

# Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community



## Fox Weather Visits Stamm



Meteorologists Larry Whatley, a former Stamm Elementary student, and his colleague, Bruce Slusher, came to Stamm Elementary to share some weather tips with the students of Stamm School.

Mr. Whatley and Mr. Slusher provided an interactive presentation with the students and staff of Stamm. The students and staff learned the difference between high and low pressure systems; that one inch of rain equals ten inches of snow; that rain is heavier than snow when it falls from the clouds; and what wind chill is and how to protect ourselves from it.

Both meteorologists encouraged the students and staff to participate in their activities to help everyone understand different areas of weather. In doing so the students raced the clock and each other to dress in layers; put ice on their foreheads to demonstrate wind chill; and even tried to rope a wooden calf to emphasize the importance of taking care of our animals in bad weather.

Overall the students and staff laughed, had fun, and learned a lot about weather from a former Stamm student.

**Happy Holidays  
from  
Fremont City  
Schools!  
Vacation is  
December 23-  
January 2,  
2011**

## Supporting Healthy Vision is a Team Process



Each year, the FCS Health Services Department conducts vision screenings to make sure that our children are "seeing" what they need to be learning throughout the school day.

The screenings are provided by our nurses in the Elementary buildings starting with Kindergarten and then 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. In addition, all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are screened at Fremont Middle School along with all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at Fremont Ross. New students are screened in case they have any needs requiring attention. If there are any concerns that come from the screenings, a referral is sent home so that parents and guardians can follow up with a doctor for a more thorough evaluation.

We are very fortunate to have local doctors that assist with our Kindergarten screenings. Thank you to Dr. Kolodziejczyk pictured

at top left.

Their dedication of time and talent is appreciated and the students always enjoy their visits. We say "Thank You!" to them for all of their efforts over the years.

This collaboration between school, home and community resources is just another example of how Fremont works together to support our children in proactive and positive ways. Other screenings such as hearing and scoliosis checks are also provided in an effort to identify and eliminate any physical issues that could get in the way of learning. For more information, please contact the school nurse at your child's school.

**Fremont City Schools is pleased to introduce  
the new Director of Curriculum,  
Assessment and Staff Development**

**Amy Miller**



## Alumni News

Please Help! Soon we will be sending out our first official alumni newsletter via email. We need your help to gather reunion information and/or pictures of reunions that have taken place this past summer. We are additionally looking for information about notable graduates or graduates who are making a difference in today's world. If you would like to

share this information in our newsletter, please email it to [alumni@fremont.k12.oh.us](mailto:alumni@fremont.k12.oh.us)

Also, please don't forget to join us on Facebook and register on [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net), so you can receive our upcoming newsletter.

**Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community**

## 6th Grade Academics at Croghan



The sixth grade at Croghan Elementary has been hard at work this year! Through hands on activities and special guests, students have been able to take their learning to a new level.

History comes alive through technology and Social Studies projects. Croghan sixth grade traveled back in time through a virtual field trip, viewed primary sources and explored archeological sites. Students created cuneiform symbols with clay and wrote

diary entries to reflect life in ancient Mesopotamia. In Science, students translated their knowledge of ecosystems from their textbook to their own ecosystem creation.

Croghan sixth grade has welcomed several special guests including Officer Halbisen, D.A.R.E Officer from Fremont City Police Department to help students understand responsible behavior as well as resisting the temptation of drugs and alcohol. Librarians from Birchard Library came to make the presentation "Finding a Good Book" to help enhance each student's library experience.

As the school year continues, the Croghan sixth grade will be sure to find more new ways to make learning exciting!

## Theater Arts Class Performs 42nd Street

Written by: Victoria Foos Fremont Ross journalism student

What do you get when you cross Mrs. Meggitt, showtunes and a cast of students in tap shoes? You get Fremont Ross High School's 2010 Fall Musical: *42nd Street!*

*42nd Street* takes place in 1933 New York City. Director Julian Marsh, played by senior Corey Wise, is holding auditions for his production of *Pretty Lady*.

Auditions are nearly over when Peggy Sawyer (senior Christy Meggitt) arrives in New York City. Peggy makes quick friends with Annie Reilley (senior Dusti Minier.)

The young male lead, Billy Lawlor (senior Brandon Wurgess) is captivated by Peggy. He tries to win her over by telling her he can get her in the show without an audition.

Sophomore Josh Heard plays Andy Lee, the show's choreographer. Andy thinks Billy's idea of getting Peggy in the show is absurd.

The show's writers, Maggie (senior Melanie Ellis) and Bert (junior Tyler Kinkaid) are impressed by Peggy and want her in the show.

Senior Meagan Eishen plays the show's prima donna, Dorothy Brock. Dorothy is basically guaranteed a role in the show, because her "sugar daddy" Abner Dillon (senior Kraig Campbell) is providing financial support to Julian for the show.

Dorothy begins secretly seeing her ex again, Pat Dennings (sophomore Jake Slaymaker).

The show ran from November 18-21. It was a very successful weekend.



## Lutz Hosts Reader's Theater

The third graders at Lutz are enjoying doing Reader's Theater. The students work together in small groups to practice their parts on Monday through Thursday, and then they perform in front of the class on Friday. We are really focusing on fluent reading and reading with expression. The students really enjoy participating and love to sit and listen to the other groups perform. This week's story was "The Case of the Three Bears' Breakfast."



## 4th Graders Enjoy Growing Plants

By teachers: Mrs. Strayer and Mrs. Fisher

Do you know the difference between a simple and compound leaf? Ask any fourth grader at Atkinson school and they can tell you!

With our study of plants this month, we not only learned about vascular and nonvascular plants, photosynthesis, and how plants reproduce, but students also enjoyed doing some research in leaf identification. Students took pride in putting together a leaf collection, and displaying their leaves in a neat, organized manner. They were very excited to share them with others in the class.

Lily Abdo stated, "My favorite part of doing the leaf project was finding leaves with my dad and organizing them. My favorite leaf is the tulip poplar I found in grandpa's woods." Joaquin Anguiano said, "Finding leaves with my mom was fun and my favorite is the Ginkgo leaf." Savannah Mitchell states, "I went through Spiegel Grove with mom's friend searching for leaves, and my favorite is the sweet gum leaf because it has such cool seeds!" and Keaton Jordon said "Going out in nature was fun, but finding the names of each was the hardest part. My favorite is the Buckeye leaf. It's compound."

Students' projects remained on display in our 4<sup>th</sup> grade hallway until after conferences. Students, teachers, and parents were able to stop by and see our hard work.

## Curriculum Corner Common Core State Standards

The K-12 Common Core State Standards in English language arts and math are the result of a collaborative effort between state departments of education, teachers, experts in a variety of fields, and professional organizations. The common core standards establish specific K-12 grade-by-grade learning statements in content areas. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.

The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

Fremont City Schools has begun to introduce the Common Core Standards to primary teachers in the district. These teachers are learning how to incorporate the new standards into their lesson plans with students. In the next few years, all Fremont City School teachers will be attending Common Core Standards professional development with the expectation of implementation in their classrooms.



## Character at Otis benefits ALL



Character is defined as the combination of traits and qualities distinguishing the individual nature of a person or thing. Character is displayed at Otis Elementary in a variety of ways each and every day! One such manner is the relationship that is established between our staff and our students. These positive relationships benefit EVERYBODY!

An example of such a relationship could be found in the cafeteria when students jump in to help our custodian clean up. One student, Sam, works regularly with Mr. Myers each week to sweep the floor and prepare the room for whatever comes next. While this cleaning project develops responsibility in Sam to complete a task, it also inspires Mr. Myers to greet all tasks with energy and excitement. Mr. Myers shared that it is a pleasure to see Sam's face brighten when it is The Clean Up Day. Sam's parents, Mark and Linda Brown and Jim Lewis, all shared that this "extra care" that Mr. Myers shares with Sam is highly beneficial. Throughout the day, when Sam has the chance to interact with Mr. Myers, it is always with benefits. The family states that Mr. Myers has a way of communicating with Sam in his "Autistic World". The relationship that has been built enables Sam to respond with only one verbal cue to walk appropriately, follow the rules, and smile for a school picture! It is this meaningful relationship that builds, demonstrates, and sustains character on a daily basis at Otis. We invite everyone to visit Otis and find character in action!

## Rocket Character at FMS



Team 8-3 students focused on goal-setting as a way to build character and improve academic performance during the current grading period. Miss Lajti shared a personal success story with students to reinforce their understanding of the relationship between effort and achievement. Each student chose an academic area that they felt needed improvement and wrote a goal that they would like to reach. Many students focused on spending time studying, turning in homework, and increasing their

grades in subjects where they struggle. Once each student established their personal goal, they created a plan to help them achieve their desired outcome. Simple changes in behavior, such as filling out planners and budgeting time, were included in several students' plans. As the quarter continues, students will periodically revisit their goals, reflect on their progress, and adjust their personal plans where necessary. Focusing on goal-setting within the classroom will allow students to establish personal habits that ensure current and future academic success while building character.

## FCS appreciates its Volunteers



Mr. Ron Wetzel's picture was accidentally omitted from the last newsletter. He graciously volunteers at Stamm Elementary, where he reads to the children. He is a former Stamm student himself, and he takes vacation time from work to read to the students. Thank you Mr. Wetzel for your contribution.

## Congratulations to the LINK Program

Congratulations to Susan Wurzel, Sandusky County Health Department Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator, and her LINK (Leaders Influencing & Nurturing Kids) students for receiving the 2010 Asset Builder Award from the Ohio Department of Education. The LINK program is comprised of a diverse group of high school students from five area high schools who raise awareness about the importance of making healthy choices with regards to early sexual involvement; tobacco use; alcohol and other drugs; and violence. Approximately ten students participate in the LINK program at Ross High School.



Pictured from left to right: Krista Allison, ODE Executive Director of the Center for Students, Families and Communities; Susan Wurzel, Sandusky County Health Dept. Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator; Jill Jackson, Supportive Learning Environments.

## Building Character at Washington

By Dwayne Arnold  
Photo by Matallyn Overmyer

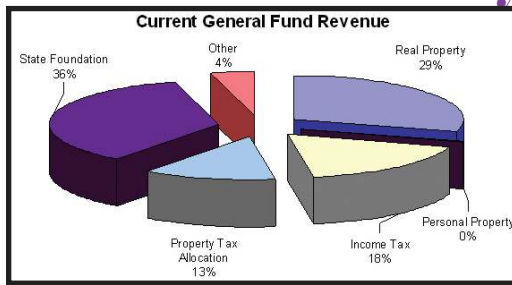
Who says there is no place for video games in school? Certainly not Detective Roger Oddo of the Fremont Police Department. As the Drug Abuse Resistance Education or D.A.R.E. Officer for Washington Elementary School, Detective Oddo uses an Xbox driving game and specially designed goggles to demonstrate the effects of the of driving while intoxicated. The sixth grade students took turns wearing the goggles and attempted to drive through a virtual city on an Xbox video game. Of course crashes occur and virtual "lives" were lost. Nicholas Arnold (pictured here with Detective Oddo) does his best to stay on the road as he squints and strains to see clearly through the "buzzed" goggles.



The activity was fun, but the character building lesson Detective Oddo presented was filled with horrifying state and national statistics and facts about drunk driving. Although the students will talk about their video crashes and driving disasters, the reason for those accidents will be well remembered because of the unique experiences through the "buzzed" drinking goggles. A big Thank You goes out to Detective Oddo, The Fremont Police Department, and Mr. Brown for taking the time to build character in Washington Elementary sixth grade students. This was one video game where the time was well spent.

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## Your Money Matters



In a few weeks, the Sandusky County Treasurer will be sending property tax bills to residents of Fremont and surrounding communities. The taxes paid help support the school district, the city, the county, the township (if you live in a township), the county library, and the career center.

Property taxes accounted for twenty-nine percent of all revenue the school district received last year.

The question that is always asked is

“Why do the schools receive 60% or more of my taxes according to my property tax bill?”

The answer is school districts do not have as many local sources of income and rely on property taxes and school district income taxes. Cities receive revenue from other sources such as traffic fines, water and sewer fees, income taxes, court costs, estate fees, and recreation fees. Counties receive revenue from sales taxes, filing of deeds or mortgages, sheriff traffic fines, court costs, driver licenses and dog licenses.

