

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Sept.
2012

Two Olympians, One Town



Join the Fremont Area Foundation in honoring Jacob Wukie (left) and Myles Porter (right), Fremont Ross graduates and Olympic silver medalists. They will be leading a procession of students from Fremont City School and Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities into the Sept. 28 football pre-game festivities. 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 will be available to sign autographs, take pictures and answer questions after pre-game.

Mr. Jonathan Torrence, music teacher at FCS, has composed a special song for this evening, and he will be accompanying fourth grader Grant Mapus (both pictured at right), as he sings his song. The pre-game festivities will start with the band at 6:30. Don't miss this unique opportunity.



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did the old FMS have to be torn down this past summer?

The Ohio School Facilities Commission mandates that old buildings must be demolished within one year after the new building opens if the building is not sold or used by the school district.

2. Why are a few interior lights left on during the night at the new FMS?

The building was constructed to have several stairwell, hall and science room lights left on so that the security cameras can clearly videotape all areas of the building throughout the night. These lights are all on one breaker panel and the energy usage/utility cost is extremely low.

The First Day of School...not just for students

Mr. Randy Macko, new principal at Lutz, escorts Aryal Patino, a kindergartener in Mrs. Diebler's class, off the bus on the first day of school. Reagan Matt, a fourth grader in Mrs. Hensel's class, is also pictured..



Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

Atkinson: Jump Starts Learning Cutting Edge Learning at Lutz



Kindergarten is a very busy place in September at Atkinson Elementary School! As the students become acclimated to their all day Monday thru Friday school schedule and the procedures and routines of school, they are also very busy learning many new things!

In the area of English/ Language Arts, the students begin with a theme "All About Me". This unit focuses on stories that actively involve the learners while helping them real-

ize that they are like their classmates in some ways, they are different than their classmates in other ways, but no matter what, they are all special. Kindergarteners will also learn to identify and produce sounds for four letters, and they will learn three new high frequency words we call popcorn words -- they are always "popping up" in our reading and writing. Students will also work with pre-writing strategies and name writing.

Math will allow our students to practice numbers 1-5 in ways of counting and ordering. They will use numbers in counting, different arrangements and cardinality through hands on approaches and small and whole group activities.

Science and social studies coincide with our focus of "All About Me" as we learn to be good citizens in social studies through learning rules of our school and community, learn safety signs and procedures in our school and community and learn about our word of the month "respect". Science will teach us about matter and sorting objects and materials by their properties.

We are off to a great start at Atkinson Elementary. We look forward to learning and growing this school year with our students! Kindergarten is a fantastic place to be!

Pictured in the photo are Logan Kilgore and Lindsey Sayre.

Submitted by: Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Michel

Partnering for Success

It's amazing what can happen when everyone works together for a common goal. Fremont City School students are achieving great success with the partnership between Fremont City Schools and the services of the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The journey for many students begins about 6 months before they turn 3. Fremont City Schools becomes involved with the students, many of whom are already receiving Early Intervention Services through the Sandusky County Board of DD. Each student is evaluated and their needs discussed with their parents and the entire team and a decision is made about what preschool best fits their needs. For students who have significant physical and medical needs, School of Hope is often found to be the least restrictive environment because of the physical layout of the building, the warm water therapy pool, the availability of a full time nurse along with the specialized training and expertise of the staff.

The goal in preschool is to get the students ready to be successful in school. Fremont City Schools and School of Hope work together with our families to determine where the best school placement is for the child when it's time for Kindergarten. Often, this is a Fremont City School classroom, but due to physical or medical needs, School of Hope may be our best answer. The use of a functional curriculum helps to enhance student lives by nurturing independence. Kathleen Nalley Preschool Coordinator states "School of Hope allows students the opportunity for a full continuum of services. Together, we find the best place for education"

The Sandusky County Board of DD also offers services to students who are enrolled in Fremont City Schools. To find out more about the services offered, please visit scbdd.org. or fremontschools.net

The first day of school is often filled with a level of excitement as well as a sense of uncertainty. Students often wonder who their teacher will be, and will they be in the same classroom as their friends. Many students also wonder about the challenges they will be presented with as they move up to the next grade. During the first day of school at Lutz Elementary, students in Mr. Edge's third grade class found out exactly what they would be learning about.



