

Fremont City Schools

Build Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

Registering to Vote



Senior Corey Hinsch registered to vote in Government class, where he has learned the responsibility of citizens to vote.

By Ross student-journalist
Meghan Wonderly

Registering to vote is every citizen's responsibility, even students at Fremont Ross. Thomas Jefferson once said, "If we think the people not enlightened enough to exercise their power with a wholesome discretion, then the remedy is not to take that power from them but, rather, to inform their discretion through education."

Fremont Ross High School is making that responsibility, and the education of that responsibility a little bit easier for seniors. For at least a decade now, the government teachers provide voter registration cards in the fall and winter seasons for students. The cards are available in time for the spring primaries and the fall elections. Many students, and adults, as well may not know that you can register to vote online, too. For example, check out www.rockthevote.com for directions.

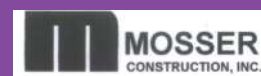
"Government teachers have the cards in our rooms for the students. The eighteen-year-olds turn in the filled-out forms to us, and we take them to the voters' bureau," said government teacher Mr. Elder.

With the passage of the 26 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, voting for the youth of America was made possible. Before that passage, the voting age was 21, but President Richard Nixon helped change all that, so now 18-year-olds may vote, also.

Many students agree that it is important to vote. Cody Miarer, who will be entering the military in the Marine Corps after graduation, thinks that it is very important for students to vote. He commented, "We are the ones who are leading our generation. Students should be more aware of the political views by educating themselves before they vote."

Fremont Ross is doing its part to create informed, educated and responsible citizens who vote and more importantly who care.

This publication
was paid for by
Crown Battery



February 2008

Strong Academics

OGT tests at Ross ...Pg. 2

Stamm honors students...Pg. 3

McGenius visits Washington...Pg. 3

Strong Character

Alumni Shine...Pg. 4

Future Stars are Brilliant ...Pg. 5

Strong Community

Rally Day at Otis...Pg. 6

Students of the Month...Pg. 7

FMS Cheerleaders Win Big...Pg. 7

Letter from Dr. McCaudy...Pg. 8

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



+

CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK PAGE #

+



Learning Healthy Food Habits



During our study of nutrition and the digestive system, we learned about the Food Guide Pyramid and how different foods help our bodies. Mrs. Nancy Brown, who is a clinical dietitian for Memorial Hospital and proud Lutz mom, came to help Mrs. Villarreal's class understand how important the topic of eating healthy foods is to our bodies. The children got to view and touch food models as they were related to the Food Guide Pyramid. They also got to see how much sugar and fat are in many popular food items. This demonstration was very visual and had great impact! More practice using the Food Guide Pyramid occurred as the students played a bingo game to identify foods into the correct categories. Mrs. Brown gave students the opportunity to extend their learning to home with a fun "goodie" bag to remind them of what they had learned. We continued our academic and good citizenship learning while writing a thank you letter to Mrs. Brown to let her know how much we appreciated her sharing her time and talent with us!

TOOL TIME at Atkinson

For the eighth year, Atkinson School is again offering all of the students in grades 1 – 4 a small group reading program called TOOL TIME. Everyday, each child in these primary grades receives 45 minutes of phonic and word skill instruction in a small-group setting. The grade level teachers and Title I teachers are each assigned a group of students to work with during the TOOL TIME block. Small group sizes range from 8 – 12 students per group.

At each grade level, a skills sequence has been developed so that the teachers are concentrating on the same skills at the same time. If one group masters the weekly skill early, enrichment activities are planned for the group. The teachers at each grade level meet with the Title I teachers once a week before school to plan and collaborate about activities and children. Several years ago, the Title I teachers chose the name "TOOL TIME" as we are helping the children master the "tools" necessary to become effective readers.

This program is possible by using our building's federal grant money through Title I. The overall goal of the program is that by giving this small group time daily to all of the primary age students and breaking down the necessary reading skills, we can help our students become super, successful readers! After all, "READERS ARE LEADERS!"



Are you smarter than a 10th Grader?

Not only is the levy renewal significant for the Fremont City Schools but starting a week later on March 10, all of the sophomores in our district (and state of Ohio) will be taking the Ohio Graduation Test(OGT). This is a week long test, in the following areas; Reading Mathematics, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. All sophomores must pass all five parts of the OGT to receive a high school diploma. This test reflects all they have studied as freshmen and sophomores. This mandate has come as a significant cost to our district. Here is a variety of expenses associated to the OGT that has added dollars to our budget and is mandated by the National government and state of Ohio: a. new textbooks because the required curriculum has changed, b. we are required to offer summer school classes or lose funding, c. based on our districts scores we have to provide transportation

for students to attend a better performing school, d. tutoring for our students, e. the paper to print all practice tests, mailings, and reports, and f. finally all the support services that we have added to help our students succeed. This is a portion of costs associated to the OGT and does not include the lost instructional time during the testing and makeup period and more importantly the unnecessary stress on our students to take 2 and ½ test daily for one week. This is a difficult test. Here is a small sampling of the types of questions our students have to answer on the OGT. Could you pass? Due to length and room, sample reading questions have been omitted.

