

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community



Techies Fight Texting

Written by: Allison Schrader
Fremont Ross
journalism student

What can three teenage girls from Ross do? Apparently change the world. Well, at least the state of Ohio for now. Seniors (pictured at right from left to right) Taylor Ingram, Morgan Bauer and Mariah Olvera are just the girls to do this. They are part of the Tech Center's Criminal Justice Program and are out to change the way that people are driving.

Currently, Fremont is not one of the select cities in Ohio with a texting ban. Bauer, Ingram and Olvera are working with local lawmakers to pass a ban on texting, as well as talking while driving. The girls went to the city council and worked on drafting a bill with prosecutor Hart and Mayor Overmyer. After this, the girls went before the Citizen's Service Committee of Council. For this they "showed a United Kingdom Public Service Announcement about texting while driving, showed statistics [such as when texting, 40% of focus is devoted to texting, and only 60% of focus is directed at the road] and answering questions that the committee asked us," explained Ingram. Another statistic is that using a cell phone while driving has become the number one cause of fatal crashes.

"We want to bring awareness to the community of the danger of distracted driving," said Ingram.

"We feel as a group that this is an urgent matter that needs to be addressed to everyone," explained Olvera.

The girls believe that this will affect the community in a positive way. "By banning texting, we feel it will reduce the rates of injury and death due to distracted driving," commented Ingram.

"The crash rates would go down, and the roads would be safer if people pay attention, especially since it is winter," explained Bauer.

"We feel that this will definitely help the community by bringing awareness to this issue," said Olvera. "Just this past summer, there were a few fatal car accidents due to cell phone use while driving within the country. We hope by bringing a ban that we can prevent fatalities."

The girls are not opposed to devices that can be used in the car that are hands-free. They just do not think that people should use devices in the car that requires them to take their hands off the wheel. "Get a Bluetooth," said Ingram. "That is fine since it is hands-free. That way you can call people."

"Wait to text people back," Bauer explained. "It is not really a big deal. They can wait to have you text them back."

"We suggest people just wait to use their cell phones," commented Olvera. "We feel that a text message or even a phone call isn't worth taking an innocent life."

What does the man who gave them the assignment think? "I am extremely proud of Morgan, Taylor and Mariah, and what they have accomplished with their senior project, *Just Wait, Don't Text and Drive*," commented Mr. Mark King, Criminal Justice teacher. "These three girls took a vision and an idea and proved that students who have goals and drive can actually make a difference NOW! In the criminal justice field, it can be extremely difficult to actually finish or complete such an in-depth project. Through hard work and dedication, these three young ladies took what started out to be hope for change in our local community to possible needed change for the entire state. To actually have the ability to testify at the state government level is an amazing learning experience. These girls have stood up and made the adult community to take notice of their work and purpose. They are definitely a credit to the Tech Center, Fremont Ross and especially themselves," said King.

The girls have been working hard, but there is still a ways to go until it is official; however, there does not have to be a law for people to start practicing safe driving habits. There are plenty of hands-free devices available that will make driving safer for everyone.



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Alumni News

Our first official alumni newsletter was sent via email to all alumni who are registered. If you have not registered yet, please go to our district website at www.fremontschools.net and click on the alumni link. We are looking for information about notable graduates who are making a difference in today's world, so we may feature them in our next newsletter. If you would like to share this information or information about upcoming reunions, please email alumni@fremont.k12.oh.us. Also, please don't forget to join us on Facebook!

The Best of Sandusky County - 2011 Pizza Challenge

The Chamber Foundation of Sandusky County is hosting "The Best of Sandusky County Pizza Challenge" on Sunday, April 10th from 11-2 at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds. Be part of this 4th annual event and help "Raise the Dough for Student Scholarships". Proceeds will provide a high school senior from each of the ten Sandusky County high schools with a scholarship. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$9 at the door.

Strong Academics + Strong Character = Strong Community

Atkinson celebrates 100 Days Lutz: Boomerangs are Coming Back



The first graders at Atkinson Elementary School have been patiently awaiting the 100th Day of School. Every morning since the first day of school, the students have been using the interactive Smartboards in their classrooms to complete the daily calendar activities. Some of the daily calendar activities include identifying the day of the week, using the internet to track the weather, using symbols to graph the weather, and writing the number that tells how many days we have been learning at school so far this year. The Smartboard also displays a big, interactive 100's grid, which is a very important tool in first grade. The students use the 100's grid to learn about number patterns, how to count forwards and backwards, and how to skip count by 2's, 5's, and 10's.

