



The Firelands Express



Volume 10, Issue 82

January 2020

Serving the communities of Amherst, Amherst Twp., Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp., Camden Twp., Florence Twp., Henrietta Twp., Kipton Village, New Russia Twp., South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

Kindergarten Registration

Parents living in the Firelands school district with children who will be five years old by August 1, 2020 should plan on registering for kindergarten during one of the following registration days.

- March 3, 2020 – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- March 4, 2020 – 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

On both days, the Board of Education office will be open for registration assistance. The office is located at 112 North Lake Street in South Amherst.

Parents living out of the district should apply for open enrollment starting February 3. This step must happen prior to kindergarten registration. More information about open enrollment is on page 2.

Final acceptance for kindergarteners via open enrollment will be confirmed by email from the Firelands Board of Education.

Kindergarten screening is a separate event that is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. Children will be signed up for a kindergarten screening timeslot during the registration process.

If you are planning to attend one of these registration events, please plan to bring your child's birth certificate, 2 proofs of residency, parent/guardian photo id, shot records, and custody papers (if they apply). If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact the elementary school office at (440) 965-5381.

More detailed information will be published in the February issue of the Express.

Community Visioning Meeting Jan. 29

You are invited to our second community Visioning Meeting to talk about the construction of the new high school. The first meeting was held in early December, and we discussed the building scope and educational vision for our students. The next meeting will be held on January 29th at 6:30 p.m. Plan to meet at Firelands High School in the band room to continue the conversation about 21st Century learning opportunities and how we can best prepare our students for the future.

We hope you will join us!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Get to know board members, basketball honorees, open enrollment, student achievements, important dates, fundraisers, music, art, high school scheduling and more!

Academic Challenge Teams



Congratulations to the Academic Challenge teams for advancing to the Lorain County final competition on December 6th! The 5th/6th grade team took 2nd place out of 8 schools and the 7th/8th grade team took 3rd place out of 8 schools. Preparation for competition included reading books, learning current events, and researching numerous topics. The 5th/6th grade team is pictured above. Back row: Jordyn Simpson, Micah Lee, Dylan Rehak, Logan Parker. Front row: Brody Schlecter, Nathan Ludwig, Maggie Tansey, Justin Wagner. The 7th/8th grade team is below. Back Row: Garrett Schlecter, Aidan Bokulich, Grace Tansey, Claire Ohle, Trenton Jones. Front Row: Andie Eberhardt, Jocelyn Bednar, Mia Sutorious, Telaysia Kraus.



You may view this issue online at:
www.firelandsschools.org

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School Board Appreciation

The Firelands Local School District is supported by a team of five school board members who are passionate about our schools and our community. January is National School Board Appreciation Month, so we'd like to feature them here with individual biographies. After reading them, you can see why we have such a strong and committed group of board members. You'll find them in order by years of service.

Dan Pycraft, 18 years
Mike O'Keefe, President, 9 years
Ben Gibson, 8 years
Tom Myers, Vice-President, 4 years
Bob Danicki, 2 years

Dan Pycraft

A tireless advocate for Firelands, Dan Pycraft has 18 years of service as a board member. His Endowment Fund Committee involvement takes him back to 1991. But if you want to know when Dan first became a Falcon, it was when he moved to the district in 4th grade. As a student, he lived in Camden, but has also lived in the Birmingham area, South Amherst and Henrietta as an adult.

Dan and his wife, Bev, both graduated from Firelands and have been married for 46 years. The Falcon pride has been passed down to their daughter, Heather, and son, Brent. Both are Firelands graduates from the classes of 2001 and 2003 respectively. Both of their grandchildren are beginning their own Firelands stories – one is in kindergarten, and one is at the Henrietta preschool.

When Dan was in high school, he was involved in the Firelands FFA and served as a reporter and as the president. After graduating from Firelands High School, Dan went on to LCCC and the Ohio National Guard. He graduated from LCCC with a degree in engineering graphics design technology. As a member of the ONG, he achieved the rank of E5 with six years of service. While

attending college, he worked as a custodian at FHS.

A newly minted retiree in 2019, Dan has worked for four different John Deere dealers over the last 47 years. Most of that time was in sales, but he capped off his career with three years as the used equipment manager for Shearer Equipment's seven-store dealership.

When asked what his hopes were for Firelands and the community in 2020 and beyond, Dan said it was "to build the best building we can imagine, and to support all of our programs (academic & elective) so we can remain one of the best schools in the county. I also want all of our graduates to be proud to be a lifetime Falcon. Once a Falcon, always a Falcon."

Thank you, Dan, for your continued service and commitment to the district!



1969-70 Basketball Team Honored on 50th Anniversary



Team members, cheerleaders and fans reunite - see article on page 4.

