

Fremont City Schools

Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

March
2013

An Extraordinary Wrap of Winter Sports



Saturday, February 23, 2013, proved to be a spectacular day for the Little Giants as many student-athletes excelled during competition at the various venues across the state.

The girls swim team (photo below right with boys team and coaches) finished fifth in the state, its highest placing in school history, as the team medaled in four events 200 IM Relay, 200 Relay, 400 Relay and Meghan Moses in the 50 freestyle. Members of the team included: seniors Laura Duncan and Holly Phillips, junior Megan Hawk, sophomore Haley Fisher and freshmen Morgan Waggoner and Meghan Moses. The boys had an exciting swim-off in the preliminaries Friday to earn the right to swim Saturday in the consolation heat. The boys finished 14th in the 200 Relay. The team included: seniors Graham Moor, Chris Hoffman, Scott Kosakowski and freshman Trent Williams.

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wrestling juniors Peyton Geary and Trey Grine qualified for the state wrestling meet, which was Thursday at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus. Trey lost on the first day of prelims but won his next four matches to take third place in the 145 lb division at the Cleveland State district. Both wrestlers won their Thursday evening match at state to remain in the championship bracket. Peyton lost his first match on Friday 7-6 losing in the final seconds of the contest. Trey won his first match on Friday 3-1 to advance to the semifinals. In his consolation match, Peyton lost 15-5; thus ending his season 36-11. In his semi-final match, Trey lost 9-2 (to the wrestler who would later become the 145 lb state champion). Trey lost his final match of the day (6-5) to place fourth in the state tournament at 145 lbs and ending the season with a 47-4 record. (Photo of Grine wrestling above left)

The girls' basketball team overcame a double digit deficit to beat Mansfield 60-53 at the Bucyrus Sectional and win its first sectional title in 13 years. Abbi Hasselbach scored 28 points, including 5 three-pointers to lead the team. The girls lost to Ashland in the next round.

In bowling action, senior Brandon Weiker and sophomore Hannah Pena bowled in districts at Interstate Lanes in Rossford. Both students represented their schools well, but they did not qualify for state tournament.



Dr. McCaudy Honored in Columbus

Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent of Fremont City Schools, was recently awarded the Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA).

The Betsy M. Cowles Leadership Award is presented each year to a woman who has demonstrated outstanding educational leadership, making significant contributions to educational administration in a school district, educational service center or educational institution.

To be considered for this educational award, the BASA Women's committee holds each nominee to the following criteria.

The candidate should be an excellent role model and should encourage others to seek administrative positions. The candidate is required to have a minimum of three years of continuous service as an administrator or college instructor and whose district superintendent has been a BASA member for a minimum of three years.

Congratulations to Dr. McCaudy on receiving this prestigious award.

Pictured are: Dr. Kirk Hamilton, BASA Executive Director, Dr. Traci McCaudy and Deb Campbell, BASA Co-Director of Member Development.



New Student Registration

Fremont City Schools is currently registering new students for the 2013-2014 school year and scheduling appointments for kindergarten registration during the week of May 13-17. Applications are also being accepted for open enrollment. Contact Cheryl Overmyer today at 419-334-5436 to schedule an appointment. Visit our website at fremontschools.net for more information. Become a part of Fremont City Schools, rated by the Ohio Department of Education as a school of excellence!!

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Use your Smartphone and scan the tag below to view *The Fremont Focus*, a video production of FCS Or go to www.fremontschools.net to view!



Atkinson Students are Readers

All around the state of Ohio, there is talk of 3rd grade retention and remediation in reading for students that do not pass this year's reading OAA. At Atkinson school, we are being proactive through the use of our Focus Intervention Tutor, Mrs. Durell. Working with 3rd grade students is a priority in her schedule. She works with small groups of 3rd grade students throughout the day reinforcing the core instruction from their classrooms. After the classroom teacher has taught the daily lesson, small groups of students are pulled by Mrs. Durell. The focus is to reinforce and reteach the lesson to those in need.