On Friday, February 18th, the big 100th Day celebration that the kids had been counting down the days for, finally took place. Parents, grandparents, and friends of first grade students at Atkinson all came to join the first graders in 100th day activities. The activities were held in the gym where students were able to sit with their special visitor and play several math games that included Rolling to 100 and Addition Top-It, and they were able to show off all their mathematical skills that they have been working so hard at learning this year. They also got to make a snack mix that included 100 pieces of yummy treats each in the shape of a zero! Written by: Julie Davlin, Katie Buckley and Julie Yoder

First Grade Book Clubs at Washington

At Washington the first grade are participating in pretty cool clubs. These clubs are book clubs. Ms. Pendry has four different book clubs that read, discuss and do activities oriented around a book. The selected book addresses a specific need students demonstrate in daily work and through assessments. The group works on reading skills from sounding out words to imagining how a story will change if a different location is used as the setting. On occasion, with Ms. Pendry's guidance, book clubs will choose their own reading selection. The groups have their own names as well. Pictured here you see the Girl Power Book Club. Mr. Arnold says, "You go girls!" Girl Power clubber Haley says, her favorite part is the sticky notes. The sticky notes contain specific questions oriented around a particular idea in the reading selection. These sticky notes are placed inside the book pages before the club members begin to read. The book clubs change the reading selection at different intervals. Sometime the book may change daily. There are times however, when a book club will stay with a book topic for a week or two depending on the length of the book and/or the complexity of the curricular goals. The differentiated book clubs discuss their reading selection each morning with Ms. Pendry. This allows her to work closely with the small groups, usually four or five students, on the targeted academic skills or concepts. With students excited about reading in their book clubs, Ms. Pendry's reading interventions are as much fun as learning a new song or how to fly a kite.



Lutz Elementary was recently visited by world champion boomerang thrower Mr. Gary Broadbent. Mr. Broadbent is an enthusiastic, motivational, and educational speaker that travels to schools to discuss boomerangs. The students learned many interesting things during his visit that also included quite a few laughs.

The fourth grade brought the information learned during the assembly back to the classroom for a discussion on facts and opinions. Some of the facts learned were: "Boomerangs come in many shapes and sizes", "They were never used as a weapon", and "Boomerangs originated in Australia". The students also shared some opinions from the assembly: "I liked the assembly. He made me laugh", "The boomerangs are fun to use", and "Mr. Broadbent was really nice".

The message that Gary shared was also one that students could take with them in life. "Get an education and use it! I've taken my education and my passion and I've managed to make a living from it. Set a goal and achieve it. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't reach your dreams!"

Curriculum Corner eRead-Ohio Courses Inspire Teachers

During this school year, forty-five primary teachers have participated in the eRead-Ohio course, "The Five Essential Components of Reading Instruction." This professional development course was funded by the Ohio Department of Education and presented by Mrs. Patricia Weiker, Fremont City Schools Primary Literacy Coach along with Mrs. Paula Guisinger, ODE State Support Team Region 1 consultant. Teachers participated in twelve hours of group work with other teachers and an additional 12 hours of individual study and discussions online. Do the Math – that is well over 1,000 hours of study time teachers have invested to support their students' learning!

The eRead-Ohio course presents the areas identified by the National Reading Panel (2000) as key to teaching students to read. The five essential components of reading instruction are 1) phonemic awareness, 2) phonics, 3) vocabulary, 4) fluency, and 5) comprehension. Students require instruction in all five areas to develop into proficient and quality readers.

While the teachers were already well aware of the essential components necessary for developing reading skills, time spent sharing instructional techniques and strategies with fellow professionals is a great investment toward improving students' success. The students of Fremont will benefit from their teachers' dedication and efforts to be the best instructors they can be!

Autism: Solving the Puzzle Together

"Autism" is a simple word with many complex explanations and real-life examples within the Fremont community. It has become a hot topic on the internet, in magazines, on talk shows, in parent groups and in schools.

Identifying the needs and developing the right supports for a student with autism is like trying to put a puzzle together, and there are so many pieces to look at in the areas of social/emotional, communication and sensory needs. So many people involved such as parents, doctors, therapists, teachers, and the students themselves. Where do you start?