Open Enrollment Starts Feb. 3

Starting Monday, February 3rd, the Firelands Local School District will be accepting open new K-12 enrollment applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents from any school district in Ohio are welcome to apply, but space is limited and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Enrollment is tuition free, but parents must pay for all school fees.

If a grade level closes, we will still encourage parents to complete the open enrollment application and will maintain waiting lists until July 1st. On July 1st, open enrollment will end for the 2020-2021 school year.

This year we are using an online application that is easily accessible and will allow you fill it out and submit it without having to come in person. All forms are submitted electronically and time-stamped, so we will know when it was sent.

This online application does provide space for you to upload documents in PDF format, such as IEP, WEP or 504 plans. Parents of high school students also need to submit their last report card.

The application will be posted at www.firelandsschools.org under the "student registration" section. There will be a news article on the front page of the website as well, linking you to the application location.

Official notification of your status will come from the Superintendent's Office by email throughout the process. Please contact Sue Schaefer in the Superintendent's Office at 440-965-5821 if you have questions or are having any problems with the electronic form. We will provide a Google Chromebook at the board office if you wish to come in person and apply here.

RETURNING Open Enrollment Parents: If your child was open-enrolled last year, you must confirm that they are continuing by filling out the quick online form. It will be found in the same location, on the "student registration" page of the website. You will receive confirmation of their continued open-enrollment by email from the Superintendent's Office. You will also be sent an email about this process through PowerSchool.

FHS Artists show at Cleveland Clinic eXpressions Exhibition

The FHS Art Department continues its legacy with inclusion in the esteemed Cleveland Clinic eXpressions competition. Sophomore **Amanda Mitchell** and junior **Jillian Fitz** have works selected for the show. Amanda earned a Red Ribbon award (2nd place) with her painted composite illustrating the effects of childhood and adolescent stress on adulthood heart disease. Jillian sculpted a work dramatically demonstrating the effect of one drop of blood to damage a heart using a needle suspended over a balloon

for a Blue Ribbon 1st place award. They join a legacy of 19 Firelands artists who have been honored in this exhibition since 2008. Of the nearly 1,400 works entered from 59 schools, only 74 were accepted for exhibition.

The Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education hosts the annual *eXpressions: An Intersection of Art and Science*. Art students from high schools from around the country interpreted research conducted by Cleveland Clinic high school summer interns. The process includes research and writing to gain an understanding of the topic. All Art 3, Art 4,

Advanced and AP Studio Art students selected their own studies to illustrate from a tight list of 15 summer projects. The art students read for understanding, orally presented, conceptually illustrated and composed brief artist statements for their entries.

A panel of art educators, medical researchers, medical illustrators, photographers, media and public health professionals evaluate each submission on interpretation, creativity, presentation, and initiative. The judges awarded four levels of recognition. Blue Ribbon winners receive \$100. Red Ribbon winners receive \$75; White Ribbon winners, \$50; and Honorable Mention winners, \$25.



Pictured above are Jillian Fitz and Amanda Mitchell.

SAMS Students

Gather 70 Food Baskets



Mrs. Finnegan's FFA students came to SAMS to teach the students the real definition of hunger as part of the 6th Grade Service Project that helps raise awareness about hunger in our district. Donations for the food baskets came from the entire Firelands Community, including sixth graders, other students, parents, local families, school board members, district administration, teachers, staff, churches and businesses. Once all of the donations were gathered, 6th graders put together the largest number of baskets to date - almost 70. The food baskets were delivered the week before the Thanksgiving. A huge THANK YOU to all that helped make this Firelands Family Thanksgiving the largest success to date, especially members of First United Methodist Church, Church of Open Door Vermilion Campus & the Amherst Eagles. Your generosity continues to help educate our students on how to have a "heart full of grace and a soul generated by love" as they worked to give back to our community this Thanksgiving Season.

submitted by Debbie Neal

continued on page 4

FHS Students Volunteer at Second Harvest



The High School MH students volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank in November. They assembled 350 packages of food that were set to be distributed to kids in need. Afterwards, they had the opportunity to take some of their earnings from the Falcon Fuel program, in which they prepare and sell beverages and freshly baked items to school staff, to get lunch at the Amherst Diner. Here they were able to communicate their order, calculate tax and tip, as well as practice restaurant etiquette. These kids are working hard and learning to be very productive members of their community. They are most definitely Fabulous Falcons!

