

# The Firelands Express

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 77

JANUARY 19, 2015

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



### The Firelands Local School District

#### Help us continue down the path to success!

In May of 2011, the residents of the Firelands Local School District generously approved a five-year 5 mill Emergency Property Tax Levy that raises \$1.5 million dollars per year to support the continued operation of the District. The successful passage of this levy was the first approval for new money since 1996 and it allowed The Firelands Schools to continue to provide one of the best educations available in Lorain County. We are very proud of our teachers and employees who work each day to ensure student growth and learning by adapting to the ever-changing educational mandates by the state of Ohio. Since 2012 and through solid financial decisions and reduced costs in key areas, the District has maintained and built a positive cash balance. The current 5-year financial forecast places the District in the black through 2018; however, it is dependent on renewing the expired levy.

#### **Important Facts**

1. On December 8, 2014, in a unanimous vote, the Board approved a resolution "declaring it necessary" to renew the emergency levy for a five-year period that would begin in January 2016.
2. On May 5, 2015, the Board will ask the residents of the Firelands Local School District to approve a **RENEWAL** of the original five-year emergency levy passed in May 2011, which will continue to generate \$1.5 million per year to support operations of the district and **WILL NOT RAISE TAXES**.
3. The \$1.5 million emergency levy is due to expire in December 2015. The revenue generated by this levy represents more than 8% of the Firelands Local Schools' General Operating Budget.
4. Providing a quality education is essential to the local economy and attracting jobs and businesses to the Firelands community.
5. This levy is important because it means we will be able to continue progress in our schools, provide financial stability, and help maintain the current level of teachers and instructional support in our classrooms.

We are proud of the Firelands Schools, our programming, and our high levels of achievement, which are noteworthy. It is my honor to highlight the following Firelands facts:

#### **Firelands Highlights**

Performance Index: B

Indicators Met: B

AMO: B

Value Added: A

4-Year Graduation: A

5-Year Graduation: B

You may view this issue online at: [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)

The Communities we serve: Amherst, Amherst Twp, Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp, Camden Twp, Florence Twp, Henrietta Twp, Kipton Village, New Russia Twp, South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

School	Performance Index	Indicators Met	Annual Measurable Objectives	Value Added Overall	Value Added Gifted	Value Added Lowest 20% in Achievement	Value Added Students with Disabilities	4-year Grad Rate	5-year Grad Rate
Amherst Exempted Village	B	A	B	A	A	B	A	A	B
Avon Lake City	A	A	B	B	D	C	C	A	A
Avon Local	B	A	B	A	A	B	B	A	A
Cleveland Local	C	D	D	A	C	B	A	B	B
Columbia Local	B	B	B	A	C	C	A	A	A
Elyria City Schools	C	F	F	A	F	C	D	C	C
Firelands Local	B	B	B	A	C	C	B	A	B
Keystone Local	B	B	D	A	D	C	A	A	B
Lorain City	D	F	F	A	B	A	A	F	F
Midview Local	B	B	C	A	B	A	A	A	B
North Ridgeville City	B	B	D	A	A	C	C	C	C
Oberlin City Schools	B	D	C	A	C	A	C	B	B
Sheffield Lake City	B	B	C	A	C	A	A	B	B
Vermilion	B	C	B	D	F	A	A	B	A
Wellington Exempted Village	B	D	D	B	C	C	C	C	B
Edison	B	B	F	A	B	C	C	A	A
Western Reserve	B	C	D	F	C	C	A	B	C

#### Frequently Asked Questions—FAQ

**Why is it necessary for the Firelands Local Schools to renew the current emergency levy?**

#### Background:

- Our public funding structure in Ohio means that virtually every school district throughout the state must return to voters for support an average of every three to five years.
- The district has stretched its resources by cutting its budget, reducing expenses, and making difficult decisions to save money. The district has reduced staff by more than 20 (approximately 10% of our total workforce) employees over the past decade to provide for more efficient operations.
- FLS provides services, such as state mandated transportation, to students attending private and parochial charter schools in our local communities. The levy renewal is important to continue to provide educational choices to students and parents.

**How do the Firelands Local Schools perform when compared to other Lorain County Schools and what are some examples of what the renewal levy provides for the District?**

#### Progress:

- Since 2012, the Firelands schools performance index ranks in the top five of 14 schools and the top 6 of 14 schools for value-added measures in Lorain County.