MATHEMATICS

Three different opinion polls show different results for the proportion of voters expected to vote for candidate A in an election for mayor.

Poll 1: Nine of every 20 voters

are expected to vote for A.

Poll 2: The percentage of voters expected to vote for candidate A is 52%.

Poll 3: There are 130,000 people expected to vote and of these 55,000 are expected to vote for candidate A.

In your ANSWER DOCUMENT, determine which of these polls show the greatest favorable result for candidate A. Show your work or provide an explanation for your answer.

A system of equations is shown below

$$3x+2y=19$$

$$2x-y=1$$

What is the solution to the system of equations?

- A. $x=1, y=1$
- B. $x=3, y=5$
- C. $x=7, y=-1$
- D. $x=19, y=1$

SCIENCE

The feature that identifies an organism as a prokaryote is

- A. the presence of ribosomes

- B. the absence of chlorophyll II
- C. the presence of a cell membrane
- D. the absence of a nuclear membrane

A survey of a small coastal area in California finds only Douglas fir, madrone, and coast redwood. The soil moisture availability in this valley is most likely to be

- A. 0-20%
- B. 20-40%
- C. 40-80%
- D. 60-80%

SOCIAL STUDIES

In 1789, the French National Assembly issued the "Declaration of the Rights of Man," based in part on the concepts expressed in the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Both documents reflected the Enlightenment belief that governments exist to protect the natural rights of citizens. What developments in France and the United States attempted to assure the implementation of this concept of the government.

- A. drafting constitutional protections
- B. restoring monarchical rule
- C. gaining additional territory
- D. expanding the slave trade

Explain four effects of Industrialization on living and working conditions for the early working class that moved to the new industrial towns of 19th industrial Britain. Write your answer in the ANSWER DOCUMENT.

WRITING

Some high schools require a drug test of those who want to play sports or participate in other school activities. Before adopting this policy, your superintendent has decided to ask students for their opinions.

Write to your superintendent stating your opinion. Persuade him/her to agree with your view. Write your response in the ANSWER DOCUMENT.

Stamm Celebrates Success!



To celebrate the successes of the second nine weeks grading period Stamm School participated in a recognition assembly on January 28 in the school auditorium. All students in grades Kindergarten through Sixth and all staff members participated in this school community-building event.

Mr. Wilhelm began the assembly by talking to the students about school spirit and pride. He also asked the students questions about when Stamm School was built, who is Stamm School's namesake, the school's mascot and colors. He also talked with the students about knowing the mission of the school and of their classroom mission statements. Mr. Wilhelm challenged the students to memorize their classroom mission statements by the time Stamm School kicks off their Math Olympics at the Olympics' Opening Ceremony on Friday, February 22. He motivated the students to do this by telling them that they will be entered in a lottery and will have a chance to win a Basketball Jones basketball that was donated to Stamm by Basketball Jim Jones himself if they memorize their class mission statement of the school's mission statement or both!

Mr. Wilhelm also asked the students to think about themes for the murals that will be painted in the auditorium which will be sponsored by the Stamm PTO and the Stamm Student Council.

The most important part of this assembly came last when each class was celebrated for Citizenship, Homework Honor Roll, Attendance and Academic Honor roll. As Mr. Wilhelm announced the names, certificates were presented by the teachers to students for citizenship if they followed the rules for all of the common areas of the school for the second nine weeks. Certificates were also presented to those students who completed all of their assignments for the second nine weeks. Perfect attendance was also recognized along with Honors and High Honors for academics for the second nine weeks. A good time was had by all as we all got together to celebrate the success of students. Stamm School staff and students know that "We're All in This Together." We are looking forward to participating in this school-wide event at the end of the third nine weeks.



PSEO at Ross

"We're trying to keep the good kids on campus," remarked Mr. Hernandez, Fremont Ross's principal.

Many new changes are in store for the high school next year. One of the biggest is going to be the opportunity to take Post Secondary Education Options at the high school.

Currently classes are available at Terra State Community College. PSEO allows high school students to take college courses at no cost and get college credit as well as high school credit. Next year, some of these courses may be available at a more convenient location.