Students were given two Post-it notes and asked to write one thing they thought they would learn in third grade reading and math, and one thing they wanted to learn in third grade reading and math. The Post its were read aloud and each topic for reading was written on the SMARTBoard. Then Mr. Edge revealed the academic content standards for third grade. He then explained that the standards were a list of all the ideas and topics that students learn at each grade level. The students suggestions were matched with the content standard they applied to. The same was done with math topics written by the students. The lesson not only exposes the students to the topics and ideas they will be learning throughout the school year, it allows them to understand why these lessons are being taught.

Taking Ten at Washington



When I visited Kerry Pendry-Wendling's first-grade class at Washington in the afternoon on the second day of school, they were getting ready to "Take Ten." She said that her students had been sitting for a while, and they needed to get up and move to activate their brains. Since it was cooler outside of the building than inside, she led her students out the back door. They readily formed

a circle and began following along with their teacher to do "windmills." This particular exercise is intended to cross over the students' midline as they touch their right hand to their left foot, then stand to switch the hand to foot pairing. Once the students become familiar with the movements, they can be paired with the reciting of content from the variety of academic areas of first grade including high frequency words and math facts. Take Ten is a program that the district has purchased for each elementary grade level. Each kit is divided into language arts, math, science, social studies and health. Activities that take no longer than ten minutes can be incorporated directly into the lesson. This allows for a movement break that does not interrupt the flow of the learning. Furthermore, research shows that short period of physical activity can have positive health benefits in children. This supports the most recently added belief statement of FCS: *We believe in and promote the importance of physical, mental and emotional wellness as essential components of successful learning and achievement.* It is our mission to provide a quality education for the *whole* child. -Submitted by Bridget Smith, Washington Elementary Principal

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

Character Counts at Croghan

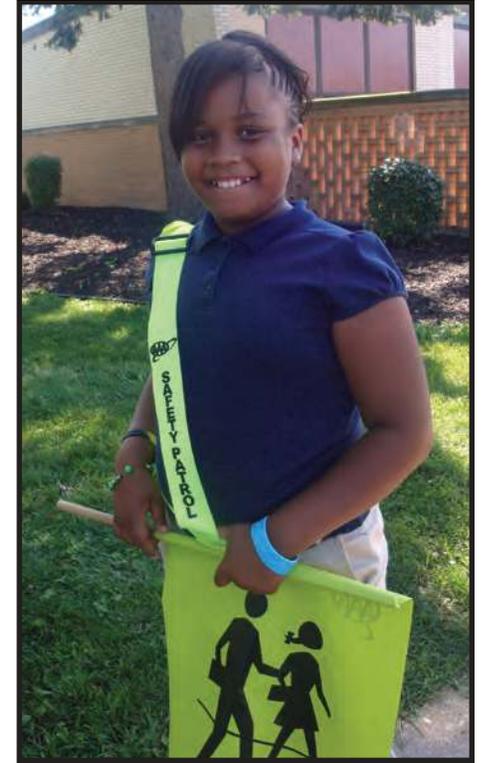
Croghan School's Guidance Mission this year is to combine the best of The *Second Step* Bullying Prevention Program, with *Character Counts!* lessons and materials, along with a special pilot of the *Grow With Guidance System* to help our students achieve a brighter future through the teaching of life skills, better decision-making, and a school climate of kindness.

Croghan's School Counselor, along with the building staff, will enhance our focus on building a culture of kindness through a variety of learning projects during the 2012-2013 school year. We plan to celebrate good character with an annual Worldwide *Character Counts!* Week, as a kick off to classroom lessons of what good character is and why it matters, we will expand our anti-bullying programs, including *Second Step* classroom lessons and workshops, and we will continue the essay, coloring page, and poster contests for this year's Red Ribbon Week. Pictured at right: Monique Smith, Shakira Jones, and Megan Gahn



Otis Has Leaders

One of our goals at Otis is to give students opportunities to sharpen their talents, increase their skills set and participate in activities to develop leadership qualities. Students develop strong character and learn many life skills by being involved in activities at school. Research has even proven that involved students are happier, healthier and more likely to pursue college after graduation. At Otis, students can participate in a variety of activities. Fifth grade students serve as our Safety Patrol and Flag Raisers. We offer Choir to fourth and fifth graders, and students in all grade levels are encouraged to join our Make-a-Difference Club. School-wide jobs, such as office helpers, school photographer and our WCTV morning news crew, offer students even more opportunities to get involved. Most Otis alumni who learn to enjoy being part of clubs at an early age go on to be involved in sports, band and other extracurricular activities in middle and high school. Pictured at right is Anesty Brown-Smith, who jumped right into a leadership role in Safety Patrol during the first week of school. Submitted by: Laura Bryant



Thank you to Fremont Community



Thank you Fremont for your generous donations of school supplies and campus wear clothing for our students. Your support is very much appreciated!