(continued on page 2)

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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Since 2012, Firelands High School has worked to increase course offerings:
  - ⇒ Will add three new honors courses for the 2015-2016 school year, in addition to the six current honors course offerings
  - ⇒ Will add one new Advanced Placement (AP) course for the 2016-2017 school year, in addition to the one current AP course offering
  - ⇒ Will add four new College Credit Plus (formerly called Post-Secondary Enrollment) courses through the Lorain County Community College offered on the Firelands Campus for the 2015-2016 school year, in addition to the five current PSEO course offerings
- Since 2012, the Firelands Schools continues to increase student participation in extra-curricular activities:
  - FHS
    - ⇒ 14 sports and three activities (30 teams)
    - ⇒ 386 participants (63% of the student population)
  - SAMS
    - ⇒ 7 sports and two activities (16 teams)
    - ⇒ 247 participants (58% of the student population)

**How do the Firelands Local Schools maintain solid financial progress and what happens if the renewal levy does not pass?**

**FLS has a solid financial plan and an independent team of state auditors to hold district leaders accountable.**

- FLS has established strong financial controls, including independent financial professionals who are working to ensure responsible financial management throughout every aspect of district finances.
- FLS received the Ohio Auditor of State Award for exemplary financial reporting in 2012 and 2013.

- If the Emergency Renewal Levy does not pass, transportation, textbooks, computers, updated technology, after-school learning programs, music and art appreciation programs, athletics and other services that support learning will be put at risk. Passage of the Emergency Renewal Levy will ensure the district is able to continue the progress being made in our classrooms.

**How are the Firelands Local Schools different from other school districts?**

**Driver of Innovation**

- Area leader in using technology systems to support data-informed decisions to improve student performance
- Rightsizing staff and buildings to align with enrollment demands
- Aligned resources to follow the student through student-based budgeting
- Improved efficiency of operations including:
  - ⇒ Reorganizing, consolidating, and automating departments to reduce costs and increase efficiencies
  - ⇒ Implementing technology advancements to improve performance management
- Continuous analysis of purchasing decisions to ensure cost-effective operations
- Negotiated in 2014 a three-year, zero percent base salary staff increase

In the coming months, the Firelands Local Schools will provide our community with updates and information pertaining to the renewal levy. If you have questions about the renewal levy, please feel free to contact District Superintendent Bob Hill at 440-965-5821 ([rhill@firelandsschools.org](mailto:rhill@firelandsschools.org)) or District Treasurer, Brad McCracken, at 440-965-5701 ([bmccracken@firelandsschools.org](mailto:bmccracken@firelandsschools.org)).

Yours in Education,

Dr. Robert F. Hill  
Superintendent

## BIG WIN FOR ART STUDENT

A third year Firelands art student earned an award in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions art competition. Junior Victoria Krejci earned a red ribbon (2nd place) for her mixed media sculpture "*What Makes the Difference*" illustrating the differences nurses navigate between technology and hand-written recording of patient data. To put this win in perspective, of 25 winning high schools, dominated by AAA schools, Krejci's work is one of 5 works that is *not* from a Division I school. In fact, her work is the only winner from Lorain County.

The Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education hosts the annual *eXpressions: An Intersection of Art and science*. Art students from high schools from Ohio and Florida interpreted research conducted by Cleveland Clinic high school summer interns. Over 1,200 works were submitted this year. The process includes research and writing to gain understanding of the topic. The Art 2 and Art 3 students selected their own studies to illustrate from a list of over 125 summer projects. The art students conceptually illustrated the research 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 special recognition. In descending order they are: Blue Ribbon, Red Ribbon, White Ribbon, and Honorable Mention. Blue Ribbon winners receive \$100. Red Ribbon winners receive \$75; White Ribbon winners, \$50; and Honorable Mention winners, \$25. 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, including Victoria's work, will be featured in a full-color *eXpressions* catalog of the exhibition, which will open with a reception and dedication on January, 29, 2015, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Global Center for Health Innovation (Medical Mart), Cleveland. The exhibition continues into early March. The exhibit is open to the public during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30-5pm.

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

# GUIDANCE CORNER

## Freshman Class: Project Lead the Way

This class is offered to Sophomores. Project Lead the Way (PLTW) offers a dynamic high school program that provides students with real -world learning and hands-on experience. The PLTW curriculum allows students to see how the lessons they learn in the classroom are valuable tools to be applied in their everyday lives. We will be scheduling for the sophomore year at the end of February.