The Student Services Department of FCS, in collaboration with the State Support Team (SST) from Region 1, is developing a comprehensive district plan to answer that question. The goal of the plan is to outline resources, define training opportunities, and coordinate the linkage of this information with parents, school staff and area agencies.

Please look in upcoming issues of this newsletter for more information on this topic. If you have any specific questions about autism or how to access resources now, please call Tim Cullen at 419-334- 3871 or send an email to cullent@fremont.k12.oh.us.

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

Croghan excels at MLK Oratorical Contest



Fremont NAACP sponsored an oratorical contest at Terra Community College. Croghan entered three students in the contest.

Michael Lather, an eight-year-old second grader in Mrs. Cook's class competed with a speech on always doing his very best and making the right choices. Michael received fourth place for his age group in the competition. Croghan also had David Boda, a nine-year-old fourth grader in Mr. Harmon's class. David won second place with a speech that focused on treating people with respect regardless of their differences, and lastly Jaleel Jackson, a twelve-year-old in Mrs. Fritz's class, competed with a speech and power point presentation on the importance of being part of a loving and supportive family. Jaleel placed second in the competition.

Croghan is very proud to have all three of our students place in the competition. Congratulations!

Otis students are Thankful



Otis students recently showed character by demonstrating the good manner of saying Thank You. Third grade students in Mrs. Wingo's class wrote thank you letters to the Curriculum Department and The Board of Education thanking them for the additional funds that were able to be used in our library.

Mrs. Thompson, Otis library aide, surveyed students and their interest and then made purchases to increase our school's collections. The students were very excited to see the new materials in the library!

To demonstrate character and to teach students that saying "Thank You" is the right thing to do, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Wingo worked with students to write letters of appreciation.

FMS staff tours new building



FMS staff members view progress of the new middle school.

2011 MLK Oratorical Contest Winners

About 50 students from Fremont City Schools participated in the Fremont NAACP's annual Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest in February at Terra Community College.

Students in five age groups competed for the honor of representing Fremont City Schools on Saturday at the Fremont NAACP's Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner at Pontifex Banquet Hall.

Primary Division

1. Brayden Darr
2. Natalia Alonso
3. Malakhi Griffin
4. Michael Lather

Elementary Division

1. Berlin Swaisgood
2. David Boda
3. Reagan Reau
4. Jabryis Heidelberg

Intermediate Division

1. Akari Rhea
2. Jaleel Jackson and Kaitlyn McGilton (tie)
3. Zariyah Baynard
4. Austin Risner

Middle School Division

1. Riara Holland
2. Carissa Krauss
3. Peter Giles

High School Division

1. Thalia Perez
2. Hunter Jaramillo
3. Joshua Perez

Photos of all MLK Oratorical winners are posted on the district website at www.fremontschools.net

FMS Gives Back

On February 19, the Fremont Middle School competition squad competed in the 7th Annual Stella Bertz Cheer For the Cure Competition, which was held in Genoa. The squad received a third place trophy for their routine, but the real reward was presenting the organizers of the event with a check for \$580.00 donated with the combined effort of the cheer squad, the Spirit Club, and the Student Council. Several members of the Spirit Club helped support the club by attending the event with the cheer squad. A couple of pics are attached.



Members of the Middle school competition squad are (left to right) Meghan Peicott, Natalia Cruz, Mirrea Alaniz, Taylor Paeth, McKayla Swinehart, Brianna Pierce, Dejsha Pettiford, next row Libby Jones, Kylie Mears, Stephanie Martin (coach), Rachel Gangwer (coach), Paige Collier, Kylie Guhn, Kirsten Haase, back row Jessica Giardina, Taylor VonEitzen, and Emily Guggisberg.

Fremont City Schools will be holding Kindergarten registration from April 4th through April 19th 2011. A child must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2011 to be eligible to start Kindergarten. A copy of the child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency and custody papers, if applicable, must be provided during registration. Parents need to call their elementary school of attendance and schedule an appointment. If you have questions, please call the Office of Curriculum at 419-334-5441.

| DATE | SCHOOL | PHONE |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| April 4 and 5 | Stamm | 419-332-5538 |
| April 6 and 7 | Otis | 419-332-8964 |
| April 8 | Washington | 419-665-2327 |
| April 11 and 12 | Lutz | 419-332-0091 |
| April 12 and 13 | Hayes | 419-332-6371 |
| April 14 and 15 | Atkinson | 419-332-5361 |
| April 18 and 19 | Croghan | 419-332-1511 |

Visit www.fremontschools.net and Click on Communications

Money Matters

The property taxpayers of the Fremont City School District pay taxes on three different types of levies. The levies are for current operating, bond and permanent improvement. Current operating levies are monies used for the operation of the district. This means the district can use these monies for any need in order to operate on a daily basis.