submitted by Jennifer Urbansky

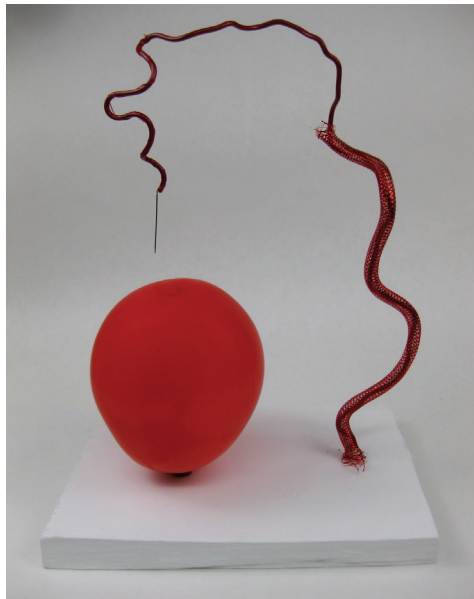
FHS Artists Exhibit continued from page 3

The Firelands Art Department will also receive a \$100 educational grant for producing a winning entry in art.

Exhibition and Catalog

All of the award-winning submissions are featured in a full-color *eXpressions* catalog of the exhibition, which opened with a reception and dedication on Thursday February 13th at the new Health Education Campus in Cleveland. The exhibition continues through mid-March. The exhibit is open during regular business hours.

submitted by Laura Tawil



For more information about the eXpressions program and to view the virtual gallery of past exhibits, visit: <http://civiceducation.clevelandclinic.org/School-Based-Programs/Our-Programs/eXpressions.aspx>



1969-70 Basketball Team Honored

The 1969-1970 Boys Basketball team took to the court one more time on January 10th when they reunited for the 50th anniversary of their winning, record setting season.

Those present were: Janet Normando Leonard, cheerleader; Ken Davis, Manager; Bob Campbell, forward; Dick Kinsley, guard; Duane Miller, forward; Chuck Morgan, guard and forward; Dan Walker, forward and center; Jerry Draga, guard; Ed Kothe, guard; Kevin Bates, center; Joe Campbell, forward; and Tim Schrader, forward.

Their accomplishments were many that season. They were the first Firelands basketball team to score more than 100 points in a game, 118-92, vs South Amherst. They were also the first Firelands basketball team to go undefeated in the regular season (18-0) and became both conference and sectional champions. Then they became the first Firelands basketball team to win a District tournament championship, followed by winning a regional tournament semifinal game and advancing to the regional finals.

The celebration on January 10th also remembered and honored Coach Jim Knox, who recently passed away. Coach Knox was named Inland Coach of the Year and also the North-East district Co-Coach of the year in 1970.

After the game, team members continued the celebration in the FHS cafeteria. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this event a wonderful success!

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Mike O'Keefe, President

Florence Township has been the home of Mike O'Keefe and his family for over 25 years. As another board member whose kids are Firelands graduates, Mike says that he and his wife, Lynette, had no idea about the school district when they moved here in 1994. He feels very fortunate that sons Joey, Jared and Jack all attended Firelands schools.

Growing up in central Lorain, Mike graduated from Lorain Catholic High School and married Lynette in 1985. He is a CNC machine operator at Ford



Motor in Brookpark, and has 27.5 years in with Ford.

As their family grew, so did Mike's involvement in the district. He coached his kids in various sports, and helped raise money through the Firelands Athletic Booster Club. Eventually he would serve as chairman of the Concession Committee and Legacy Committee. He continued to volunteer and fundraise for various Firelands causes, until an opportunity to do even more presented itself. Mike eventually ran and was elected as a member of the school board. Now in his third term with nine years under his belt, Mike serves as president of the board.

As Mike continues his leadership and work on the board, he finds time for fun with grandkids and golfing. Although he says his golf game is "not good" he still loves the game and the guys he plays with. Seeing his grandkids, Rory and Ashlyn, brightens any day!

Mike says that the years the boys were in school, 1994

to 2016, passed in the blink of an eye. He and Lynette are grateful every day for the support and guidance their family received while enrolled in Firelands schools. With gratitude for the past, but an eye to the future, Mike acknowledges what a great time it is for Firelands School District.

"It is an exciting time for the Firelands School District. With the passing of the school bond levy we are in the beginning stages of building a new high school. 2020 and beyond will bring great challenges to our district and great opportunities for our students and staff. Firelands has the leadership in Mike Von Gunten, the support and dedication of the administration and teachers, and a school board that sees no barriers too big to overcome and make Firelands Schools a place people look for when deciding to move and raise a family."

Thank you, Mike, for your leadership and dedication to the district!

Feeding Firelands Students in Need

How Food Service Donations and Emergency Funds Work

The Firelands Food Service department has a donation and emergency account that allows us to serve students who cannot pay for their meal. This was started by donations from a church and anonymous donors.

When a student simply forgets their lunch and uses the emergency account, we rely on them to reimburse the account. Because the funds are limited, we welcome donors to replenish it as well.