**Sophomore Class:** On Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, all interested sophomores who have turned in a permission slip will be touring the JVS. This trip will allow them to observe the various career programs available to them. The JVS Open House will be Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 3:30p.m. Students interested in attending the JVS for the 2015-2016 academic school year must apply online at [lcjvs.com/high-school/how-to-apply.shtml](http://lcjvs.com/high-school/how-to-apply.shtml).

**The Ohio Graduation Test will be March 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.** All sophomores are required to take and pass all 5 portions (Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies) in order to graduate. This will be their first opportunity to meet this graduation requirement. Juniors and Seniors who have not passed all five sections will need to participate.

**Junior Class:** The scheduling process for your senior year will start Monday, February 17th and end Friday, February 20th.

It is time to register to take the ACT this spring. You can register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Students interested in the Test Item Release can do so in April.

**Senior Class:** The application for the endowment scholarships will be available online by the end of January. Visit the Firelands website at [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org), click the high school>guidance>financial aid and college/scholarship resources and view the Scholarship information. Here you can download the local scholarship application.

**The College Financial Aid Process has started. Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)** to start your application today and apply for your pin. Ms. Spicuzza, a college financial advisor, will be assisting families with the financial aid process. You can sign up in the guidance office to set up an appointment with her for any questions you may have.

If you need additional help with financial aid you can participate in College Goal Sunday on Sunday, February 8th, at 2:00 p.m. at LCCC or BGSU-Firelands in Huron. **To register, go to [www.ohicollegegoalsunday.org](http://www.ohicollegegoalsunday.org) or call 1-800-233-6734.**

Another helpful website to assist with finding money for college is [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). You can apply for your pin for financial aid today.

## Firelands FFA Organizes Harvest for America Food Drive



Ninth period Animal Science & Tech Students (Ty Ostrander, Evan Born, Brenden Cooper, Colin Myers, Nathan Kovach, Dan Klesta, Andrew Williams, Carol Lynn Stevens, Liz Lewis) loaded over one ton of food into Sergeant Chris Midkiff's truck which was donated to the Firelands area local pantry.

**Oberlin, OH** - The Firelands FFA and Student Council want to offer a heartfelt thank you for all of the non-perishable donations that were brought in during your first period classes before Thanksgiving! The Harvest for America food drive is sponsored by the National FFA Foundation and Carhartt and was organized and ran by the Firelands FFA members with special contributions from the first and ninth period Animal Science & Technology classes and the FFA Citizenship Committee. The entire school had the opportunity to take part in the food drive. Three hundred pounds of up-to-one-year expired food were donated to Harvest for Hunger at Second Harvest in Lorain, this will make its way into urban areas. An amazing 3500 pounds of food was donated to South Amherst United Methodist Church which houses the food distribution pantry for our school district. About 300 people from about 100 families in the Firelands district will directly benefit from the donation. A special thank you to Sergeant Chris Midkiff for delivering over a ton of the donated food for us. Congratulations to the first period classes that will be enjoying a donut party on December 11th: third place: Mrs. Costello with 235 donations, second place: Mrs. Finnegan with 319 donations, and in first: Miss Bennett's class with 472 donations. This activity was also a the kick off to the student council tree lighting - each class has done a great job and the junior class is in the lead in tree lighting points going into the holiday season.

Unfortunately about 1 out of 7 people in our community are food insecure. Although better than the national average of 1 out of 5, it is still a problem that must be solved! Thank you again to the teachers and students that improved the lives of those in need in our community through this food drive. The huge donation is a reflection of the caring, compassionate, and dedicated citizens of our community.



# ATTENTION ALL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL Players and Parents!



Signups will start for OGSO girl's softball and boys Hot stove.



**January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

The website below has the registration forms on the **HANDOUTS** section to the left. All checks must be mailed to the address on the form.

**NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

<http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=firelands>

The address is: 103 West Main St. Amherst, Ohio 44001

**THE CHECK SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO:**

South Amherst/Firelands Falcon summer baseball/softball.

Questions? Contact information is on the web page!



Tick-Tock...

Don't Let Time Run Out!

The Lady Falcon Apparel Sale will close soon.

Get your orders in TODAY to ensure that you get in on this year's limited edition shirt design. Check out the great deal on pants and a duffel bag too. Sale is open to ALL LADY FALCON BASKETBALL FANS!