The second levy is a bond levy. A bond levy is much like a mortgage to a house. The district receives a large sum of money to pay for an improvement – as was done for the new Middle School. After the money is received, the district has to pay principal and interest back to the lender over a number of years. The bond levy allows the district to collect money from taxpayers to pay this principal and interest.

The permanent improvement levy allows the district to purchase items that are permanent for the buildings of the district. The State of Ohio considers anything that last five years or longer to be permanent. The district has used this money in the past to purchase furniture and equipment, a walk-in cooler/freezer at Ross, replace the roof at Ross, replace carpeting at the elementary buildings, and to improve technology.

In 2008 the district reduced the taxpayer levy for permanent improvement from 2.00 mills to 1.35 mills. This and the passage of the bond levy have allowed the district to build the new Middle School.

The Fremont City School District would like to thank the taxpayers of the district for their continued support allowing the district to improve older buildings and add new.

Open Enrollment Information

*“The Fremont City Board of Education has adopted policies and procedures permitting students to attend a school, within our school district, other than the school in which the students and parents reside. **Applications for the 2011-2012 school year will be taken beginning April 1st and continue through April 30th.** Applications and copies of policies and procedures may be obtained by contacting the principal of your school of choice beginning April 1, 2011. Applications will be processed in the order they are received at the school. IF you have any questions, you may call Christine Opelt, Director of Human Resources & Community Relations at (419) 334-5433.*

Immunization Update

ATTENTION

Parents and Guardians of Current Sixth Grade Students

SEVENTH GRADE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Sixth grade students are required to have a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) or a Td (tetanus and diphtheria) booster prior to the first day of seventh grade.

Please contact the Sandusky County Health Department (419-334-6367) or your family physician to schedule an appointment. You must take your child’s immunization record with you to the appointment. If you need a copy of your child’s immunization record, please contact your school nurse prior to the end of the school year.

PLEASE NOTE

- According to Ohio Revised Code students not in compliance with the immunization requirements are to be excluded from school attendance no later than the 15th day after the start of school.
- Make your child’s appointment NOW because summer appointments are in demand and often unavailable;

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions and/or review the information on the FCS Website www.fremontschools.net

Hayes and A Trunk Full of History



This year the Hayes Elementary fifth grade class had the unique privilege of participating in the Hayes Presidential Center’s Civil War Reenactment. The fifth graders performed the play, “A Trunk Full of History”, on the Hayes home veranda. “A Trunk Full of History” is a play about two children who open a trunk in their attic to find a boy from the 1800s and several historical artifacts about President Hayes. The children were able to learn about President Hayes from

these artifacts along with the help from twenty-three of their classmates who read facts about Hayes’s life. The fifth graders worked very hard at memorizing their lines and singing the four songs that were from the 1800 era. We were all very proud of the thirty minute presentation!

Stamm Loves Fremont



From February 7th to the 11th, the students of Stamm Elementary gathered food and other personal hygiene items for the “We Love Fremont” food drive. Stamm students have been collecting items for the food pantry here in Sandusky County for fifteen years. Student Council members gathered and sorted the items each day that were brought in by the students in pre-school through sixth grade. Mrs. Batey’s second grade class won a Valentine’s Day pizza party for brining in the most items in the primary grades, and Mrs. Abdoo’s fourth grade class was the winner in the upper grades. We appreciate the students and staff taking the time and effort to buy items for those in our community that have needs. We are glad we could help families, little boys, little girls, men, and women in our community. The total number of items donated to the Sandusky County Food Pantry this year was 1,067. Students at Stamm also help others in our community by collecting pop tabs. These are donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. This is also a way we help families in need. Pictured above: Left photo: Grant Gallagher, Cody Stults and Dylan Minch present men from the Sandusky County Food Pantry with donations. Right photo: Student council members Rilee Overmyer and Gillian Gallagher prepare boxes for delivery.

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**

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.