

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Stamm Feast



Mrs. Cominsky's first grade class enjoyed a pilgrim and Native American feast to celebrate Thanksgiving. They celebrated this feast during their study of family and community customs and traditions and in their study of achievements associated with holidays. The students simulated what it may have been like for two very different groups of people coming together to learn from each other.

Gifted Program

The face of gifted education has taken on a new look for the 2008-2009 school year. This year gifted students are receiving service from four gifted teachers: Laura Costilla, Kyle Hintze, Mark McGinnis, and Nicole Sherman. Identified students in reading/language arts and mathematics are receiving service in the area in which they were identified working closely with the student's regular classroom teacher.

Along with weekly service in their identified areas, the gifted students are being brought together four times during the school year for a series of all day sessions built around the theme of "exploring".

The ninety five students came together for the first time on Tuesday, November 28th at Wolf Creek Park, where they worked with naturalists, Jean Pearce and Linda Rose from the Sandusky County Park District, and Chris Lewis from the Hancock County Campfire District. Exploring the natural world, students worked in the areas of Ohio mammals, forestry, water quality testing, and cooperative group dynamics.

The second all day session will be designed for students identified in language arts. That session will be held at Stamm elementary on Thursday, January 8th. Students will be working with professional story tellers, and developing their skills in both writing and the oral tradition.

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December 2008

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Fremont City Schools District Goals

1. Increase student achievement
2. Close socio-economic, ethnic and disability gaps in student achievement
3. Build hope, trust and respect with our community

Learn more about Fremont City Schools at ...
www.fremontschools.net

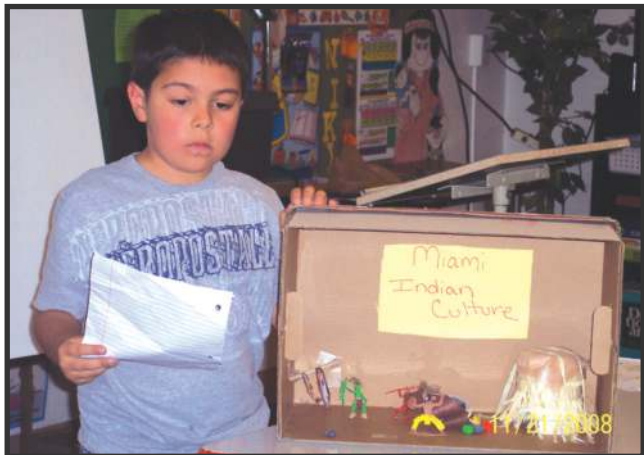
Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community



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Ohio History at Atkinson



Students in Mrs. Fisher's fourth grade Ohio history class have been learning about the Native Americans of Ohio. They had the opportunity to study the Delaware, Mingo and Iroquois Indians and their contribution to Ohio History.

Mrs. Brickner, a retired teacher from Atkinson, joined the class and presented a slide show that she made during her journey through Ohio. She presented slides from Chillicothe, Ohio explaining the burial mounds of the Native Americans tribes. She also presented some artifacts that were used by the Native Americans

As accumulative activity students wrote reports on a particular tribe that once lived in Ohio. Their research had to include, the type of shelter the tribe used, the food, clothing, important people and anything else they thought was of interest. In addition to writing a report the students were required to present their finds through a visual display. There was a variety of displays including dioramas, display boards, and even food such as homemade Blue bread. The students then did an oral presentation explaining their research project.

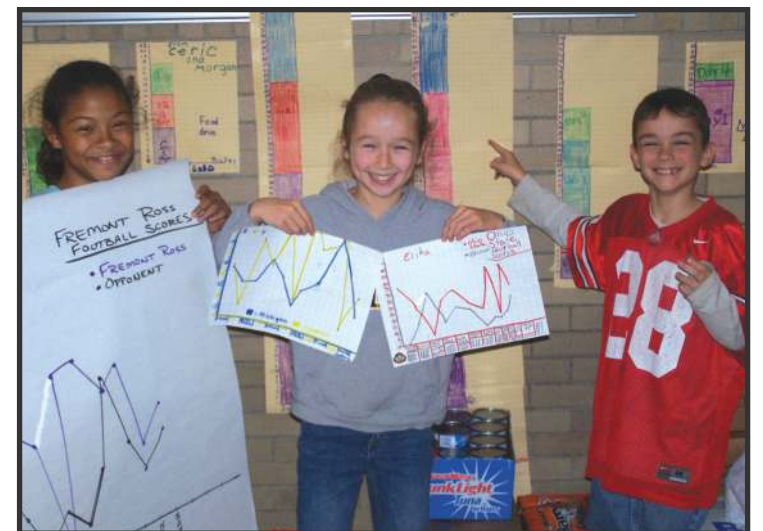
Parents and families were invited in to view the wonderful displays the students had created. This was a great way to get the students involved in their own learning and to expand their thinking.



