

# Fremont City Schools



Building Hope, Trust and Respect with our Community

---

## An Update From Fremont City Schools Superintendent Mr. Jon Detwiler

Recently, the local and national discussion has been dominated by school security. The tragedy in Florida has put the spotlight on what we can do to keep students and staff as safe as possible at school. The morning after the Parkland incident, Police Chief Dean Bliss and I met to discuss the District's safety plans. As we discussed our preparedness, we agreed that the District is doing pretty well. Many of the recommendations from security experts are already in place, e.g. we lock all of our doors, buzz visitors into the buildings, make use of cameras where possible, have a School Resource Officer, conduct drills, and have provided staff with training. Chief Bliss has strengthened the Police Department's response protocols to be even more complete as they investigate potential threats. Our conversation continues as we discuss how we can be more thorough and diligent in the future.

As I told FCS staff after the incident, besides the procedural aspect of emergency response procedures, we must continue to be aware of the relationship and human side of these stories. We need to watch for signs of stress and assure meaningful connections for children at school. We need to make sure that kids see school as a place where they are safe and valued.

I sent my two sons to Fremont City Schools for all of their educational careers. I trusted every morning as I sent my "Little Giants" off to school that the District would do everything it could to keep them safe. Safety will remain a priority.

---

**On May 8, 2018, Fremont City Schools will ask the Fremont community to vote on the RENEWAL Income Tax Levy. Below are some facts about the renewal income tax (1.25%) levy.**

- This 1.25% income tax generates approximately \$7.8 million per year.
- These monies are used to pay the day-to-day operating expenses of Fremont City Schools.
- Passage of the Renewal Income Tax Levy will NOT increase taxes.
- Passage of this levy is necessary in order to maintain the District's current services and programs for our students.

### **UPCOMING FCS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

Please join us at an upcoming Board of Education Meeting:

**MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018 • 7:30 p.m. • Fremont Middle School**

**MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018 • 7:30 p.m. • Fremont Middle School**

Please visit the FCS website, [www.fremontschools.net](http://www.fremontschools.net), for a complete list of meetings, meeting minutes and other pertinent information.

## ONCE A BULLDOG.....ALWAYS A BULLDOG

The origin of the Washington Elementary School Bulldog mascot is owed to a Lindsey mason named Judd Nodestein, who used a bulldog stamp as his trademark on all his masonry work back in the early 1900's. Many Lindsey residents may still see this stamp in the basements of older homes and on city sidewalks.

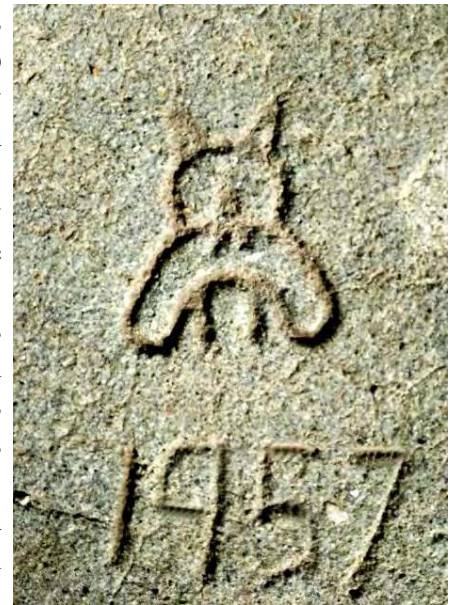
Bulldog Pride is strong in Lindsey. For some Washington Elementary students, sitting at a desk your relatives once sat in is not uncommon. For the Wasserman/Smith family, this tradition goes back four generations.

Washington Elementary School was built in 1929. Jack Smith, Sr. was born in 1930 and attended Washington School during the 1930's. His son, Jim Smith, attended Washington from 1963-1973, through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He was

in the last 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in Lindsey. After that, the school only included classes to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. When Jim attended Washington, the school didn't really have a Kindergarten class, but a story hour for the youngest students.