The Food Service department is self-supporting, meaning we rely on meal payments to cover operating expenses. Negative meal accounts create a strain on the department.

The Donation/Emergency Account must be replenished so funds are always available to help students. Activity from this account is NOT connected to PaySchools. A separate account keeps track of emergency fund usage and reports are available upon request.

The Food Service department works hard to make sure that eligible families receive the free meals they qualify for through Direct Certifications. For example, the direct certification report must be run at least three times each year, but Judy Baumann runs it six times per year to catch any newly eligible students.

Meal applications can be filled out anytime at www.payschoolscentral.com, which is also the online payment system. Paper applications are available in each school office.

All meal accounts should have a positive balance. If parents are having a difficult time, they should contact Judy at (440) 965-5821 x. 1011.

There is a charge policy in place at www.firelandsschools.org/FoodService.aspx. While this is the official policy, Firelands provides a higher level of service to our students.

Some highlights of the Charge Policy are as follows:

Meal Charging: We must comply with state guidelines by maintaining a system to account for charged meals (both reduced and full pay). No ala carte items (including milk) may be charged - only a full breakfast or a full lunch. If charges are outstanding, students cannot purchase ala cart items for cash. The cash will be collected and credited to the account.

Students in K-8 are permitted to charge up to 3 meals. On the fourth day, the student will receive an alternate meal of peanut butter graham bar, fruit, vegetable and milk, which will be charged to the account.

High school students are not permitted to charge.

Daily Low Balance Calls: Parents and guardians will be called daily when a student's account is in the negative. When the charge limit has been reached, parents are expected to provide the child with a packed lunch from home.

Mrs. Judy Baumann
Food Service Director
Office: 440-965-5821 x.1011

Online meal applications:
www.payschoolscentral.com



Food Service Assistance Information for Lorain & Erie Counties

Lorain County Job & Family Services, (440) 323-5726

United Way, Dial 2-1-1

Second Harvest Food Bank, (440) 960-2265

South Amherst United Methodist Church, (440) 986-2461

Information on Lorain County Food Pantries and many other resources can be found on the Firelands Food Service Website, or call Judy for assistance.

Go to: www.firelandsschools.org

Click on Central Office

Click on Food Service

SAMS Art Club Inspires Students with Quotes & Images

SAMS art club has completed their first project this year! Our group of 18 students worked together to design inspirational quotes and images to paint onto the doors in the downstairs restroom. Messages include:

- Broken crayons still color
- Light outshines the darkness
- Be yourself, everyone else is already taken

Art club has a mixed group of students in grades 6-8 and it is truly amazing to see how well they work together and encourage one another between grade levels.

They worked very hard and are excited to have their artwork on display for all to see!

submitted by Kacie Szemplak



Firelands Elementary School News

Fourth Graders Present Landforms

Some of the first and second grade classes came to the 4th grade Science classrooms to see their models of land forms and learn about them. The 4th graders presented their projects to the small groups and talked about the various land forms they have learned about.

Some of the landforms included islands, peninsulas, capes, isthmuses, plateaus, mesas, basins, bays, hills, mountains, valleys, and canyons. It was wonderful to see the older and younger students interacting and learning from each other.

Fourth Grade Holiday Concert

Mrs. Woods, the fourth grade team, and other staff worked hard to create a holiday performance for families to enjoy. The fourth grade students practiced during music class and a few other scheduled rehearsals in order to produce a show that delivered many smiles. It was a great evening for all.

Not Forgotten Box and Coats for Kids

Thank you to the Firelands community for donating over 400 toys to the Chronicle Telegram's Not Forgotten Box collection! These donations helped make Christmas a memorable one for

many area children.

We would also like to say thank you so much to the Firelands families for their donations for the Coats for Kids drive this year! We collected 28 coats, 17 hats, 10 gloves/mittens, 3 scarves, 1 headband, 1 pair of slippers, 1 pair of winter PJs, and 2 pair of snow pants!!! Wow!! Thank you so much for your generosity. It will help many families in need.

Falcon Bucks

FES students are demonstrating positive behaviors daily. Their efforts are reinforced by being given Falcon Bucks to use. Students have multiple opportunities to spend their Falcon Bucks. One time per month, the Falcon Pride Store visits each classroom and students are able to purchase one item. They have also had the opportunity to purchase entry into the Falcon Nest in order to sit with a few others in an alternative setting during lunch.

Some students have also used their Falcon Bucks to purchase school wide spirit days, lunch with the principal or assistant principal, running with Mrs. Schuster at recess, getting their name on the sign in front of the building, or showcasing themselves in the display case.