Mrs. Durell also works with small groups of students that focus on test preparation skills. Many times the test format can be the problem. Students have to be taught how to take these tests. There are several "tricks" that students need to know to be successful test takers; reading through all the questions and eliminating the answers they know are not correct, going back to the reading selection to find answers to questions, making sure to answer all parts of the question, and writing in complete sentences that make sense. Pictured in the photo left to right are Atkinson third graders Trinity Willis, Amanda Moreno, LaBronze Barnett, and Braylin Martin. Submitted by: Jane Fleming, Title I Reading Teacher

Learning at Lutz

The 5th grade students at Lutz have been involved in many activities celebrating Black History Month. They memorized "Dreams" by Langston Hughes, studied Norman Rockwell's painting "The Problem We All Live With" and "Moving In", and created collages in the form of Martin Luther King's profile. These profiles defined and illustrated their understanding of words such as injustice and boycott which were part of the Civil Rights Movement. Finally, students are researching the life of Ruby Bridges and composing their research papers to explain her struggles and successes which helped America's Civil Rights Movement impact America's future. Pictured: Front row (left to right): Karysa Alafita, Aaliyah Meza, Hayley Lawrence, Lillie Swinehart, Kiley McCann, Jakob Bingaman Back row (left to right): Andy Burroughs, Nicholas Mayle, Talayah Milton



Content Literacy Training



Congratulations to Jen Bair and Denielle Bilger who successfully completed intensive content literacy training with the University of Kansas and are now certified professional developers for FCS.

Both teachers work at Fremont Ross. Jen Bair is a science teacher, and Denielle Bilger teaches special education.

Curriculum Corner

Over the next couple of years, there will be many assessment changes for students and teachers throughout the state of Ohio. This year and next, students in grades K-8 and 10 are given state assessments. The format of the current assessments uses the pencil and paper method. Some major changes in the 2014-2015 school year include the assessment format and the grade levels being assessed. The new assessments will include all students in grades K-12 and will include higher-level thinking and problem-solving questions. Students will be taking these assessments in a digital format, given on the district's computers. Our district is preparing students for these 21st Century assessments by implementing our three year technology plan.

The K-12 Physical Education classes will also be changing. These new assessments will score each student's ability level in various areas of physical activity and game play. Throughout the year, the Physical Education teachers in our district will be collecting information on the various skills taught and the overall scores will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education. The scores for each Physical Education teacher will be displayed on our District's State Report Card.

We have already begun transitioning and preparing students for these future changes. The district is confident that our students will be ready for these new assessments. With everyone's support, we can make these transitions as smooth as possible.

Black History at Washington

Black History Month was celebrated in February. Ms. Sandoval's kindergarten class at Washington Elementary learned about famous African Americans such as President Barack Obama, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ruby Bridges and Rosa Parks. Some important facts the children learned were that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a very caring person. He believed that everyone should be treated equally, and he wanted everyone to get along. Ms. Sandoval's class thought MLK was an amazing person! Submitted by: Evilia Sandoval



MLK Oratorical Contest Winners

Primary Division:

- 1st - Mariah Wyche
- 2nd - Macy Merrill
- 3rd - Ella Smith

Elementary Division:

- 1st - Jairo Alonso
- 2nd - Skyler Fisher
- 3rd - Anysha Darden

Intermediate Division:

- 1st - Connor Ratliff
- 2nd - Julia Davis
- 3rd - Braden Ward and Grace Inman

FMS:

- 1st - Berlin Swaisgood
- 2nd - Carla Dixon
- 3rd - Akari Rhea

FRHS:

- 1st - Riara Holland
- 2nd - Jersey Spears
- 3rd - Carissa Kraus

PACK THE PIT
For Camden Arriaga
(4th Grade Student @ Atkinson)
Who: FCS Staff vs. 13abc All Stars
When: Saturday, March 23rd
@ 7:00 p.m.
Where: "Purple Pit"
Fremont Ross High School
Cost: Adults \$5.00
Students \$3.00
All proceeds from this event will benefit
Make-A-Wish Foundation
& FCS Athletic Dept.