The FFA APPAREL SALE is still going strong!

If you missed the first printing, It's not too late to late to still get in on this year's limited edition shirts! Two prints to choose from.

Both sales are on-line here:

<http://squareup.com/market/highpoint-outfitters-inc>

And don't forget about our Fabulous Falcon CLEARANCE SALE! Still going on in our Vermilion store. Winter hours vary - like us on Facebook to stay up to date on daily hours. TREMENDUS MARKDOWNS on Falcon Apparel. \$5 tees, \$10 hats, \$15 hoodies, \$25 outerwear.

# FHS NEWS

**FIRST SEMESTER CONCLUDES** – The first semester will end on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The students have been taken their Semester Exams on January 13-15, which account for 20% of their semester grade. This year, FHS instituted a new Semester Exam Schedule so that a student would not have to take more than three final exams in one day, and usually no more than two per day. The new schedule dismissed the students from school following the last exam of the day, but students who wanted to stay and eat lunch, or needed to wait for the bus were welcome to do so in the cafeteria. FHS will institute the same Semester Exam schedule in June for underclassmen, while Seniors will still take their Second Semester Exams the week of Graduation.

**FHS HOLIDAY CONCERT A HUGE SUCCESS**—Congratulations to Choral Director Mrs. Wendy Johnson and Band Director Dustin Wiley on a fantastic Holiday Concert performance on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Freshman, Concert, and Select Choirs were all terrific in performing in front of a packed FHS Gymnasium. The Band was also tremendous in performing Holiday favorites as well. The culmination of the evening was the Hallelujah Chorus, performed by both Band and Choir, and joined in by alumni and parents participating in the audience. It is easy to see why this is a Holiday Favorite in the Firelands Community.

**2015-16 SCHEDULING SOON**—Look for the underclassmen to be bringing home information in late January and early February about scheduling courses for the 2015-16 school year. FHS is bringing some new courses to next year, including an increased presence of LCCC courses offered on the FHS campus. When the information comes home, please discuss next year with your student and you are encouraged to contact the School Counseling Office with any questions you may have.

**LIONS CLUB STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** – The Firelands Lions Club named Taylor Odom the November Student of the Month and Bethany Anderson the December Student of the Month. Both ladies are honors students and very active in Student Council. Bethany is also active in the Mighty Falcon Marching Band while Taylor has done a tremendous job as Student Council President, as well as being very active in activities outside of school. Congratulations to two fine young adults and students.

**COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIP SEMI-FINALIST** – Congratulations to Senior Emily Pohorenec on advancing to the semi-finals in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Emily is one of 2,200 students chosen from a pool of over 102,000 students because of her outstanding leadership, academic achievements, and dedication to community service. Emily is now competing to become a Regional finalist from the 2,200 students, and would be able to compete for one of 150 scholarships valued at \$20,000.

Submitted by,  
Bob Maver, Principal, Firelands High School

# SAMS Student Council Announcements:

The final trip fundraiser will be the winter Stoller Braided Bread Sale which will run until January 16<sup>th</sup>. At the conclusion of this sale, Mrs. Gundersen will calculate all of the student's earned monies. Balances for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Put-in-Bay trip will be forwarded to Mrs. Copley and for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Education trip to Mr. Grude, and they will both notify the families of their totals with trip information sent home with students.

**The Philadelphia Trip:** Deposits of \$50.00 is due by February 24th If you have fundraiser money in your account, there is no need for additional deposit.

Final payment is due MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Gundersen will get account balances and permission slips out to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students by January 30<sup>th</sup>. Once the number of confirmed students attending the trip is determined, then the number of chaperones can be selected. 8th grade parents are encouraged to watch the website for updates, as well as documents coming home with students.

## Firelands Wrestling In-Season Updates

### Varsity

The Falcons are off to a great start during the course of the 2014-2015 season! Currently, the team is 15-6 on the year. In recent competition, the team placed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 20 teams at the Bowling Green "Bobcat" duals and 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 9 teams at the Vermilion Holiday Invitational. At Vermilion, the team recorded crucial victories over rival Vermilion (60-24), conference rival Oberlin (61-12), and Wickliffe (42-39). The team has been led by a mixture of Freshman and Sophomores, which include: Connor Eckman-fr. (14-7), Max Hertensteiner-so. (17-7), Israel Bowen-jr. (17-8), Bailey Cromer-so. (12-1), Patric Keown-so. (16-3), Nick McCrary-so. (14-4), Larry Verhovec-so. (21-3), and Sean Lipscomb-fr.(15-6).

