District build a new middle school instead of a new high school?

The district received Exceptional Needs Program grant funds from the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) to construct a new middle school only. The OSFC did not offer any monies to construct or renovate Ross High School.

2. What does the District do with the athletic pay to participate monies?

The pay to participate fees are placed in the District's general fund and the fees help defray the costs of coaches' salaries and transportation expenses.

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- **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**
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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.