We also recently had students use Falcon Bucks to purchase attendance to watch the principals be turned into human sundaes and to play Minute to Win It games before the holiday break. Fourth and fifth graders were also able to enter a raffle to be a ball boy or ball girl at an upcoming FHS Varsity Boys or Girls Basketball game.

We are excited that we have been able to provide students with a variety of options and are thrilled that they are earning the Falcon Bucks to spend. More items will be available as the school year continues

Parent Teacher Group

FES is lucky to have a valuable Parent Teacher Group. This group of parents works hard to provide needed items to our staff and building. They also plan and fund many activities for our students. Please consider being a part of this volunteer group. Their next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on February 5th in the FES Library. Come to find out what events are happening and how you can help. You can also find out more by finding them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG) or on Twitter (@FESPTG).

*submitted by Laura Groboske
Assistant Principal*

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Ben Gibson

Construction experience is just one of Ben Gibson's strengths on the Firelands Board of Education. In addition to being the Operations Manager for Tusing Builders and Roofing Services, Ben brings previous board experience from the Children's Developmental Center in Amherst.

Ben is a long-time community member, Firelands graduate, and Firelands parent. In his 8 years on the Firelands school board, Ben has served as both president and vice-president. He has lived in the district for 40 years, with 30 of them being in Florence Township. He has also lived in South Amherst (5 years) and Henrietta (5 years). After graduating from Firelands High School, Ben went on to get a degree from Ashland University.

Ben and his wife, Kristi, have one child in each of the three Firelands schools. Sam is a freshman at Firelands High School, Luke is in 7th grade at

South Amherst Middle School, and Peyton is in 4th grade at Firelands Elementary School.

He enjoys fishing and being creative. When asked what his hopes were for Firelands in 2020 and beyond, Ben said he wants to see the district "creating a facility that becomes the hub of the community, is a true reflection of the entire community, and becomes the pride of the community."

Thank you, Ben, for your dedication and commitment to the district!



FES Important Dates

February 5 – 5th Grade Band Concert @ 7:00 pm in FES Gym
February 6 – PTG Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the FES Library
February 10 – BOE Meeting @ 7:00 pm at the Board Office
February 14 – Valentine's Day Classroom Parties @ 2:30 pm
February 17 – President's Day – No School
February 20 – Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:00-7:30 pm)
February 27 – PTG planned LEGO Night
(more information to come)

Firelands High School News

HAPPY NEW YEAR – SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS

Welcome back to FHS as we begin the second semester, and 2020. Report cards for the first semester were posted to PowerSchool accounts on January 9th.

SCHEDULING FOR the 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Upon return from Winter break, our school counselors began meeting with students regarding their course options for the 2020-2021 school year. The counselors will meet with students in their English classes to review course offerings, graduation requirements, and special programs for each grade level.

The 2020-2021 Course Selection Guide will be available for all to view on the Firelands High School website. Students will bring home a schedule request form to review and get signed by their families. Each grade level will have time to review and discuss decisions, then the counselors will return to their classes to assist students in selecting their requests online.

The dates are as follows:

- 11th grade - January 8, 9, 10
- 10th grade - January 21, 24
- 9th grade - January 24, 28

- 8th grade - February 3rd and 6th with parent meeting on February 4th at 5:30 in the FHS Cafeteria

We are excited to be working with students to develop the best plan for each of their futures!

Contact our counselors if you have any questions - Miss Cozza (8th and 9th graders) & Dr. Zimmer (10th & 11th graders).

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALCON ELITE EIGHT BASKETBALL TEAM

On Friday night, January 10th, FHS celebrated the 1969-70 Boys Basketball team, who 50 years ago made it to the Elite Eight in Class A (there were only two classes in Ohio at that point, AA and A). The Falcons qualified to the Canton Class A Regional where they defeated Kirtland 66-57, advancing to the Regional Championship game against Sebring McKinley. The Falcons lost a heartbreaking 75-74 contest in double overtime, coming up just short of qualifying for the Final Four at St. John Arena on the campus of Ohio State University. Congratulations to our 69-70 team on reaching the Final 8 in Class A.

*submitted by Robert Maver
Principal*

Career Readiness Fair

The career readiness fair is scheduled for February 20 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at FHS. This is an opportunity for our current students, graduates, and underemployed community members to meet with local businesses, adult education programs, military recruiters, and career counselors to learn about viable pipelines to quality employment.

We have a lot of high paying jobs in our area, yet many who are not trained to fill those positions. Providing awareness of the employment potential and the training programs needed to fulfill these positions will close the skill gaps for employers. It will also offer better wages for individuals in our community, allowing for a higher standard of living.

Many of the employers who are at the fair are willing to train individuals who possess the necessary employability skills. Currently, our community has numerous opportunities

for hardworking individuals from the organizations listed below. Additional companies can participate by contacting Dr. Zimmer at dzimmer@firelandsschools.org

- Absolute Machine Tools
- AJ Rose Manufacturing
- Air Force
- Army
- Beckett Air
- BGSU Firelands
- Brian Kyle Landscaping
- Chapin Custom Molding
- Component Repair Technologies
- Ehope Adult Education
- Kendal of Oberlin
- Lorain County Community College
- Lorain County Ohio Means Jobs
- Lorain County JVS
- Lorain County JVS Adult Education Program
- Marines
- Navy
- Republic Services
- Technifab
- Terra Tech Community College

*submitted by Dr. Zimmer
FHS Counselor*

SAMS Robotics Team Success



Girls team includes (not in picture order): Aubrey West, Haylee Shick, Jordyn Simpson, Audrey Smith, Addison Beal. Boys team: Trenton Jones, Xavier Harper, Joseph Montgomery, Asher Widener, Benjamin Blatt, Nathan Ludwig, Tyler Rush and Hayden Lutz.

On Saturday the Firelands robotics team at South Amherst Middle School competed in the Elyria Pioneer Classic middle school VEX competition. The boys team did an excellent job qualifying 16 out of 42 teams which also qualified them for the tournament at the end of the competition.

The girls team also did a super job placing 10th out of 42 teams in the skills portion of the competition and earning the Energy Award for their overall hard-work, spirit, and enthusiasm throughout the competition.

This is the first award received by a SAMS robotics team. Congratulations!

submitted by Chuck Latto

FHS Important Dates

January 29 - Community Building Update Meeting, 6:30 pm in the FHS Band Room

February 4 - Junior College Planning Meeting, 5:30 pm, Incoming Freshman Scheduling Meeting, 5:30 pm, CCP Parent Meeting, 6:30 pm, all at FHS

February 13 – Winter Band Concert @ 7:00 pm

February 17 – NO SCHOOL – President's Day

February 20 – Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3:30 - 7:00 pm

February 20 - FHS Career Fair, 4:00 pm

Monday, February 24th, Winter Choir Concert, 7:00 pm

FES Students Participate in Mock Trial

Students in Mrs. Dempsey's 5th grade gifted ELA class participated in a Mock Trial experience on Thursday, December 5th, which was hosted by the Educational Service Center of Lorain County Gifted Department. The event was held at the Lorain County Justice Center in Elyria, where gifted classes in grades 5 - 8 from several school districts met to try their cases in real courtrooms, with real judges who donated their time to this valuable learning opportunity.

Students worked hard to learn courtroom terminology, the parts of a trial, how to question

a witness through both direct and cross examination, and discovering and supporting facts and evidence. Magistrate Adam Bryda of the Lorain County Court System worked closely with the students and offered advice about the trial process.

On the day of the field trip, the class stepped into the courtroom as 6 young defense attorneys, prepared with opening and closing statements, as well as questions for direct and cross exam of 6 witnesses, and with 3 defense witnesses who knew their affidavits inside and out. The defense attorneys confidently played

their parts, which demanded listening closely for details, and demonstrated their ability to think on their feet. The bailiff showed his leadership skills as he took charge of the process and also swore in each witness. Other students served as jurors on a criminal case tried by two other participating schools.

What a rewarding way to learn about our judicial system and future career possibilities!



submitted by
Teresa Dempsey

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Tom Myers, Vice-President

Membership on any board requires a good variety of perspectives, and Tom Myers brings an important one – that of a current educator. While he has been on the board for over four years, and serves as the current vice-president, Tom is also an 8th grade science teacher in Avon Lake with a master's degree in educational administration.

Tom was one of nine children in his family and graduated from Marion L. Steele High School in Amherst. He went on to Ashland University for his B.A. and M.Ed. With 23 years of residence in Henrietta Township, he and his wife, Janine, have raised four proud Falcon graduates: Jake, Becky, Colin and Aaron.

Tom said, "My kids have had such an awesome experience in our FFA program and 4-H that they have blessed us with a wide variety of animals." As a result, the Myers' currently care for 13 peacocks, a wide variety of ornamental pheasants, swans, chickens and cows.

His passion for kids extends beyond his family and classroom to the whole district. When asked about the next decade, he said he hoped "that we realize that our kids are truly the most valuable asset to our district and the community starts to embrace the need for updated facilities. We have a great start and I really want to see us increase and update our facilities so that our kids-our future will have endless opportunities to succeed!"

Thank you, Tom, for your passion and dedication to the district!



Operation Street Smart

Adult Drug Education

What Parents Need to Know

On Tuesday February 25, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, South Amherst Middle School will be hosting this free training for all parents and guardians.