There are still plenty of opportunities to support the Falcons. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. we host conference opponents Wellington and Buckeye in the only home dual meet of the year. The theme for this event is "Youth Night" and "Senior Night"! Also, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the annual Jim Solomon Tournament will begin at 9:30 a.m.

### Spotlight

Junior, David Vaughn, recorded his first individual match victory of his career against John Marshall, at 152lbs.

### Youth Wrestling- Falcon Wrestling Club

The Falcon Wrestling Club has been participating in the Ohio Youth Wrestling League this season. Currently, the team is 4-4 picking up victories over Amherst, North Ridgeville, Avon Lake, and Clearview. Participating for the Falcons: Collin Eckman, Merritt Davis, Vinny Hicks, Daren Aslasken, Rueben Lorenzana, Corey and Kyle Ransom, Garrett Yakunovich, Evan and Ethan Tester, Mark Holt, Caden Domin, Thomas Ives, Kaden King, Abe Mastellone, Dylan Katitus, Noah and Seth Robinette, Donald Crawford, Grace and Mason Stanley, Noah Thompson, Alex Kyer and Demari Campbell. Great Job Youth!

### Congratulations to the following FFA members that were chosen by the County Junior Fair Board selection committee to serve on the 2015 board:

- ◊ Katie Cline, president, 4<sup>th</sup> year member
- ◊ Mike Anadell, executive committee member, 2<sup>nd</sup> year member
- ◊ David Tipple, executive committee member, 2<sup>nd</sup> year member
- ◊ Jessie Beran, 2<sup>nd</sup> year member
- ◊ Caitlin Gallagher, 3<sup>rd</sup> year member
- ◊ Colin Myers, 2<sup>nd</sup> year member
- ◊ Claire Vilagi, 2<sup>nd</sup> year member
- ◊ Evan Born
- ◊ Alison Butler
- ◊ Katie Fath
- ◊ Kaitlin Frazier
- ◊ Tori Hritsko
- ◊ Jesse Jones
- ◊ Brandon Palmer
- ◊ Alex Sabine
- ◊ Madison Stanley
- ◊ Allison Vilagi
- ◊ Andrew Williams

These FFA members will join 27 other teenagers from Lorain County to help plan, organize, and carry out the junior fair this year. They will likely donate over 200 hours per board member as they serve thousands of kids in 4-H and FFA in our county. The leadership, organization, and service to others exhibited by board members is remarkable. The Firelands FFA wishes a successful year of service to the entire board.

# 6th Graders Give Back to their Firelands' Community

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." Charles Dickens.

The sixth grade class of SAMS was definitely not useless this Thanksgiving season as they lightened the burden of over twenty-three families' right here in our very own Firelands' community! The sixth grade students under the direction of their teachers: Mrs. Budweg, Mr. Grupe, Mrs. Gulish, Mrs. Muth, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Palmer and Mr. Swift; assembled over 23 Thanksgiving Food Baskets as a culminating learning activity. Mrs. Sullivan, the Work and Family instructor, taught the students

how to take donated apples from local apple orchards and turn them into delicious applesauce to add a piece of history to the Food Baskets. Mrs. Finnegan, the Firelands High School FFA Advisor, directed numerous FFA officers and students how to research the ever increasing issue of hunger and then these students "paid this knowledge forward" by teaching their newly discovered education to the sixth grade students. Mrs. Van Cooney, the Freshman Class Advisor, led the freshman students in a "hat-day" to raise monetary funds to purchase items that were lacking from the baskets. These Food Baskets still needed the main dish, a turkey. Firelands Local Schools has the most generous staff in the entire country, it was this staff as well as numerous parents that so willingly donated turkeys to stuff the baskets. On packing day, Mr. Spagnola, SAMS principal, and Mrs. Butchko spent their afternoon capturing this learning experience on camera while students were more than willing to share what they had learned throughout this entire experience. The Thanksgiving Baskets included a turkey, gravy, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, freshly canned applesauce, rolls and a pie; but the most costly item was the generosity of so many of the Firelands' family that taught the sixth grade students they are not useless, they have a purpose. Maybe it really does take a village.