Jim's daughters, Niki (Smith) Wasserman, Annie (Smith) Gazdecki, and Jamie Smith all attended Washington Elementary School in the 80's. Annie and her cousin, J.D. Smith, were in the same class throughout their elementary school years. Niki and Annie's daughters, Leah Wasserman and Lauren Gazdecki, both third grade students, now attend Washington Elementary School as fourth generation Bulldogs. Leah's little sister, Rachel Wasserman, will join the Bulldog family as a Kindergarten student for the 2018-19 school year.

Other current Washington students who share a multigenerational Bulldog heritage include: Michael and Gabriel Roach, Caleb Seibert, Mark Geiger, and Kenna and Andrew Tooman.



*Pictured above, front row: Lauren Gazdecki, Leah Wasserman (holding a picture of her great-grandfather, Jack Smith, Sr.), and Leah Wasserman. Back row: Jamie Smith, Jim Smith, Annie (Smith) Gazdecki, and Niki (Smith) Wasserman.*

## STUDENTS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD

Hayes Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade students recently had a project and challenge as part of their extensive science curriculum. Mrs. Sloma challenged students to make a model of the solar system, but they should **not** buy anything to do it! Using everyday household items, repurposed items, packing material, and items found in that deepest part of the junk drawer, students had to make an accurate depiction of our solar system. The results were truly out of this world! This project continued our yearlong push of creativity, higher thinking, and simply having a blast in science!



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Earlier this school year, the students of FMS were given the opportunity to weigh in on their thoughts on how things are going at school. Students completed the “My Voice” survey at school, and the results are being used to guide decision making as the year moves on. The Building Leadership Team (BLT) narrowed down the results in order to meet the needs of the students. The BLT is working on strategies to make improvements in order to make FMS the best school it can be. The four statements that are being focused on this year are:

- I have never been recognized for something positive at school.
- I enjoy being at school.
- Students have a voice in decision making at school.
- Teachers make school an exciting place to learn.

One way FMS is trying to improve on the statement “Students have a voice in decision making at school”, is by implementing a Student Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT consists of four students from each grade level at FMS. There is one female and one male representative from each team. They are collaborating to find solutions to help students have a voice at school. Recently, they assisted in the planning and implementation of the second quarter Breakfast of Champions. The SLT also created a video that showcased positive peer actions, and the video was shared with the students at school. The administration and staff of FMS are excited to continue to work with these students and find more ways to make FMS the best place it can be.



Elizabeth  
Keller



Kurt  
Harrison



Jonathan  
Layne



Amanda  
Moreno



Ty  
Ferguson



Mylah  
Williams



Logan  
Pollick



Jaliyah  
Harmon



Hannah  
Rios



Will  
Kiser



Jonathan  
Baum



Hope Riehl

### FCS Supports Local Businesses

The District hired the following local businesses for products/services during December 2017 – January 2018:



ACE Hardware, Action Printing, Adkins Sanitation, Anstead Construction LLC, Baker’s Diversified Vehicle, Bella Cosa, Bobby’s Truck and Bus Repair, Burmeister Bay Trophy, C & W Auto Supply, C. A. Kustoms, Cass Enterprises, Chud’s Inc., Clark Associates LLC, D Clark Online LLC, Color Haven Paint & Supply LLC, Commercial Glazing Systems Inc., Computer Man, Contractors Equipment Rental, Croghan Colonial Bank, Crown Battery, Deemer Sheet Metal, Dollar Tree, East of Chicago, Famous Supply Co., Fastenal Company, Fortball Pizza Palace, Fremont Athletic Supply, Fremont Auto Parts, Fremont Candy & Cigar Co., Fremont Fence, Fremont Uniform Shoppe, Healthlink-ProMedica Memorial, Ken Kiser Sound, Kroger Co., Kun’s Northcoast Security, Little Caesars, Lowe’s Company Inc. - Fremont, Madison Motors, Metrotex Textile Rental LLC, North Town Storage, Otto & Urban Flower Shop, Papa Murphy’s, Phaze I, Post Net, ProMedica Memorial Hospital, Root’s Poultry, Rural King, Sabroske Electric, Sheets Supply, State Street Properties Co. LTD, Terra State Community College, The News Messenger, Tire Man, Trico Glass, United Way of Sandusky County, Walters’ Boiler Works, Westend Tire LLC, Woleslagel Moving Co., Mary Colleen Yeager



## WATCH D.O.G.S.

WATCH D.O.G.S. is one of the nation's largest and most respected school-based, family, and community engagement organizations in the country. Since the program's creation in 1998, more than 6,450 schools across the country have launched a WATCH D.O.G.S. program of their own. Each school year, hundreds of thousands of fathers and father-figures make a positive impact on millions of children by volunteering millions of hours in their local schools through this amazing one-of-a-kind program. Who are WATCH D.O.G.S.? They are fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles, and other father figures who volunteer to serve at least one day a year in a variety of school activities.