Courses such as Pre-Calc, Calculus and American History will be offered to juniors and seniors next year. Intro to Education and Educational Psychology, which would be offered to seniors, are the "gateway" courses for those pursuing the career of Education. It would be a wonderful opportunity for students to get these classes finished before entering their freshmen year of college.

The idea is to keep students at the high school, so they can better influence the underclassmen. Teachers already at Ross, such as Mrs. MacDowell and Mr. Elder, will be teaching these future PSEO courses.

This new change will save money for the school and save the students' extra pocket change.

"I think it's a great idea. If gas is going to keep rising, no one will be interested in driving all the way to Terra and then back to the high school to take other classes throughout the day," commented Ashley Cook, a junior at Fremont Ross.

Mr. Hernandez believes it will reflect on the school in a better and more positive way. "What a better place for our top students to be than at Ross. It keeps the ambitious students in the building, and these students will influence the younger classmen."

With PSEO being provided at Ross next year, it is expected to bring in a great outcome. Students will benefit from saving gas, time, and money. Teachers will benefit by teaching students who want to be in these classes. So much is being planned for Ross's near future, so stay tuned for all of the beneficial changes.

Washington offers Enrichment

If you are at Washington Elementary School on a Tuesday afternoon, you may find Mr. Mark McGinnis and a group of students working on some rather interesting projects in the library. Mr. McGinnis, or Mr. McGenius as his students call him, is the Gifted Intervention Specialist who stretches the mind of his academically gifted students on a weekly basis. The goal of the gifted program is to provide bright students with challenges and enrichment that may not be as easily implemented in the regular classroom.

Currently his sixth grade students are working on Independent Study Projects. The independent study projects may look like something you would see in the regular classroom, but the enrichment is hidden in the details. Mr. McGinnis mentioned that this unit has a strong emphasis on research skills such as properly citing references and organizing information in a logical and understandable way.

There is learning as well. Abbi Hasselbach and Whitney Overmyer are working on an independent study on the topic of orangutans. Whitney said she was amazed at the number of different types of orangutans, and she never knew that the male will live alone for the better part of his life. Abbi said that she learned that orangutans have an arm span that is much longer than that of their bodies. They are also very intelligent, she says. Gifted Services also provide a different learning scenario. Whitney stated that it is really nice to have time to work on deeper academic things. She also said she really likes the lower student-to-teacher ratio. Keep up the great work and the fantastic attitude, girls.

Thanks goes out to Mr. Mark McGinnis and the Coordinator of Gifted Services, Mrs. Sue Badertscher, as well as the Superintendent of the Sandusky County ESC, Mr. Douglas Picciuto, for their dedication to the educational concerns of Washington Elementary School students. Their efforts are truly appreciated.

Mardi Gras in Fremont



By Ross student-journalist
Anna Dayringer

Masks, costumes, floats – Mardi Gras is coming to Fremont Ross! Normally celebrated in New Orleans and Nice, Mardi Gras is also known as Fat Tuesday and is celebrated as a time of preparation immediately before Ash Wednesday and the start of the fast of Lent. It is the last opportunity for fun, food and drinks before Lent begins.

Madame Widman, the French teacher at Ross has organized for her French III students to hold a traditional Mardi Gras parade in the hallways of the high school.

"They will be researching the history of Mardi Gras not only in Nice and New Orleans, but all over the world," she said.

Andrea Sheehan, junior and French student, commented, "It was cool to be able to give students a little taste of what Mardi Gras is really like."

Each group will pick a different type of float, which they then constructed.

They then walked or rode on their float while wearing the traditional Mardi Gras costumes and masks to go along with their theme. Beads were passed out as well.

It took place on February 5th during 1st period and periods 4 and 5.



The past is shining brightly...

**Irma
Celestino**



Sandusky County Treasurer, Irma Celestino has been in Fremont Ohio all her life. Her favorite thing about Fremont is the closeness of the community.

"I love knowing who your friends and neighbors are," she commented.

She also loves how Fremont is a great place to raise children and how the schools are a big help in the process. "Fremont City Schools are always there when you need help, for my daughter as well as me," Celestino replied.

As a graduate, Celestino remembered going to school at Ross. She also attended Vanguard's Office Administration program where she learned the skills she uses today. The teacher that most influenced her was her history teacher, Mr. Richardson, who did a lot of encouragement and advice.

"Succeed if you want to, was what he always told us," Celestino remembered.

If she could share some advice for a high school student it would be to graduate from high school and seek a two or four year degree at college. Working hard and never giving up Irma Celestino touches many lives by her determination, success, and enthusiasm for her job.