**Stella Baxter & Ashley McGuire**



**Michael Donovan**

## SAMS Students Study Ancient Greece

In the Social Studies classroom today we no longer are limited to dates and dead people. We are questioning how ancient civilizations have impacted society today. When studying Ancient Greece we watched a documentary that spoke of the creation of an aqueduct around 500 B.C. on Samos Island just off the coast of Turkey. The aqueduct ran from a spring, through a mountain and into the city. What puzzled us was the explanation as to how the ancient Greeks built the aqueduct through the mountain. The engineer who devised the plan to create the aqueduct decided how he would bore through at two points directly across from each other on opposite sides of the mountain. We didn't understand his plan to start digging the tunnel simultaneously from both sides of the mountain meeting up in the middle. In the explanation from the documentary they described how the engineer Eupalinos used a right triangle to calculate a spot on each side of the mountain that was equal in elevation. We then discussed why math is important in the real world.

- ◆ In an effort to solve this history mystery, I consulted an engineer from the FAA, Stan Callahan. He researched Samos Island and the building of it's aqueduct. Upon his research, he and I created a lesson including 4 engaging experiments that the students conducted in groups. They recorded their findings in a google classroom document. Students then wrote their explanation of how Eupalinos knew where to start digging on each side of the mountain so they could meet in the middle.
- ◆ Students thoroughly enjoyed the experiments and working with Mr. Callahan. Some were so excited to be able to explore the ancient and modern versions of the instruments that were used to construct this aqueduct, and more importantly how valuable researching with peers can be. I can predict several future engineers were birthed through this process. Students learned the essential question of how ancient civilizations contributed to our society today.

## 5th Grade Academic Challenge Team



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the fifth grade Academic Challenge team for placing second in the Erie County competition. Team members include Gemma Hager, Amaris Madding-Bush, Nathan McDonald, Zachary Friess, Maggie Edwards, Michael Smith, and Daniel Ohle.



Firelands TLC has been involved in a variety of activities that benefit the school and community. The following are events that TLC has participated in during December and future events that will take place in 2015.

TLC put on a Christmas activity at Firelands Elementary. Santa and Mrs. Claus even made an appearance. Crafts, and the reading of the night before Christmas took place to make the Christmas season special for everyone.



## ATTENTION ALL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL Players and Parents!

Signups will start for OGSO girl's softball and boys Hot stove.

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**[http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?](http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=firelands)**  
**url=firelands**

The address is: 103 West Main St. Amherst, Ohio 44001

**THE CHECK SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO:**

South Amherst/Firelands Falcon summer baseball/softball.

Questions? Contact information is on the web page!

Thanks to the generosity of the Firelands Elementary community, toys were donated and given to area families in need for Christmas. Each year the elementary school collects toys for the Chronicle Telegram's Not Forgotten Box collection. Toys are given to the Salvation Army to distribute. Thank you to everyone who donated to this great cause!



## Firelands High School Art Student

# takes Blue Ribbon in Cleveland Clinic eXpressions Creative Writing Competition

A second year Firelands art student achieved first place in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions creative writing competition. Sophomore **Connor Price** earned a blue ribbon for "Would've" voicing a parent's loss of a child. From hundreds of entries, Connor's work is the *only* winner from Lorain County. Connor's writing joins the Red Ribbon art work of junior Victoria Krejci.

The Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education hosts the annual *eXpressions: An Intersection of Art and Science*. Students from high schools from Ohio and beyond interpreted research conducted by Cleveland Clinic high school summer interns. The Art 2 and Art 3 students selected their own studies to visually illustrate and verbally express from a list of over 125 summer projects. Art and writing are intertwined in a process that explores the research and is expressed by the student in a visual art project, artist statement and exploratory creative writing piece.

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 special recognition. In descending order they are: Blue Ribbon, Red Ribbon, White Ribbon, and Honorable Mention. Blue Ribbon winners receive \$100. Red Ribbon winners receive \$75; White Ribbon winners, \$50; and Honorable Mention winners, \$25. The Firelands Art Department will also receive a \$100 educational grant for producing a winning entry in creative writing.

### Exhibition and Catalog

All of the award-winning submissions, including Connor's work, will be featured in a full-color *eXpressions* catalog of the exhibition, which will open with a reception and dedication on January, 29, 2015, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Global Center for Health Innovation (Medical Mart), Cleveland. The exhibition continues through Friday, March 13. The exhibit is open to the public during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 5pm.