Come and find out how children and teens acquire and hide these dangerous substances right in plain sight!
Franklin County Sheriff's

Department will be here with models of the paraphernalia that is out on our streets hurting our kids.

Due to the nature of this event, it is ADULT ONLY .

Any questions? Contact South Amherst Middle School at 986-7021.

submitted by Kristian Novak



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FBB Meetings

Firelands Band Boosters meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school band room.

Our mission is to provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Program at all three schools in the district.

The dates for our general memberships meetings for the 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

- February 18, 2020
 - March 17, 2020
 - April 21, 2020
 - May 19, 2020
 - June 16, 2020
 - July - No meeting scheduled.
- Enjoy your summer!

Band Boosters Fundraising Events

FUNDRAISER
\$10,000
REVERSE RAFFLE
 AND OTHER CHANCES TO WIN CASH AND PRIZES
1 IN 300 CHANCE TO WIN \$10K
1 IN 30 CHANCE TO WIN \$100 OR MORE!
& DINNER

PURCHASE A TICKET AT ANY FIRELANDS MENS OR WOMENS VARSITY BASKETBALL GAMES
 OR EMAIL FIRELANDSBANDBOOSTERS@GMAIL.COM
 or Call Tim @ (440) 653-0317

TICKETS \$75

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2020 Hosted By the:
 Firelands Lions Club
 Firelands Band Boosters

Doors Open @ 5 PM
 Dinner Starts @ 6 PM

Located at the Lodge of New Russia Twp

21 & Over Cash Bar Available
 Your presence is not required to win!!!

The Firelands Band Boosters and Firelands Lions Club are hosting a Reverse Raffle and dinner on Saturday, February 8th at the New Russia Township Hall. For tickets, please see any booster or Lions member at the home varsity basketball games, or email us at firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com.

Mattress Sale

Need a new mattress, pillows, or accessories? Head on over to the South Amherst Middle School on Saturday, February 22nd from 10 AM- 5 PM for the 9th Annual Mattress Sale. Every purchase benefits the music program!

Firelands Band Boosters Annual Pancake Breakfast

When: Sun., March 29, 2020
 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 Where: South Amherst Fire Station



Pictured above is the reveal of the new Mighty Falcon Marching Band trailer which was donated by the FHS Band Boosters. This 2020 Discovery Cargo Trailer replaces the 2003 trailer.

Firelands Choir Opportunities - Save the Date

Choir Booster Meetings

New Members Welcome!

- Tues Jan 21st 6:30
- Tues Feb 18th 6:30
- Tues March 17th 6:30
- Tues April 21st 6:30

All meetings held monthly in the Library at FHS. Please join in our fun as we plan for our choir students.



Prince & Princess Pancake Breakfast

Saturday
 March 21st
 9:00 - 11:30 am

FHS Choir is hosting our annual breakfast at SAMS. Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite prince or princess.

Enjoy food, singing, crafts, and games. Please RSVP by March 18th to Sheila Iwanek at

440-315-5731 with the number of guests and names of children attending. The cost of the breakfast at the door is your generous donation.

submitted by Sheila Iwanek



Save the date:

The Falcon Showcase is coming soon!

March 10, 2020
 Firelands High School
 6:30 -8:00 pm

FHS Artists Honored at Capitol



FHS students were invited to the Ohio Statehouse to be honored by Rep. Joe Miller for their artwork which was displayed in Washington, D.C. on the Ohio Christmas tree as part of the America Celebrates display.

Month ● National School Board Appreciation Month ● National Sc

Bob Danicki

Although he's the newest member of the Firelands school board with two years under his belt, Bob Danicki has a long record of volunteerism in the school district and wider community. He currently serves on the Firelands Endowment board.

In the past he has been the Firelands Athletic Booster Club president, vice-president, and treasurer; a Building Advisory Committee spokesperson; and the Parents for a Safe After Prom Environment president. He has also served on the Firelands Building Bond Levy Committee, coached youth baseball and basketball, volunteered with Junior Achievement, and chaperoned many field trips. Additionally, Bob has volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank and for the LCCC Lego Olympiad.

Bob is a Marion L. Steele High School graduate and has lived in the district in the city of Amherst for over 20 years. He is currently a Project Controls Engineer at Nordson

Corporation. Bob and his wife, Jean, have four children. Three are Firelands graduates: Greg (2011), Brandon (2014) and Logan (2016). Alyssa is currently a senior at Firelands High School in the Class of 2020. Fun side note: Bob and Jean both happened to go to Cedar Point on the same day, met each other, and the rest is history.

Bob's hope for Firelands for 2020 and beyond is "to have a successful high school building project so we can better equip all our students to be successful in everything they do after graduating."

Thank you, Bob, for your dedication and commitment to the district!