FCS Transportation Department collected school supplies and clothing during its "Stuff the Bus" event held at Wal-Mart on August 4th.

Teachers Train for the Year

The week of August 20-24 brought hard work, anticipation, and celebration throughout Fremont City Schools. We provided new teachers a welcome orientation where they were introduced to key personnel, provided mandatory trainings, and given an overview of district offerings. The district staff came together to celebrate our accomplishments of the 2011-12 school year and prepare for the 2012-13 school year! During our annual before-school professional development, staff became aware of a new lock down procedure by Detective Dean Bliss. They will be sharing this information with students and practicing throughout the school year. Also included in the opening professional development were upcoming changes to the new teacher evaluation system, changes in district wellness practices, and a sharing of the curriculum plan for the next few years. This curriculum plan will assist teachers in understanding the path to the new assessments which will begin in the 2014-15 school year. (Pictured above: Detective Dean Bliss trains FMS teachers and staff.)



Memorial Health Care Systems Art of Caring Program 2012

The Art of Caring Program was designed to allow Memorial Hospital the opportunity to connect with and celebrate art. The winning student artwork is displayed at Memorial Hospital. The student finalists and honorable mentions from Fremont include: Finalist, Grade K-3: Wendy Olvera-Hayes Elementary School; Finalist, Grade 4-6: Anne Marie Moses-Fremont Middle School; Finalist, Grade 9-12: Cassidy Kissell-Fremont Ross; Honorable Mention, Grade K-3: Ethan Byrne-Stamm Elementary School; Honorable Mention, Grade 4-6: Carla Dixon-Fremont Middle School and Honorable Mention, Grade 9-12: Marissa King-Fremont Ross

Visit www.fremontschools.net and Click on Communications

New Faces at Hayes School



Hayes School is excited to introduce its new staff members for the 2012-2013 school year. This year Mrs. Pamela Kerper will be teaching art. She comes to us from Lorain Schools with 9 years of experience. Ms. Anna Ballmer will be heading the music room. Anna taught for a year abroad in Greece. Ms. Stephanie Walther is a former Hayes School student and graduate of Capital University. She will be teaching second grade. Mrs.

Jennifer Spurlock has taught in Toledo Public Schools and will be our new third grade teacher. Chrissy French will serve as a full time tutor helping out during school hours in fifth grade. At the fifth grade level, we have Ms. Stephanie Schneider and Mr. Rob Zajac. Ms. Schneider will be teaching language arts and social studies. Mr. Zajac will be our math and science teacher. Gifted teacher will be Mrs. Amber Leach who recently taught for Defiance Schools. Rounding out our staff is bilingual aide, Mrs. Juanita Gutierrez. We are all looking forward to the new school year and working together with our Hayes families and students. Above and pictured from L to R: Jennifer Spurlock, Rob Zajac, Stephanie Schneider, Stephanie Walther, and Chrissy French. Not pictured: Pamela Kerper and Anna Ballmer. Submitted by: Susan King

Ross graduates give back to Stamm



While most new college freshmen spend their last summer days before leaving for college with their friends, Stamm Elementary is lucky to be connected to two Fremont Ross Class of 2012 graduates who were willing to spend some of their summer time helping the office staff prepare for the new school year.

Rachel Laeng and Jeffrey Oddo volunteered several days at the end of the summer to help the office staff of Stamm School with a variety of tasks necessary for preparation of the 2012-13 school year. Together they put together the supplemental booklet for Stamm families filled with important information such as school supply list, schedules, pledges, and expectations. Each also assisted with the Open House on August 27th.

Rachel and Jeffrey will both be going to Eastern Michigan University to begin their college

careers. While they are excited to begin this new journey in their lives, they also wanted to give back to Stamm one last time before leaving.

Rachel and Jeffrey both have volunteered at Stamm for the past two years with the Leadership program at Fremont Ross High School. They worked with students and teachers assisting in many ways. Their help has been greatly appreciated by many in the Stamm community. Picture: Jeffrey Oddo and Rachel Laeng binding supplements for Stamm Elementary.

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

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.