For more information about the eXpressions program and to view the virtual gallery of past exhibits, visit:

<http://civiceducation.clevelandclinic.org/Creative-Learning/Our-Programs/eXpressions-Home.aspx>

Connor Price's winning creative writing

- From student-intern research by Erin Merico, "Parent's Awareness of Infant Safe Sleep, Fall Prevention, and Security in a Postpartum Hospital Setting and at Home"

Writer's statement

"When writing this poem, I want people to see how one small mistake with good intentions can be disastrous to a lifetime of joy. I want parents to feel the seriousness of getting this infant safety education. I don't exactly want them to feel guilty, but that there are small, easy steps to prevent these simple mistakes." – C. Price

### Would've by Connor Price

The night before was the first one of many

You'd reflect on that night, which would seem so long ago

You put your daughter to bed, snuggled tight with her teddy

As you made a toast on their wedding day, "They're perfect, as you know."

Knowing that she was fast asleep,

Your grandkids would be angels, with hearts that'd melt snow

You slipped into bed, her bright future filling your dreams

She'd say "They grow up too fast," you'd sigh, "That's one thing I know."

You dreamt of the day on her feet she would go

As you'd lie in the hospital, ready to let go,

Your husband would shout "She's doing it!" you'd exclaim "I know!"

She'd kiss your forehead and say, "Thanks to you, I'll always know."

Her first day of school would fill you both with woe

But this is reality, and none of that is true

As the school bus approached, you'd reassure her "You'll have fun, I know!"

And the next morning as you wake you creep into her room

It'd be you she'd go to when she would undergo

You see she is still as she lay in her bed

Her very first breakup, you'd tell her "It gets better, I know."

And the teddy you gave her covers her little head

Along came the day to college she would go

You frantically move it, but you know it's too late

She'd cry that she'll miss you; you'd weep "Honey, I know."

Hysterically you kiss her forehead, like she never would for your sake

When she'd introduce her boyfriend, who'd give a kindly "hello!"

Because of you, your baby can never love or grow

She'd whisper "I think he's the one," you'd smile "Trust me, I know."

Since in reality, sometimes you just don't know



# LUNCH MENUS

## FIRELANDS ELEMENTARY

Regular Lunch \$2.50—Ice Cold Milk served with all meals

### FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 6

Monday - Popcorn chicken, Hashbrown patty, Baby carrots w/dip, Chilled peaches  
 Tuesday - Domino's smart slice, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned corn, Celery sticks, Chilled fruit  
 Wednesday - Chicken strips, Romaine salad, Grape tomatoes, Chilled pineapple, Whole grain chez-it  
 Thursday - Taco Salad, Shredded lettuce & cheese, salsa, Seasoned refried beans, Fresh fruit, Tortilla chips  
 Friday - Macaroni & cheese, Seasoned peas, Cucumber slices, Chilled applesauce, Whole grain roll

### FEBRUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 13

Monday - Hamburger w/wg bun, Pickle slices, Bbq baked beans, Coleslaw, Chilled mandarin oranges  
 Tuesday - Domino's smart slice, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned green beans, Baby carrots, Chilled fruit  
 Wednesday - Baked chicken nuggets, Sweet tots, Chilled applesauce, Soft pretzel rod, Dipping sauce  
 Thursday - Cheesy bread, Seasoned broccoli, Orange smiles, Jello cup  
**Friday - NO SCHOOL - PROFESSIONAL FOR STAFF**

### FEBRUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 20

**Monday - NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENTS DAY**  
 Tuesday - Domino's smart slice, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned peas, Celery sticks, Chilled fruit  
 Wednesday - General Tso's Chicken, Stir Fry Veggies, Seasoned Rice, Chilled pineapple tidbits, Fortune cookie  
 Thursday - Soft taco, Shredded lettuce & cheese, Seasoned corn, Fresh fruit  
 Friday - Cheese stuffed breadstick, Pizza sauce, Romaine salad, Grape tomatoes, Chilled mandarin oranges

### FEBRUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 27

Monday - Sausage links, French toast sticks, Hashbrown potatoes, Celery sticks, Orange juice cup, Syrup cup  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned broccoli, Baby carrots, Chilled fruit  
 Wednesday - Baked chicken fries, Baked french fries, Bbq baked beans, Chilled pears, Dipping sauce  
 Thursday - Pepperoni Calzone, Green beans, Sliced cucumbers, Fresh fruit  
**Friday - NO SCHOOL - NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY**