Learning by Giving

The fourth grade classes have been applying their knowledge of graphing to everyday activities. Lutz Elementary recently gathered food items for our local Food Pantry and the Village House. The fourth graders were making bar graphs from the totals as each class turned in their cans and boxes. We collected a total of over 1000 items. We also constructed line graphs. We used the scores of football pointes scored by the Fremont Little Giants, Ohio State Buckeyes, Michigan Wolverines, and their opponents to create them. We had a lot of fun creating different graphs and helping the people in our community.

Left to Right: Anjelique Hardin, Kaity Kelly and Brandon Bliss



At Washington, It's all about the Info



Kindergarten isn't just about shapes and colors anymore. Ms. Sandoval's kindergarten students are looking at the information found in two similar books (pictured to the right). These students are comparing information which is a Comprehension Strategy of the Reading Processes that can be found in the Ohio Academic Content Standard for kindergarten students. Great job kids; the hard work will really pay off in the future. For example, the picture at left shows Carmen Willin, a Washington 5th grader, using specific information to write a descriptive paragraph about her bedroom. By organizing her information, she is demonstrating her ability to produce a piece of informal writing. This, too, is part of the Ohio Academic Content Standards for Writing Applications. Her writing will later be shared with a classmate to evaluate the amount and quality of information Carmen used before it is finally evaluated by Mrs. Traczek. Who knows? Maybe we have the next E. B. White or Mark Twain in our presence, and it all started at Washington School.



Candy Canes with Cause

Student Council at Otis Elementary has been hard at work this school year. Our students are currently selling candy canes for the benefit of other students and their families. The candy cane sale is an annual event that takes place during the lunch hour. Students have the opportunity to purchase a candy cane for 25 cents. This year, the students decided to use the proceeds to benefit three families in our building for the holidays.

Showing character like this is a regular event for our Student Council students. Previously this year, our students have served the school by adopting a K-3 classroom to read stories with them. Student Council students also take care of the courtyard for our school. They routinely find ways to show their school spirit and leadership abilities throughout the year.



Pictured above are: Marquis Crawford, Trista Hatt, Brina Hrynciw and Devonn Reineck

FMS students care



As the holidays approach, Team 8C knows it's time to show our character. Many of our students are active in Teen Connections, which emphasizes the importance of making responsible decisions. Student Council plans to give back, starting the Toys for Tots drive December 2nd through December 16th. Within our classrooms, students are rewarded for their work ethic by earning "power points" for completing homework during intervention at the end of the day. Students who complete all their work, have outstanding participation, and follow classroom rules are eligible for the distinction of Star Student of the Week.

Building Character at Croghan



Pictured above is Nate Frasure (behavioral specialist at Croghan) and Jermani Homler, fifth grader.

Students are working on several projects this year to teach character. A word of the month is used to emphasize during classes. The word is given daily during announcements and teachers choose one student from their class each month who best represents that character word. Students are also participating in the Random Acts of Kindness. Students record any acts which require them to be respectful. Prizes are given according to the number of acts recorded by the student. This month fifth grade students have been teaching the school rules, respect yourself, respect others and respect property, to kindergarten classes by presenting posters of how to be respectful. We are so proud of the students at Croghan for practicing positive behaviors throughout the year. Our first kindergarten presentation was from Tyrell Wimbush and Nick Bork.

Learning Patience through Wood



By Meghan Wonderly
Ross High journalism student

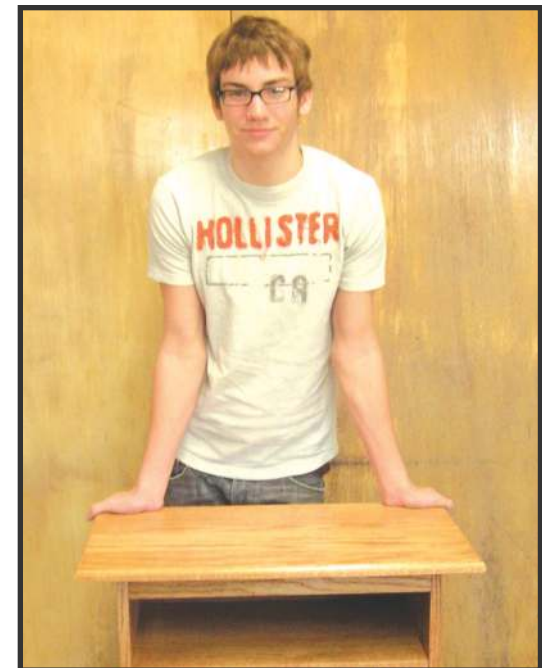


Photo by Tara Lagrou
Ross High journalism student

Maple, pine and oak. These are just some of the woods that Mr. Swerline's classes use. Mr. Swerline teaches Woods I and II. In Woods II students all make the same wall shelf. With the students making the same project, Mr. Swerline can explain the processes, rules and safety procedures.

From this class, students build life skills, such as how to use equipment safely and build work ethics.