FUN! GAMES! PRIZES! FOOD!

strong Character

Character Has Many Definitions

The word “character” has several definitions – character as in a novel or short story, or character as in the attributes that makes a person a fine member of society. Team Bearcats is always striving to instill good character traits in our students. We encourage our students to donate to help others. Already, this year we have donated to the Will Kinzer Foundation for Autism. In donating to this foundation, our students painted pumpkins and then raffled them off. It was a huge success, but also helped the Bearcats to understand the autism condition and how it affects people.

Our students have also participated in the Optimist Club’s Essay contest, writing essays on how they can help their friends to feel good about themselves, how to build up their friend’s self-esteem. This caused the students to really think about building up a person’s self-esteem, rather than putting them down (bullying).

It is an awesome sight to watch our students interact with the MD unit in our building. Several of our students have actually chosen to be peer tutors and mentors for the MD students! And it has become a “mutual admiration” society between the two groups!

Respect and Responsibility are key components to building character, and the teachers on Team Bearcats really believe that all of our students have the ability to develop the fine character traits for becoming outstanding young men and women. It will be a pleasure to watch them grow and mature throughout the rest of this school year – and in years to come!



Croghan Cares about St. Jude



Twenty fourth graders at Croghan Elementary are participating in Math-A-Thon this year for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Math-A-Thon helps desperately ill children at St. Jude Hospital by raising money for research and treatments. St. Jude depends on donations to ensure that families of children with life-threatening illnesses never have to pay for treatment that is not covered by insurance. The Croghan students ask friends and family members to sponsor them for Math-A-Thon. Then,

they complete a Math-A-Thon “Funbook,” which is filled with math problems and puzzles. After they complete their “Funbook,” they collect the money from their sponsors, and we send it to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The students earn prizes depending on how much money they raise. Our goal this year is to raise over \$2,000! St. Jude Hospital has treated children from all 50 states and from around the world! We are so excited to be able to help such a worthy cause! Croghan fourth graders really CARE!!

Congratulations!



**FREMONT CITY
SCHOOLS!
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
OF SANDUSKY
COUNTY
HEALTH &
WELLNESS AWARD
RECIPIENT
2013**

Character Counts at Otis

During the week of January 28th, Otis students participated in Character Counts Week. Students learned about what it means to be a person of good character. Each day students wore a different color shirt to represent character words. Hallways and classroom doors were decorated with theme words. The words Otis students learned were caring, fairness, responsibility, respect, trustworthiness and citizenship. All of the Otis students participated in the Stomp Out Bullying activity with the school counselor to promote good character. Mrs. Sachs’ third grade class continues with earning the good character awards by showing respect for others. This picture shows Madelyn Dickman and Christine Frederick in front of the Character Counts Stomp Out Bullying bulletin board. By: Lisa Sachs



Alumni Feature

Dream big, persevere and make those dreams become a reality. That is exactly what Fremont Ross graduate, Jeffrey Keefer did. Keefer graduated in 1970. After graduation he attended Wooster College where he received a BA in economics and currently serves on the Board of Trustees there. After Wooster, Keefer, attended North Western’s Kellogg School of Business and received an MBA in finance.

While at Ross, Mr. Keefer was very involved. He played trumpet in the marching and symphonic band and was a Varsity tennis player and swimmer. During the time he swam, the team won the Buckeye Conference Championship. Aside from being an athlete, Mr. Keefer was also an exceptional student. He was in the National Honor Society his junior and senior years, Junior Class President and was President of Student Council his senior year.

In 1976, Keefer joined DuPont, a science company whose products range from seeds to nylon. There, he had an array of jobs. He built up his experience, and in 1992 packed up his family and moved to Taipei, Taiwan and became Managing Director of the Titanium Technologies business for DuPont. This job covered areas from Japan and Korea to Pakistan and down to New Zealand. Talk about being cultured!

In 1997, he and his family moved back to Wilmington. Two years later, he became Vice President and General Manager of DuPont’s Titanium Technologies Business; not too shabby! Later on, Mr. Keefer went on to be Group Vice President of Performance materials and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. After years of hard work and dedication, Mr. Keefer retired in 2010; however, his journey had not stopped.

In 2008, he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s and has started a new career in supporting research to find cures for brain diseases such as Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and more. He serves as President of the Parkinson’s Council of Philadelphia, director on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Aging at the University of Pennsylvania and the Board of Directors of the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Even with his busy schedule, he still manages to do other things that he loves such as videography and was gracious enough to share a couple videos.