We are excited to announce that Lutz Elementary has joined the growing list of participating schools. With over 80 "Dads" showing interest and attending the pizza night in November, the program has gotten off to a fantastic start. Of those 80+ interested in the program, nearly 30 have already signed up to be a volunteer for one day this year. The WATCH D.O.G.S. will be volunteering in classrooms of all grades to assist with things such as fluency practice, math fact flashcards, spelling practice, etc. The program will continue throughout the remainder of the year. Thanks to our WATCH D.O.G.S. for helping the students at Lutz.

## ATKINSON'S VOCABULARY POWER

Vocabulary is a key skill in life. The more words we know and can understand, the further we can go in life. In fifth grade, our students are always learning new words. We work on learning Greek and Latin roots, like anti- and bi-, and then noticing them in full words (ex. antibacterial, biped). They work on learning the definitions, associating pictures with the words, and show their understanding by using the words in sentences.

Recently, the fifth graders realized that the words we are working on in reading are words they use in math, science, and social studies. Learning the roots, com- and circum-, they have figured out words like commute, committee, circumference, circumnavigate.

Each week, our students work on learning words that are synonyms (similar) and antonyms (different), using context clues in their reading to figure out meanings, and create models and flashcards to continue practicing at home. While increasing the number and difficulty of books that we read, advancing our skills in all subject areas, our fifth graders are expanding their vocabulary knowledge in leaps and bounds.

Remember, learning vocabulary starts young! All students can benefit from hearing us use more difficult words and to explain the meanings. Read, read, read at home, have conversations with your students and you will see how much learning can really happen!



## IF YOU SEE A NEED; TAKE THE LEAD

Students at Ross are aware of the needs of others not only within the school, but also within the community. There are several clubs and organizations that are consistently seeking out ways to help, some of which include The LINK, Leadership, Key Club, Student Council and National Honor Society. They recognize that people of all ages need a little extra support from time to time; they don't sit back and wait for someone else to do it. These students take an idea and just go for it!

Whether it be helping students in the elementary schools by reading to them, having an organized recess time, eating lunch with them, or by tutoring, high school students serve as a great role model to these younger children.

The groups help the older students at the middle school and high school in various ways, as well. Having a Peer Buddy at the middle school or high school is just as important to assist those who are struggling and to support them in ways that perhaps an adult may not be able to understand. Knowing that there is someone your age, or close to your age, who understands is beneficial when you're going through a difficult time, and LINK students are there to support them. It's also nice to know that someone is thinking of you, and National Honor Society put positive, uplifting messages on every locker in the high school to remind students that someone cares about them.

Helping brighten someone's Christmas was a popular theme for most clubs. Student Council, National Honor Society, the LINK, Leadership, and Key Club wanted to make sure that children and the elderly were not forgotten. Books, toys, clothing, and food donations helped many families within the community. Key Club also put together 25 boxes to support Operation Christmas Child with gifts that were sent overseas.

Ross students do not just help others during the holiday season. Each of these organizations attend many leadership trainings and conferences to not only develop their leadership skills but also to teach them how to seek out new and creative ways to benefit others in the community. All of these clubs and organizations serve regularly at various locations around town. Whether it be the Leadership students visiting the elderly at the nursing home or teaching them about technology, LINK students helping children at the School of Hope, or Key Club members who work and clean at the Humane Society and at the Village House, these students know the meaning of hard work and dedication.