Students in Woods II are able to create their own project. With Mr. Swerline's approval, the student can begin their project. For Materials and Processes in Woods, Kyle Wasserman and Shawn Kluck (pictured above left) made corn hole game sets. Adam Loucks, senior, made a coffee table, and junior Matt Christensen (pictured above right) made an entertainment cabinet.

"I like making things with my hands," stated Kyle Wasserman, a senior who takes Woods II.

"After taking this class, students should have the confidence to fix things around their own home," stated Mr. Swerline.



African Culture

Do you know a country in Africa whose geographic boundary forms the shape of a chicken? Look at a map and you'll learn it is Cameroon! Sara Tanner, a Fremont native, told this fact and many other interesting facts to the third grade classes of Bridget Smith and Sandy Stout at Hayes Elementary in early November. Sara has been to Africa twice and will be returning soon for an extended visit. Third graders study cultural practices and products of the local community and compare them with communities in Ohio, the United States and other countries of the world so they received information to help them compare life in Fremont to life in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Some things are the same, such as girls playing with Barbie dolls. But food is very different as well as the way holidays are celebrated. Education is very important to African families and women carry heavy loads on their heads. Students enjoyed photos as well as looking



at items from Cameroon. In December the students will research and study cultural practices concerning holidays in December celebrated around the world, including Africa. Thanks to community people like Sara who are willing to share with our students.

Building Community



The business/technology club, in conjunction with Community Christmas, is sponsoring at least twenty-five local children to give them a better Christmas this year. The theme is "*A little Change can Change a Christmas*". There will be various collection cans around school for students and staff to donate. We would really like students to focus on giving change...not that we will turn down bills!

Mr. Gregg Gallagher, Ross business teacher, is trying to revive the Toy Drive that Madi Doble, retired business teacher, ran so well. He has obtained a detailed list of the twenty-five children and what their wishes are for this Christmas. After all money is collected, he will purchase the items and deliver them to the Fairgrounds on December 23rd. Any financial help at all would greatly be appreciated. Please contact Mr. Gallagher at (419) 332-8221 if you would like to help.

"Fremont Ross Alumni & Friends" Update

Fremont City Schools continues its process of compiling information about our graduates in order to form an official Ross Alumni Association. We are currently coordinating our efforts with the Harris Connect Company of N.Y. This company previously published a 2001 Ross Alumni Directory and will help us gather and maintain the information we need to build, reinforce and maintain bonds among our alumni and friends. One of their representatives will be contacting you in the near future in order to update our Fremont Ross Graduate Directory. We strongly encourage you to take part in their survey so that you can become a part of our official "Fremont Ross Alumni & Friends" association. If you have any questions please contact JoLynn Krock at krockj@fremont.k12.oh.us or (419)334-2530.

From the desk of Dr. McCaudy

Dear Fremont Community,

Again, I wish to thank you for supporting the district's recent Permanent Improvement/Bond Levy on November 4th! It is my desire to keep you well informed about the new Fremont Middle School project and to involve as many people as possible with the actual project itself. Since Election Day the district has been working diligently with our Bond Counsel and Wachovia Securities in order to prepare for the sale of our bonds. Additionally, the district has developed a Fremont Middle School Project Core Team and the Core Team held its first meeting on December 1st. The Core Team will meet on a monthly basis to discuss the project's progress and budget. The Core Team consists of the following members:

Dave Chambers, Treasurer
Madison Dowlen, OSFC Project Administrator
Jim Fails, Board President
Marc Glotzbecker, Board Member
Hal Hawk, CEO Crown Battery Mfg. Co.
Tom Kern, CEO Style Crest, Inc
Annette Komminsk, Accountant Touchstone
Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent
Chris Moore, Senior Project Manager Touchstone

Don Nalley, Director of Adult Services Sandco Industries
Nate Neuenschwander, Vice President Touchstone
Terry Overmyer, Mayor of The City of Fremont
Dave Reinbolt, Maintenance FCS
Dave Saller, Maintenance FCS
Curt South, Project Manager, Senior Assoc. Fanning-Howey
Dr. Kim Theller, Director of Facilities and Operations
Steve Wilczynski, Executive Director, Principal Fanning-Howey
Cindy Young, Board Member

The minutes from the monthly Core Team meetings and other updated information about the project will be posted on the district's website at www.fremontschools.net.

Over the next two months district personnel will work with architects from Fanning-Howey on the "Program of Requirements." It is during this process that the number and size of the classrooms, office space, gymnasium, and other educational space will be determined. Additional committees consisting of community members, students, and district personnel will be developed at a later time.

Listed below is a tentative timeline for our new middle school:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Election Day | November 4, 2008 |
| Program of Requirements | 2 Months |
| Schematic Design | 3 Months |
| Design Development | 4 Months |
| Construction Documents | 3 Months |
| Bidding & Award | 2 Months |
| Construction | 18 Months |
| Begin Classes | Fall/Winter 2011 |

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and/or concerns at 419.334.5432 or superintendent@fremont.k12.oh.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent