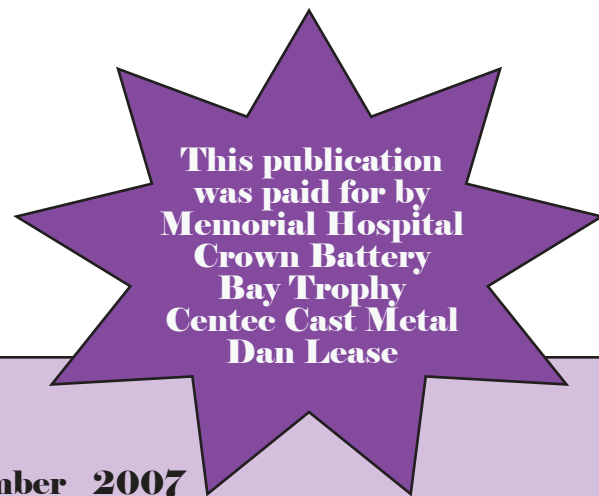


# Fremont City Schools

Build Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community



December 2007

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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](http://www.fremontschools.net)

## Veterans visit Otis



Veterans from Bethesda join Otis students in recognizing Veteran's Day.

November 13, 2007 the community of Otis Elementary celebrated Veteran's Day. Our fifth grade students joined forces with some staff members to acknowledge our local vets and pay tribute. The program was designed as a News Report that provided all in attendance with some valuable information. The audience learned about Kilroy, the importance of the USO, and even some trivia about Mr. Rogers, who was more than just a children's TV show host!

Otis Elementary was joined by our Bethesda friends for the daytime performance. We had 10 Veterans visit the school for the program. We acknowledged all of our Vets by name and they shared a warm wave with the students!

## 7 Habits to Success

By Meghan Wonderly  
Ross High journalism student

Mr. Hernandez, new principal at Fremont Ross High School, wanted to start his students, particularly freshmen and sophomores, who were also new to the high school in the right direction. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey is an inspirational book that he felt would give his students a great foundation for success in school and in life.

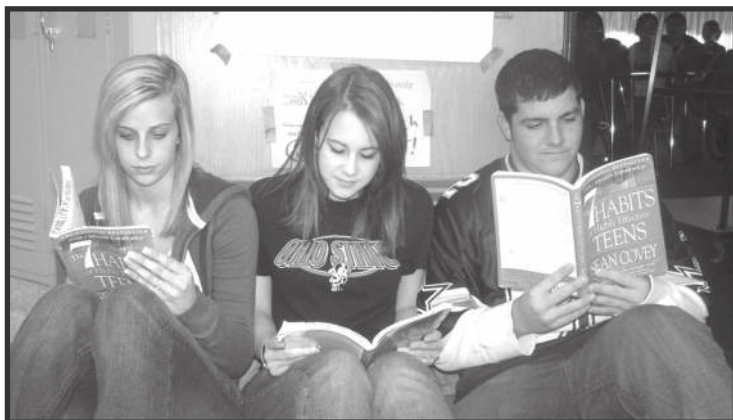
Freshmen and sophomores are all reading it in English classes. "It tells you how to break bad habits and ways to start better ones," stated Nathan Chudzinski, sophomore in Mrs. Burroughs's tenth period class.

Sam Burdette, sophomore, also commented, "The book shows how stress from teachers, parents, and school affect teens. You can learn how to deal with life's demands and goals."

The teenagers took the book's message to heart. Nathan said "Before I read this book, I never ate breakfast. I tried to eat and now I do every morning."

"It relates to what teens go through," Sam agreed.

From now on, every freshman at Fremont Ross High School will read this book once they enter the high school.



From left to right, Christy Woleslagel, Sam Burdette and Nathan Chudzinski enjoy reading *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

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



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## Social Studies at Ross

The Ross social studies department is hard at work preparing our students to be active, productive citizens when they leave high school. Along with this, our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are preparing their students for the OGT.

Our teachers and students have been busy with the curriculum, but we also do many additional activities. They are:

1. Our seniors who are eligible to vote have been registered.
2. Mrs. Kelly, our senior counselor, spoke to seniors in government class about their future, senior requirements, and graduation.
3. On Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students took the OGT practice test. The results will be used by teachers to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our instruction. This is a valuable tool in preparing for the OGT.
4. Honors Global Studies teacher, Mike Gilbert, assigned a local history project, where students research Fremont, and Sandusky history in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
5. Mike Gilbert represented our department at Terra for a conference on economics education. Ohio has mandated that economics be taught before graduation. This will be added to our curriculum in government class 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

## News from Pendry at Hayes

### News from Ms. Pendry's Kindergarten

This school year has been a busy one to say the least! So far we have traveled to "Letter People Land" and have met our friends Mr. Mm with a "Munchie Mouth," Mr. Tt with "Tall Teeth," Mr. Ff with "Funny Feet," Mr. Hh with "Horrible Hair," Mr. Nn with a "Noisy Nose," Mr. Bb with "Beautiful Buttons," Miss. Aa with the "Aaaaacho," Mr. Zz with "Zipping Zippers," and Mr. Pp with "Pointy Patches."

We have begun reading, with half of the students being ready to take part in the school "At Home Reading Program," and begin working on high frequency word lists!

The children have also begun to use visualization and their schema to make personal connections while reading or being read to! They put their visualization skills to the test when they became illustrators for the story "Five Little Turkeys Sitting on a Fence."

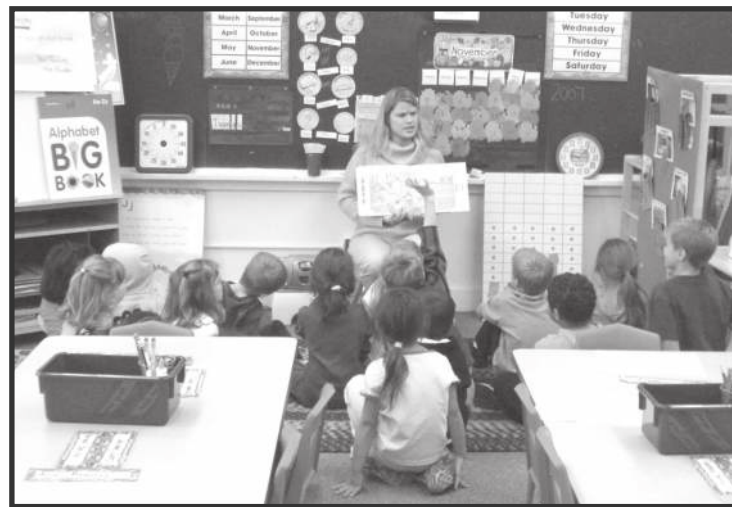
In Math, we have been counting to 100 and working on coin recognition, telling time to the hour and patterning. I am so thrilled with how well the children are catching on to all these skills and how quickly they are mastering them!

Most recently, we spent a lot of time learning about the First Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims and Indians. When first asked about what they knew about Thanksgiving the children responded that they eat turkey and see their grandmas and grandpas. NOW... they are able to share why the Pilgrims left England, how they traveled to America, what they traveled on, how long their journey took and why they were so thankful to the Native Americans. It has been exciting to watch them as they learn this new information! They are very proud of themselves!

I feel extremely proud of all that the children have accomplished in such a short amount of time and look forward to leading them further down their educational path!



## Program Prepares Children



The Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services and the Fremont City Schools, in partnership with WSOS Community Action Commission, are providing Stamm's School Readiness program which serves 20 students throughout their Kindergarten year. The purpose of the program is to provide intervention and additional learning opportunities for students in need. Research shows that intervention at an early age yields the best results!

The program will enthusiastically run from November until May and is staffed by Mrs. Kayden, the kindergarten teacher, and Mrs. Kramer, the instructional classroom aide. The students attend their regular kindergarten class in the morning and the Readiness program in the afternoon. This all-day schedule includes lunch, recess, and appropriate transportation.

The extended day Kindergarten program at Stamm is center-based. Children learn best by doing, through active engagement activities that have purpose but are fun. This is crucial to both cognitive and social development. Center time is an important part of the students' day. They address the following skills: communication, phonemic awareness, word recognition, vocabulary and concept development. Self help skills, including getting along with others, building relationships with peers and teachers, bathroom etiquette and leaning social manners and rules are being taught in this beneficial program at Stamm.

Parental participation is very important to the success of this program. The Stamm parents want to be involved in their child's academic development. Opportunities are provided for parents volunteering in the classroom, going on fieldtrips with the class, and participating in periodic conferences with Mrs. Kayden and Mrs. Kramer.

We are very excited about this wonderful opportunity for our kindergarten students at Stamm!



## Duct Tape a Teacher Today!

Spraying the principal with silly string? Duct taping the behavior intervention aide to the wall? These are just some of the lengths the Atkinson staff has been using to reward students that consistently follow the recess rules.

Each month a new reward assembly is planned. Every student has the opportunity to be included in these fun assemblies if...he/she has not earned any playground rule infractions during the entire month. On the average month, about 325 of the school's 340 students are able to attend the reward assembly based on their good, positive choices outside.

The assemblies are short, lasting about 15 minutes. Mrs. Smith, the principal, always begins by congratulating all of the students in the audience and asking them to join her in a huge roaring round of applause for working so hard making good choices during the month. Then, the fun begins...loud music is played, students sing and laugh, and the brave staff member of the month is subject to the promised silly stunt.

During each assembly, pictures are taken and a poster is made to be displayed in the hallway to encourage other students to work hard so they can attend next month's assembly. Last year, male staff members dressed in hula skirts and led a conga line, the principal got dressed as a turkey and danced through the gym, and Mr. Logsdon took cream pies in the face.

This is the second year of the assembly reward program. Mrs. Smith and other staff report a decrease in playground discipline issues since the incentive program has gone into effect. Students report that the assemblies make students feel good and have a fun time each month. A huge majority of the students at Atkinson are now consistently modeling and demonstrating positive behavior choices outside by respecting themselves, respecting others, and respecting property. WAY TO GO!!