The Fremont City School District is reliant upon and grateful to our property taxpayers.

## Sonny Days in First Grade at Hayes



Jill Otermat and her therapy dog, Sonny, volunteer their time to read with students at Hayes Elementary School. They have been reading with students for three years in grade levels ranging from kindergarten to third grade. This year, the two of them are reading with Mrs. Warga’s first grade class and Mrs. Jared’s second grade class. Sonny is a rescue dog and has been through training at Canine Bliss in Fremont. He is almost four years old and is Jill’s second therapy dog. Each Friday, when Sonny arrives for Mrs. Warga’s class, he is welcomed with 25 hugs, pets, and kisses.

Then first graders eagerly take turns reading stories to him throughout the afternoon. This time provides the extra reading practice the students need and Sonny benefits by having a naptime story! Fun! Pictured: Noah Wiezorek and Adelaide Stover reading to “Sonny” and Jill Otermat.

## Hawk-Bucci Natatorium



Written by: Allison Schrader  
Fremont Ross journalism student

The swimming team is not the only people who have recently taken notice to the pool. With the start of a new swimming season, it seems like the perfect time to rename Fremont Ross’s pool.

Fremont Ross High School’s pool, which was recently renamed the Hawk-Bucci Natatorium, was built in 2006. So one might ask, why was the pool renamed now? An anonymous donor gave enough money to the effort that they were given the chance to name the pool. They then “asked that it would be named after my

wife and I, and Art Bucci,” explained Hal Hawk.

Hawk is probably the most well known person who was involved in the process of building the new pool in Fremont, but he was not the only person to contribute to the completion. “I had several major donors approach me with building a new pool; they had some money but not the time, and asked me to quarterback the design, construction, and fundraising. So we formed Fremont Area Foundation and began the process,” commented Hawk.

Everyone who is touched by this is honored to be a part of it. The swimmers appreciate that they have a terrific place to practice, as well as hold meets, but more than them, Bucci and Hawk are thankful for the recognition.

Bucci said, “It is wonderful [to be recognized]. Hawk was the first captain I had when I started coaching in 1974. It’s nice.”

Hawk had similar feelings, commenting, “We [my wife and I] are humbled and honored.”

The Hawk-Bucci Natatorium has been a large addition to the community of Fremont, will continue to benefit the community and will see a great season with the Fremont Ross Little Giants this winter.

## FCS and REACH Program Showcased in Columbus

Barb Moran, Otis teacher, and Jim Miranda, Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce REACH Coordinator, along with three fifth grade students participated in the Ohio School Boards Association’s Student Achievement Fair on November 9th. The students discussed the benefits of the REACH program with visitors from other Ohio school districts. The Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce REACH program is designed to introduce upper elementary school students to the “world of work” by providing schools with business leaders from the Chamber of Commerce. The business leaders work with children on developing work skills and exploring career options. This program is implemented in all fifth grade classrooms in Fremont City Schools.



Jim Miranda, Miguel Chavez, Nick Dorobek, Kirstyn Bennett and Mrs. Barb Moran pose in front of their display at the Ohio School Boards Association’s Student Achievement Fair.

## Students of the Month

Students of the Month for 1st Grade were:  
(pictured from left to right):  
Croghan - Logan Johnson  
Hayes - Skylar Super  
Atkinson- Tashanti Heidelberg  
Washington - Zoe Holland  
Lutz - Xavier DeCoursey  
Otis - Lauran Reau  
Not pictured: Stamm - Jaden Drown



St. John’s Lutheran Church, 212 N. Clover Street in Fremont, will once again have a mid-year school supply give-away on Saturday, January 29th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. They will be handing out pencils, pens, markers, crayons, glue, notebooks or paper, and folders. Children might need these items by now. Along with the school supplies, there will be new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves given away and hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Those children in the community who are in need of these items are welcome to come to the parish house auditorium for all of the free supplies.

### Mission Statement:

**The mission of Fremont City Schools is to develop well-educated, lifelong 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**

**Fremont City Schools does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its 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, including employment opportunities.**