**Bobby
Carter**



As a business leader in the community, 1993 graduate of Fremont Ross High School, Robert Carter loves the small town of Fremont. "After leaving for college fifteen years ago, living in several bigger cities and then moving my family back home, I still miss and love the closeness of this city," commented Carter.

Like the community, Fremont Ross is very diverse and supportive. "Fremont Ross's smaller class size helped me succeed. The teachers were always there for my questions, with a small class size, they focused more on the individual," replied Carter. He went on to become successful in the field of Human Resources and Recruiting and eventually formed his own recruiting consulting firm. However, his plans now with the help of his wife Stephan, are to encourage continuous community involvement and give Fremont and the surrounding cities a sense of family entertainment when they open up a new business later this year.

Growing up in Fremont Carter mentioned how you have the ability to form life long relationships in both the business and personal level. Carter has only been back in Fremont for about five months, but he has already become involved in the community by giving speeches and being a part of a few influential community boards. "The boards I sit on have been very positive and I am very impressed with everyone I have worked with thus far," commented Carter. He also mentioned the reputation that students can set for themselves. "I always tried to remember growing up that I was creating my reputation, that it would be with me here in Fremont forever."

The high school teacher who influenced him the most was Mrs. Muffler. "She was a great teacher, and even though it wasn't what I was going into (biology), she really worked with me to understand it," remembered Carter.

His last advice for the average high school student would be never to take your eyes off the prize. "High school is indeed a good time, but remember it's not the end. Treasurer the moment, but it's just a stepping stone to bigger and better things," quoted Carter.

**Wes
Fahrbach**



Planning to be a teacher after graduating from The Ohio State University, but with no job openings, he became a real estate man starting up a number of his own local businesses. Wes Fahrbach is well known in Fremont for many things, including being County Commissioner for Sandusky County for 11 years.

"Growing up in a small community you were able to have lots of friends, support from parents, and just felt that you knew a lot of people, Fahrbach stated.

Fremont city schools helped prepare Fahrbach by giving him a good education, "it enabled me to be well educated in English, writing, and public speaking."

He felt that the teachers at Ross who challenged him and were most demanding were the best ones; they were Frida and Clarence Schieffer his chemistry and math teacher respectively.

Fahrbach not only thinks the schools are great, but he added the restaurants are delicious, "I enjoy eating Whitey's for breakfast, Golden Dragon for lunch, and Time Out for dinner," Fahrbach chuckled.

**Kelly
Lytle**



"The best thing about Fremont is the relationships you are able to develop with others," said Kelly Lytle. Growing up in Fremont, Lytle was given the opportunity to build long-lasting friendships with fellow students, teachers, coaches, and other community members.

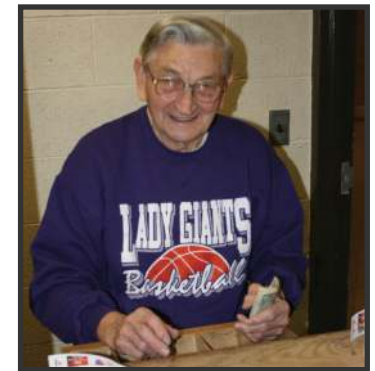
An alumnus from Fremont Ross High School, Lytle developed several characteristics and personal traits over the twelve years. "Fremont City Schools instilled in me the importance of hard work, the necessity to continuously set goals and strive to achieve them," replied Lytle. He is currently working for Citigroup Global Markets as an Analyst in New York City.

Although there were many teachers who influenced Lytle to do the best work he could, one that stands out was Mr. Jeff McNutt. Meeting for the first time in elementary school and remaining close to this day, Lytle feels he wouldn't be the same person without the guidance of Mr. McNutt. "It's because of friendships with people such as McNutt that I fondly look back on my years at Fremont Ross," commented Lytle.

If he could give any advice to the average high school student, it would be to read avidly. According to Lytle, there is not substitute to being well-read. "I would also tell them to be inquisitive and approach every situation with an open mind," he stated. He also mentioned how many conversations and experiences that become the most rewarding and memorable occur when you least expect them.

Life is what you make it, and Kelly Lytle makes his great. Practicing what he preaches, success does not come easy, but success will come with hard work.

**Honorary
Alumna
Joe Parker**



He is not an official alumnus of Fremont Ross, but because of his great contributions to this community, he is viewed as an honorary alumnus. To many, he is simply known as "The Ticket Man", but to those close to Fremont Ross Basketball, they know that Joe Parker is more than just that special title.