## "I am Some- body"

Basketballs flying, "Simon Sez", dancin' and a message with a whole lot of Character; that's what Jim "Basketball" Jones brought to Washington Elementary School on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. "Basketball" Jones shared his unique talents of juggling and balancing spinning basketballs as well as his message of "I'm somebody, I can and I will and I won't quit." This self professed student with special leaning needs said it always about choices. The choice not to give up, always try and deal with the consequences of our actions is ours. He has performed at Cleveland Cavalier Basketball half-time shows and for people all over the Mid-west. He graduated first in his class from Bowling Green State University. Now that's really showing what hard work and good choices can do. Jim "Basketball" Jones may be a "character with character" but just as important, he is a true inspirational role model for all who see him perform.

## Lutz learns responsibility & compassion through service



Every year, the Lutz student council organizes a variety of service projects that help our community. At the beginning of the year, they collected money for the flood victims of Hancock County. During the month of November, they asked students to donate food for the local food pantry. This year we collected 900 items. The food pantry always appreciates our support and students learn to be giving individuals. In December, student council will organize a drive for the Liberty Center. Student council members also have the chance to shop for individuals that are picked from the community Christmas tree. These are only a few service projects organized by student council members. Lutz Elementary students are learning to give back to their community.



At top, Faye Sloma counts cans for the food drive. At top right, David Detwiler reads his presentation to veterans, friends, and students.

The Lutz fifth and sixth grade students held a program saluting our Veterans, past and present. Students were permitted to bring a veteran as an honored guest. The program included a letter from President Bush, poems, and songs from each branch of the Armed Forces. A flag folding ceremony along with an inspection from the American Legion Honor Guard took place. Concluding the program, Taps was played to honor the deceased veterans. Veterans and students enjoyed refreshments following the program.



The students at Fremont Ross High School showed their concern for their community by participating in the annual Sandusky County United Way Drive. During the week of November 27, students had a "Coin War" and collected money during lunch hours. It was a challenge of the "classes" with the freshmen collecting the most money; they collected \$70.25. The sophomore class collected \$24.62, while the junior class collected \$50.17. The senior class collected \$51.71. The week ended with a Volleyball Challenge with the faculty team challenging teams from each of the classes. The freshmen and sophomore classes tied for the Volleyball Challenge; however, the event raised \$807.06. With the yearly staff contribution added in to that total, Fremont Ross contributed a total of \$1,696.81 for the Sandusky County United Way.

## Student Teachers Welcomed at Croghan

This year both second grade classes are pleased to welcome our method's teachers. Miss Jones will be teaching with Mrs. Cook, and Miss Mathias will be teaching with Mrs. Price.

Both ladies come to us from Bowling Green State University. Miss Jones lives in the Dayton area and Miss Mathias lives in Republic, Ohio. We are fortunate to have two such fine teachers to be working with this year. We would like to welcome them to Croghan School!

The second grades have gotten off to a wonderful start this year. We are so eager to learn how to be responsible and become independent learners. We are striving to be Top Quality this year.

So far this year we have done units on Johnny Appleseed, teddy bears, and we are currently working on a non-fiction unit on bats. Bats are a topic that both the children and the teachers love to learn about. Did you know that bats are not really blind? They just use echolocation to find their way around during the night. If you have a question about bats, find a second grader and they just might have the answer for you!

## FMS is Giving Community a Helping Hand

A school's mission should be to help build students academically and socially. Part of that social process is to help students to recognize the sacrifices that people have made for them and to contribute to those who may be less fortunate. This year, the Teams at Fremont Middle School have taken up the cause and are planning activities to give back to the community. Some of those activities involve canned food drives, fund raising, and other services for those in need. "I think community service is important because we can help people live their lives to the best of their abilities." - Casey Lovell



## From the desk of Dr. McCaudy

Dear Fremont Community:

As you may be aware, the FCS Board of Education recently approved a resolution to place a five-year RENEWAL Income Tax (1.25%) Levy on the ballot for March 4, 2008. This RENEWAL Levy WILL NOT COST taxpayers any additional monies. By approving this renewal, the district will continue to receive \$6.6 million per year for the next five years. Again, passage of this levy **WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES FOR ANY CITIZEN OF FREMONT.**

Because of the levy failures last school year, the district had to make difficult cuts and reductions in services and personnel. Despite these levy failures, the administration, teachers and support staff remain focused on providing a good, high-quality education that will prepare students for life after high school. This professional attitude has helped the district achieve **its first-ever** "Effective" rating on the Ohio Department of Education Report Card. We are very confident that we will continue to **improve** our academic performance each year, and we will reach our goal of becoming an "Excellent" school district in the near future.

**In order to achieve this goal**, the district must, at the very least, maintain its current educational programming and services. If the RENEWAL Levy does not pass in March the district **will face a shortfall** of \$6.6 million dollars from its annual budget beginning next year **and will have to make additional and drastic reductions to its entire package of services to students.**



Photo courtesy of Ken Dummering

If you are interested in helping the district with the RENEWAL Levy, please contact me at 419.334.5432, or please contact your child's principal.

I thank you for all of your assistance with making Fremont City Schools a great place for children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Traci McCaudy