Who says Fremont Ross cannot give you a jumpstart in the right direction? Mr. Keefer’s key to success? “Life long learning by embracing new experiences.” Fremont Ross is proud to have Mr. Keefer as a graduate!

Written by: Katie Schell, Fremont Ross student-journalist



strong Community

Stamm Students “Make a Difference”



Students in the Make a Difference Club at Stamm Elementary are making a difference in the lives of local community members. The Make a Difference Club promotes student involvement in activities and events that support people in need. The group has 25 to 30 members in grades K-5. They have sponsored a variety of events including a canned food drive for victims of Hurricane Sandy, a food drive for ‘Come to the Table’, a ‘Hats Off for Cancer’ drive, ‘Pennies by the Pound’ for United Way, and fundraisers for the Stamm Scholarship Fund. The group also recently made Valentines and delivered them to residents at Bethany Center.

Make a Difference Club is led by two Stamm teachers, Erica Rudd and Jeff Straka, who want the students to understand that they can have a positive impact in their community regardless of their age. Students agree the club is a valuable experience and can inspire an ongoing commitment to community service. Tristjan Hull, a 5th grader, said, “I really feel like I’ve made a change in the world. We’ve done some special things that have changed people’s lives. I’m going to miss the club next year.”

Makinah Urias, also in the 5th grade, stated, “I feel like we’re helping people. When I get older, I’ll donate things and money to charity.” Submitted by: Kim Bemis

Hayes School Hosts “Get Healthy,



Students and parents were invited to *Get Healthy, Stay Focused* on February 26th at Hayes School. During this event, students took part in physical activities while parents attended informational sessions.

Hayes School nurse Jody Amor was available for parents to ask the nurse about health, nutrition and community resources. Michele Wilhem, second grade teacher, discussed academics and

teaching strategies being used at Hayes School. Another session featured Child Nutrition Supervisor, Michaelen Rogers, discussing nutritional information and the school district’s healthy menu options. The last session was Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies led by Jill Gilliland. Teachers at Hayes are currently learning these strategies, so they can be implemented school-wide next year.

While all the parents were busy learning, the students had fun getting physically active by hula-hooping, dancing and shooting baskets. There were door prizes and everyone went home with a healthy snack pack and a sample of dragon punch! This wonderful evening was arranged by Bonnie Weaver. Pictured: Joshua Johnson, Jenna Johnson and Skylar Fisher.

Fremont Receives an “A+” on Financial Audit

On January 18, 2013, the district’s financial audit for 2011-2012 was released by Charles E. Harris & Associates. The auditors reviewed the district’s purchasing procedures for the general fund and federal funds (Title I, Title VI-B, and Education Jobs Fund). The auditor’s report showed that the district was in full compliance with its spending practices and the district had no control weaknesses, deficiencies or reportable findings. Fremont City Schools is proud to receive such a positive report and the district will continue to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars by following all state and federal purchasing guidelines. The full report is available on the Treasurer’s page of the district web site, www.fremontschools.net.

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.



Fremont City Schools

You In?



Rated EXCELLENT by the Ohio Department of Education

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419-334-5436
fremontschools.net

Red-Out in the Purple Pit



The Giants were really “Rocking the Beat” on February 8th in the Purple Pit.... the heartbeat that is. Students, staff and fans were being asked to put aside the usual purple attire for the evening and wear some red to show some LOVE for the American Heart Association, as well as for the Little Giants. The students raised over \$1,150 for the American Heart Association by selling “Rock the Beat” shirts.

Heart disease and stroke are the #1 and #4 respective killers of Americans today. The Giants in conjunction with the American Heart Association wore red to the game to bring awareness to these deadly diseases. Leadership students posted warning signs of a heart attack, what cholesterol levels mean and other quick tips about the heart. The boys’ basketball team warmed-up in “Rock the Beat” shirts. After peeling off those sweaty t-shirts, the shirts were auctioned off in a silent bidding war. The highest bidder was awarded the sweaty, yet autographed shirt.

The Little Giants have heart...healthy ones, and they want others to join them.