Mr. Parker is so instrumental to Fremont Ross Athletics, and he did not even graduate from Ross. His strong love for Ross keeps him coming back year and after year, in fact for 47 years selling tickets for boys and girls basketball games. He was awarded the Ohio High School Athletic Association's prestigious Contribution Award.

This sports fanatic and Indiana Hoosiers basketball fan graduated from Bloominburg High School, and after graduation, he entered the military. He is a WWII veteran, past commander and a life-long member of the American Legion Post 121. He was also a machinist for over 50 years.

Many great athletes have proven their athletic prowess in the halls of Fremont Ross, but Mr. Parker definitely had a favorite. Steve Parker, track star who is now in the Ross Hall of Fame is his nephew.

His joy for the job is shown through the excitement he has when talking with other sports enthusiasts and working with his daughter Val Matthes, who he called "The Ticket Lady." Ms. Matthes said, "I love working with him, and it (selling tickets) keeps him busy."

And the future is brilliant...

Stamm students share their future

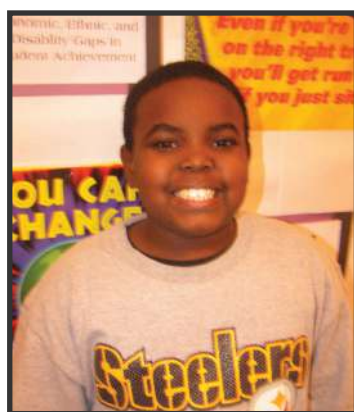
**Gabriella
Zuniga,
2nd
Grade**

**Amberly
Twiss,
3rd
Grade**

**Arlando
Crowe,
4th
Grade**

**Dani
Osborn,
5th
Grade**

**Scottie
Marsh,
5th
Grade**



This cute little brown eyed girl entered the room and as soon as she did vivaciousness spilled out of her, this girl's name is Gabriella Zuniga, a second grader at Stamm Elementary School.

Her favorite subject in school is math and her favorite teacher so far is Mrs. Batey. She has great dreams for the future, she wants to be a teacher specifically a second grade teacher, one that doesn't just teach one subject, this could have been because of the influence Mrs. Batey had on her; her second grade teacher.

Zuniga also enjoys being involved in soccer and plans to play softball. Her hero is Avril Lavigne because she sings well. "I like the way she dresses, especially with pink in her hair," she added. This uniqueness is what will always make Gabriella stand out in a crowd.

Being a librarian is such a magnificent job to have, and it is the very dream job that Amberly Twiss would like to have. She would especially like to work at Birchard Library. She loves to read, so it is not surprising that she has chosen a career path that will enhance her love for the written word.

Amberly really likes school, and she said her favorite teacher is Mrs. Cheek. It must be because of her caring attitude and the fun way that she teaches. She likes to read in her spare time, and she has also been involved in Choir and Sunday School at Grace Lutheran Church.

Amberly said that her dad Matt, mom Tiffany and brother Will are all heroes to her. With an answer as sweet and honest as that, plus her love of learning, she is sure to find true success in life and school.

Stamm Elementary just might have a future Dodge Ball Champion in its midst. Arlando Crowe loves dodgeball, and he is really quite good at dodging those big red balls at recess.

It should come as no surprise that physical education is his favorite class, when he thought about the class itself, a big, toothy grin covered his face.

He happily tells about his favorite teacher, Mrs. Abdoo, and how she teaches "good". Mrs. Abdoo is not the only person that he looks up to and respects though. He said that his dad has really been a hero to him, and Arlando said that he

The interviews of these students and alumni on the previous and the articles were completed by student journalists: Xavier Forney, Tara Lagrou, Sam Miller, Ariel Shuey and Brandy Smith.

Dani Osborn loves to help people, just like her hero her grandmother. "My grandma cares for me when I'm sick and does a lot of things to help other people," Osborn replied.

This fifth grader is currently involved in peer mediation, safety patrol, and Children's Choir at her church in Gibsonburg.

"I just love math," explained Osborn on her favorite subject. Her favorite teacher, Mr. Barbor helps her along her way to understanding numbers. When she thinks about the future she wishes to be an accountant, "Or something in the stock market," she commented.

Dreaming big is the key to success and this fifth grader has nothing but enthusiasm to make those dreams come true.

"I love football!" fifth grader Scottie Marsh responded to what his favorite sport was. Currently he plays it at recess but he looks forward to playing for Fremont Middle School and some day Fremont Ross in the future.

Involved as a cross guard for Stamm, Marsh realizes the importance of safety. "When I grow up I want to be a policeman," commented Marsh.