School Immunization Requirements for 2019-2020

If your child will be entering 12th grade, 7th grade or any grade for the first time -- it is now time to update immunizations. If entering school for the first time, or after attending school elsewhere, please be sure to check that your child is in compliance with State of Ohio immunization requirements.

- **Kindergarten** – once your child has reached age 4, s/he can complete all required immunizations for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT), polio (IPV), hepatitis B (HBV), measles mumps, rubella (MMR), and varicella (chickenpox). If going to be entering kindergarten next year, if possible, have them done and bring a copy of the record to Kindergarten screening in May.
- **Grades 1-6** – same requirements as for Kindergarten
- **Grades 7-10** – grades K-6 requirements plus Tdap (DPT booster) and MCV (meningococcal vaccine)
- **Grade 11** – grades K-6 requirements plus Tdap (received in 7th grade or later)
- **Grade 12** – grade 11 requirements plus MCV (must be received at age 16 or older)

Remember to bring your child's immunization records with you when you go to your healthcare provider or clinic. Please send a copy of the immunization record to the school nurse in your child's building, being sure your child's name is on it. Don't forget to keep a copy for yourself!

continued next page

Friends of Firelands

Looking back on 2019 the Friends of Firelands would like to thank you for your continuous support. With your support we were able to host our annual Holiday Preview for our retired employees and community members, support the Falcon Showcase and provide every 2001 senior a yard sign at graduation. Additionally the Friends of Firelands provides grant money for various community focused activities led by our Firelands Falcons.

Our goal is to positively promote the students, staff and our communities that make up the Firelands Local School District. Our second annual golf outing was a wonderful success thanks to our hole sponsors, our golfers and the generous raffle

basket donations. Additionally a fun night was had by all at our second annual Tailgate. Despite the ominous weather forecast our students took great pride in dunking our Superintendent, Principal Mr. Maver and some of our dedicated staff members.

Now that 2020 is upon us we invite you to mark your calendars for our Third Annual Golf Outing on Sunday August 2nd at Carlisle Golf Course and our Third Annual Tailgate Friday September 4th as we host Amherst High School and honor our youth football teams.

We have a few more activities in the works for 2020 that we will share at a later date. Once again your support is greatly appreciated.

*submitted by Nakita Doane
FOF President*

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Immunization Requirements, continued

Lorain County Public Health, 9880 S. Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 is now offering immunizations (also known as vaccines) Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, with evening hours throughout the month. A full vaccine clinic schedule is available at www.LorainCountyHealth.com.

Appointments are encouraged, although walk-ins are accepted. Call 440-284-3206 for information or to make an appointment for both children and adults. Bring all immunization records, insurance cards, and cash or check; although some children may be eligible for discounts under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. All children under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Note: Ask your provider about additional vaccines that are recommended for children ages 11-19 such as 2nd dose of varicella (chickenpox), hepatitis A and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines.

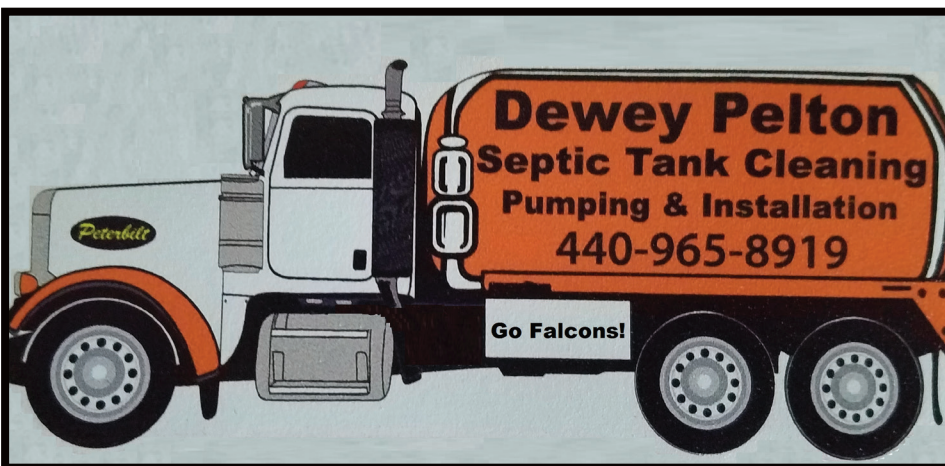
*submitted by Linda Matus
School Nurse*

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Purchase tickets in advance at Giuseppe's Wine Cellar in downtown Amherst.

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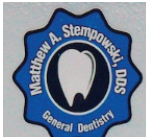
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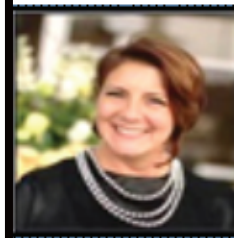
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