Community organizations know that when they need assistance running events or getting some "dirty work" done that they have students who will gladly stand up to volunteer. Leadership students assisted with the YMCA Color Run, Red Cross Bloodmobile, Veterans Day, and Crown Battery's drive to Fill the Truck for victims of Hurricane Harvey, which raised an estimated \$80,000 in supplies and donations. Within the community, the LINK students supported the Health and Wellness Fair, Stand Up Against Tobacco, Street Play Saturdays, Dignity and Respect Day, Red Ribbon Spooktacular, the Park District's Farm Days, and Trick or Treat at the School of Hope, Trunk or Treat at the Rec Center, and Walmart's Miracle Day. Key Club members have also assisted the Kiwanis at several locations around town for Peanut Day, Street Play Saturdays, the Park District's Farm Days as well as their Trick or Treat at White Star Park, and preparing and serving dinner as well as collecting canned goods and hygiene products for the Pontifex. Several students also served Thanksgiving dinner at Woodmore High School, rang bells for the Salvation Army, helped students at the School of Hope Movie Day, and assisted Lutz students at the Santa Shop.

If Ross students see a need, they'll take the lead; and if you need them, they'll be there.

### "A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES"

Stamm students, parents and staff were all invited to enjoy an evening in front of the silver screen. The PTO sponsored event took place on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, and was held in the Stamm Gymnasium. Attendees were encouraged to bring foldable chairs, pillows and blankets to make the experience more fun and comfortable. Admission to the movie, "Despicable Me 3", was free for all, while beverages and popcorn were offered to the audience for 50 cents each.

Everyone who attended was very respectful and put their cell phones on vibrate so that all present could enjoy the movie without interruption. The glow

of the movie screen showed faces truly enjoying themselves, and the shared giggles and laughter made the event a huge success!

Donna Foss	16" Viola
SCORTA	311 Webster's Dictionary & Thesaurus Books
Fremont Kiwanis Club	Hot Chocolate Packets for Safety Patrol
Carol Brown	Cash
Fremont Ross Athletic Boosters	Cash
Little Giant Baseball Club	Cash
Fremont Area Foundation	Cash
Northwest OASBO	Cash
United Steel Workers-Women of Steel	Socks, Hats, Gloves & Scarves
Air-Eez Comfort Systems	Hats, Gloves & Scarves
Ridgeview Condominium Assn.	Hats, Gloves & Scarves
Mr. and Mrs. Robert White	Hats & Gloves
Pun-kin-Place	Gift Certificate

### THANK YOU FROM FCS

Thank you to the following community members, businesses and organizations for donating to Fremont City Schools from December 2017 – January 2018.



## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Otis Elementary has been focusing on academic vocabulary words this year in the areas of reading and math. The words come from each grade level content standards that are taught throughout the school year and ones that students might see on state tests in the spring. Teachers are reviewing words in each subject area in a variety of ways, and students are taking assessments once a month to see if they are improving on knowing the words. Once they have mastered the words in both reading and math, students are given a t-shirt from a college that they are allowed to wear every Friday. Each t-shirt is from a different college across the country. This shows students that there are lots of different options for where they might want to go to college after high school.

---

## LEARNING A TRADE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

The Classroom to Careers program, a partnership between WSOS Community Action and Fremont City Schools, participated in a field trip to Benchmark Printing. Students learned how the screen printing process worked, from the idea phase from the customer, to the printing of the shirts. Each student was able to try their hand at screen printing a 3 color design that was based on a creation from Jayden Haubert, a student in the program. Mike Bower shared that he began working in this field when he was fourteen and how the business has grown over the past 30 years. Students were impressed with his attention to detail, and the steps that it takes to make one shirt.



Fremont City Schools  
500 W. State Street, Suite A  
Fremont, Ohio 43420



PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



## GAME NIGHT

Students at Croghan Elementary participated in a Family Game Night in January. This event was well-attended by many Croghan families. Teachers simply supplied numerous board games within their classrooms, and families filtered in and out of classrooms. The most popular game was “Pie Face”. The students were eager to challenge each other, teachers and their principal. It was a wonderful night for Croghan to share with the students and their families.

## HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE 100<sup>th</sup> DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR BY FINDING HUNDREDS OF WAYS TO COUNT TO 100!



Fremont City Schools Board policy of nondiscrimination extends to students, staff, job applicants, the general public and individuals with whom it does business and applies to race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, age, disability, military status or genetic information.