When it comes to school, Mrs. Abdoo is his favorite teacher. "She's really nice," he replied. But when it comes to his favorite subject it's definitely P.E (Physical Education).

Like P.E class Marsh is always on the go whether playing football at recess or helping young children across the street he always looks out for others.

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. A healthy, nurturing relationship with your child is built through countless interactions over the course of time. It takes a lot of energy and work to be a good parent, but the rewards are worth it. One thing is for sure, every child needs to be loved.

For the past seven years, there has been a Light of Hope event in Sandusky County for the purpose of bringing awareness to the problem of child abuse and neglect. This year the Light of Hope will take place on April 15. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a parade from Fremont Municipal Building, 323 S. Front St. to the Sandusky County Courthouse, 100 N. Park Avenue, where there will be a brief ceremony at 12:00 noon. The public is invited to participate in the parade and attend the ceremony to show support for the fight against child abuse and neglect.

Heinz Art

Got Ketchup? Well, the Fremont Ross High School art club members do – in glass, grout, and wood, of course!

The large-scale Ketchup mosaic started off as a sketch on a slab of plywood painted white. Then a few of the members painted the frame with a glassy black wood paint, while the rest cut the glass into small shards and squares. At the next meeting, the members glued down the aforementioned glass bits; they did this for four more meetings before completing that step.

During their tenth period, Art Club officers Kelley O'Brien, Alicia Harmon, and Kristin Brooker smeared the grout onto the mosaic to hold the glass pieces down permanently. April Smith, a fourth officer, helped to deliver the piece to the Fremont Heinz Ketchup Factory along with the Art Club advisor Mr. Heaton and the other three officers.

Mr. Heaton said, "I hope this will open up the Art Club to more commissions from local companies." He believes that this project will open a door to many other commissions and experiences with local businesses.



Art Club members are flanked by Charlene Hutchinson and Bruce Heckman.



Why doesn't our school system run like a business?

The question of why doesn't our school system run like a business, is a question that many people ask. The Fremont School System has two distinct areas of concentration. One of these being the education of our children and the other is the operational side of providing services.

The education piece is what we all see our children receive on a daily basis from the teachers, support staff, and administrators of our school district. A quality education doesn't just happen. It is part of much planning by all of the individuals involved.

The entire School District, including the Board of Education, develops the Continuous Improvement Plan, Strategic Plans, and Educational Initiatives. These are guided by Administrators who are teachers first and then obtain a great deal of further education and training.

Based on this process we can all see that we are very fortunate in the Fremont School District. We have the expertise of well trained teachers and administrators who work closely with our Board of Education to continue making improvements in the education provided to our children.

When we look at the operational side of the Fremont School System we see the business side of our school district. This includes being an employer, operating facilities and a transportation system, purchasing supplies, etc.

Though there are well established policies and procedures in place, in our school district, Superintendent McCaudy has identified that there is an opportunity to find out if these practices can be done different or better. By tapping into available resources, such as business and community leaders, she believes we continue to grow and improve in the area of business practices.

Superintendent McCaudy has asked a group of these business and community leaders to meet and offer their expertise and experiences to the school district. After several meetings it was determined that this group, called the Business Advisory Council (BAC), would work to develop a Business Plan. The plan will concentrate on these three main areas: Finances, Facilities, and Marketing.

This Business Plan is anticipated to be completed by the Fall of 2008 and submitted to the Fremont Board of Education for review and adoption. The plan will offer direction as it pertains to the business operations of the school district over the next five years.

The members of the Business Advisory Council are: Tom Kern, CEO of Style Crest Inc., Fremont Mayor Terry Overmyer, Hal Hawk, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Crown Battery, Kathy Boukissen, Development Director at R.B. Hayes Presidential Center; Robert Carter, President/Owner RETRAC Consultants LLC; David Chambers, Treasurer of the Fremont School District, Tim Ellenberger, School Board Member and Vice-President of Motion Controls Robotics Inc., Al Gorman, CEO of Memorial Hospital; Bruce Heckman, Plant Manager of H. J. Heinz Co. Fremont Plant, Royce Kohman, President/CEO of Mosser Construction Inc., John Lauer, Auditor of the City of Fremont; Don Nalley, Director of Adult Services at Sandco Industries/Sandusky County Board of MRDD, and Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent of the Fremont School District.

So the next time you hear the question, "Why don't they run the Fremont Schools more like a business?" you can be rest assured that there is a group of local business and community leaders critically looking at this very question. They are analyzing, suggesting, and assisting, wherever they can to implement good business practices into our school district.

The Business Advisory Council is further striving to unite the business community and the citizens of Fremont behind an educational system that is dynamic.

Rally Day at Otis



The staff and students of Otis Elementary were recently joined by student-athletes from Ross High School at Rally Day. Mr. Bucci (Athletic Director), Coach Gedeon (Boys Basketball Coach), and Mrs. Frizzell-Joerg (Cheerleading Advisor) brought several Ross student-athletes to share their positive message and outstanding spirit. The students and staff heard Mr. Bucci and Coach Gedeon talk about what it means to be a Little Giant Student-Athlete. We all learned that it takes character, determination, and hard work to keep our studies before our sports, but the high school students helped us see that it was all worth it!

Croghan Honors Trailblazers

With the second month of the year comes a time for remembrance, education, honor and celebration. Black History is ongoing and at Croghan, the staff wanted to make sure they highlighted those who are making history in their daily lives as well as those who have touched our lives in the past. These trailblazers in the African American Community from the past, present and future will be remembered during the morning announcements each day and each Friday we will have a trivia question from information given during the week. "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress." -- Booker T. Washington

Students of the Month Honored



Congratulations to the Students of the Month for Fremont City Schools.
 First picture from left to right: 2nd Grade: Alyssa Sebastian, Emily Morris, Zachery Farrier, Alison Rupp, Michael Lane and Caleb Adams
 Second picture from left to right: 3rd Grade: Cassie Overmyer, Logan Kern, Hayden Abdo, Carianne Smith, Alayna Killmer, Mariah Smith
 Third picture from left to right: 4th Grade: Leah Watson, Marshall Kuieck, Jack White, Johanna Alexander, Autumn Ollom, Briana Travis

FMS Cheerleaders Tops



The Fremont Middle School Competition Squad competed in the Xtreme National Championship on February 2 and 3 in Sandusky, Ohio. The team competed both Saturday and Sunday, and walked away with the top honors by being crowned Grand National Champions! The team received a huge trophy, a national banner, each girl received an individual trophy, and each girl received a championship jacket! Coach Gangwer, Coach Martin and the rest of FMS are very proud of them! The squad's next challenge will be the Cheer Power Northeast National Championship in Columbus, Ohio on April 4th - 6th. Best of luck!

The middle school competition squad consists of: Heather Berger, Abby Jeanette, Heather Lochotzki, Jericha Martin, Kaylee Myers, Alesha Overmyer, Kylee Riedmaier, Kalee Royster, Alexa Urban, Elizabeth Watson, Alayna Wilhelm, and Sierra Ysasi.

Facilities Bring Big Business

If you have noticed Fremont being particularly busy on recent weekends this winter, consider events being held at the Fremont Middle School and Fremont Ross. For example, on Friday and Saturday, January 25th-26th, 382 swimmers and divers participated in a Northwest Ohio Aquatics Championships in the community's new natatorium at Ross. Twelve other teams came into town from Bowling Green, Sandusky, Sylvania, Lima, Ayersville, Napoleon, Oak Harbor, Port Clinton, and Toledo, and with those teams came coaches and fans! And they left something here. They left dollars they spent at local eateries before and afterward the events. Parents working the event steered others downtown for shopping, relaxing at a local coffee shop or strolling; Fremont parents encouraged inquirers to visit the Hayes Center the next time they come to Fremont, and they gave directions to others looking for swimming gear. Also in town all day that same Saturday, Ross hosted hundreds of musicians and singers participating in a solo and ensemble judged event at the Middle School. You can be sure that area businesses saw traffic from these guests as well!

Art Bucci, Ross Athletic director, received a letter from the Holiday Inn dated January 25th thanking Fremont City Schools for hosting such events. The letter from manager, Karrie Ruiz said, "Since Fremont Ross has expanded their facility by adding a wrestling room and swimming pool, they have brought business to our community." She went on to state that 110 swimmers and divers ate a spaghetti buffet at their restaurant on January 5th, and the hotel also accommodated a wrestling invitational a month earlier, providing rooms for numerous teams.

Ross high senior Adam Cane who works at Appleby's told a fellow student that one day he was working they had a huge crowd come from a swim event. Other businesses as well have noticed (and enjoyed!) the activity. Gas tanks are filled, office supply stores are utilized as copies are run, and the list goes on.... Finally, you can bet that future forays to town are encouraged when a family passes a store that they didn't know was here, or a Sandusky County Visitors' Bureau pamphlet is picked up from our table or an ad is noticed in the heat sheets sold at large swim meets.

In a letter from Upper Arlington High School director of athletics dated January 24th, he noted that they brought about 50 athletes to Fremont, spent the night in a local hotel and "were treated in a first class manner by a first class swim and athletic program." Fremont has so much to be proud of.



Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

Learning about Fremont

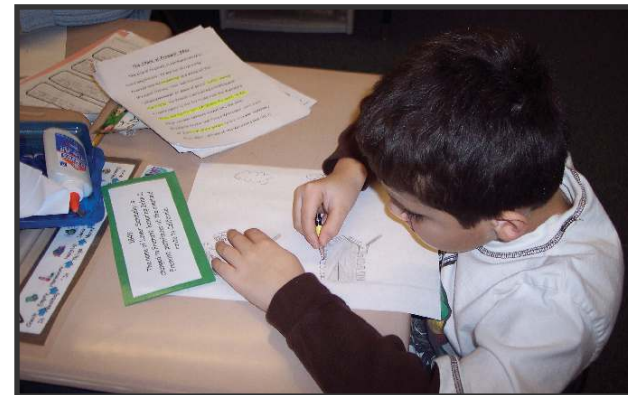
Tuesday, March 4th

**SUPPORT
FREMONT
SCHOOLS**

**VOTE YES
(NO NEW TAXES)**

PAID FOR BY: GAIL DEFRANCE, TREASURER 29 RIDGE DR., FREMONT, OH 43420

The third-graders at Hayes Elementary have been busy learning about the history of their community. They have been researching the various cultural groups that have inhabited Fremont. Our hallway will soon be lined with an illustrated timeline of Fremont history. Our timeline begins with the Wyandot Indians, and covers many events in our town's history, such as events of the War of 1812, the opening of Birchard Public Library and Memorial Hospital, as well as contributions to our community from Sardis Birchard and Rutherford B. Hayes. This activity aligns with a variety of the Ohio State Standards. By studying and creating pictures for the timeline, students will be learning about local historical events that are a foundation for the community in which they live. We will also use the timeline to order events and to learn about measuring time by years, centuries and decades. Learning about community heroes may inspire these young citizens to make a mark on their town!



From the desk of Dr. McCaudy

Fremont City Schools Commitment to Excellence

Fremont City Schools continues to strive for educational and operational excellence. Over the past several years the district has made many improvements and accomplished many of its goals. Listed below are just a few of these accomplishments.

1. The district improved its academic ranking on the state report card by moving from *Continuous Improvement* to **Effective!** Our goal, of course, is to achieve a rating of **Excellent** in the near future.
2. The district's **attendance rate increased** to an all time high of 94.9% during the 2006-2007 school year.
3. During the 2006-2007 school year, the number of student disciplinary incidents decreased and out-of-school suspensions for students were reduced by 46%.
4. Since 2004, the district has initiated many cost saving measures that resulted in a **savings** of over **\$2 million annually**. Since January 2007, the district has saved an additional **\$2.5 million annually**.
5. The district has been updating its course offerings for middle school and high school students so that students are better prepared for higher learning and the work force. Additionally, the district will offer post-secondary enrollment options (**PSEO**) courses in math and history **at Ross High School** beginning with the 2008-09 school year.
6. The district developed and implemented a comprehensive **school safety plan**.
7. With **private donations** the Fremont Area Foundation Inc. constructed seven classrooms for academics, a natatorium and a wrestling facility. These new facilities have allowed the district to host numerous local and state-wide events; thus, thousands of guests have visited Fremont's restaurants, hotels and other local businesses.
8. Ninth grade students were moved successfully to Ross High School this year only because of the extra classrooms constructed and donated to the district by the Fremont Area Foundation, Inc.
9. For the past two years, monies have been allocated to purchase much needed **textbooks** according to the newly developed textbook adoption calendar. Last year the district purchased science textbooks for students in grades K-6 and maps and globes for all classrooms. This year the district purchased K-6 social studies and language arts textbooks.
10. Additional community partnerships have been established and community members are now serving on district-wide committees (Finance, Operations, Technology, Communications, Health/Wellness, Curriculum, Minority Achievement Council and Business Advisory Council).

Many thanks to all of the educators, students, support staff members, parents and community partners for their diligent work.

Questions about the RENEWAL Income Tax Levy? Contact Dr. McCaudy, Superintendent, at 334-5432 or Mr. Chambers, Treasurer, at 334-5442 or visit one of our Board of Education Meetings. The next Board of Education Meeting is **Monday, March 3rd** at 6:00 at the Tech Center (1220 Cedar Street).

Don't forget to **VOTE FOR the RENEWAL INCOME TAX LEVY on March 4th!**
You can vote absentee Monday-through Friday at the Board of Elections 8-4:30 weekdays through March 3rd and Saturdays (2/16, 2/23 and 3/1) 8:00-12:00.