## SOUTH AMHERST MIDDLE

Regular Lunch \$2.85—Ice Cold Milk served with all meals

### FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 6

Monday - BBq pulled pork wg bun, Whole grain corn dog, Baked beans, Celery sticks, Chilled peaches  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli, Baby carrots, Chilled Fruit  
 Wednesday - Cheeseburger / bun, Or Hamburger / bun, Oven baked fries, Romaine salad, Chilled mandarin oranges  
 Thursday - General Tso's chicken, Stir fry vegetable, Seasoned rice, Fresh fruit, Fortune Cookie  
 Friday - Egg & cheese on wg roll, or pancake & sausage stick, Hashbrown potato, Sweet potatoes, Orange juice cup

### FEBRUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 13

Monday - Salisbury steak, or breaded pork chop, Whipped potatoes, Seasoned corn, Chilled peaches, Whole grain roll  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli, Celery sticks, Chilled Fruit  
 Wednesday - Chipotle day, Fajita chicken or beef wrap, Shredded iceberg, Black bean & corn salsa, Seasoned rice, Chilled mandarin Orange  
 Thursday - Cheese quesadilla, Or Chicken nuggets w/ roll, Baby carrots, Seasoned green beans, Fresh fruit  
**Friday - NO SCHOOL - PROFESSIONAL FOR STAFF**

### FEBRUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 20

**Monday - NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENTS DAY**  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust pizza, Seasoned Broccoli, Grape tomatoes, Chilled Fruit  
 Wednesday - Taco salad, or soft taco wrap, cheese, Shredded iceberg lettuce, Seasoned refried beans, Chilled applesauce, Tortilla chips  
 Thursday - Chicken strips w/roll, or chicken patty w/bun, Parsley potatoes, Fresh fruit, Goldfish cinna graham  
 Friday - Macaroni & cheese /breadstick, or Rib a cue w/bun, Baby carrots, Green beans, Chilled pears

### FEBRUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 27

Monday - Pepperoni calzone, Or French bread pizza, Seasoned cauliflower, Celery sticks, Applesauce, Graham crackers  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust peppro, Romaine salad, Grape tomatoes, Chilled Fruit  
 Wednesday - Falcon burger w/wg bun, w/ iceberg lettuce, cheese, sauce, BBq baked beans, Sweet potato fries, Chilled pears  
 Thursday - Popcorn chicken bowl, gravy & cheese, Seasoned corn, Whipped potatoes, Fresh fruit, Whole grain roll  
**Friday - NO SCHOOL - NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY**

## FIRELANDS HIGH

Regular Lunch \$2.85—Ice Cold Milk served with all meals

### FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 6

Monday - BBq pulled pork wg bun, Whole grain corn dog, BBq baked beans, Seasoned cauliflower, Chilled peaches  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli, Baby carrots, Chilled pears  
 Wednesday - Pasta Bar/marinara, alfredo or cheese sauce w/ wg roll, Or meatball sub, Romaine salad, Cucumber slices, Chilled applesauce  
 Thursday - General Tso's chicken, Stir fry vegetable, Seasoned rice, Fresh fruit, Fortune Cookie  
 Friday - Egg & cheese on bun, or French toast sticks w/ sausage links, syrup cup, Hashbrown potato, Sweet thing fries, Orange juice cup

### FEBRUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 13

Monday - Salisbury steak, or breaded pork chop, Seasoned corn, Whipped potatoes, Chilled peaches, Whole grain roll  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli w/chez, Celery sticks, Fruit  
 Wednesday - Chipotle day-Beef or Fajita chicken, Ultra grain wrap, Shredded iceberg, Black bean & corn salsa, Cilantro lime rice, Chilled mandarin orange  
 Thursday - Wg Cheese quesadilla, Or Chicken nuggets w/roll, Baby Carrots, Grape tomatoes, Fresh fruit  
**Friday - NO SCHOOL - PROFESSIONAL FOR STAFF**

### FEBRUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 20

**Monday - NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENTS DAY**  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust peppro, Baby carrots, Grape tomatoes, Chilled pears  
 Wednesday - Taco salad meat /cheese, Tortilla chips, or soft taco wrap w/cheese, iceberg lettuce, Salsa cup, Seasoned corn, Chilled applesauce, Whole grain roll, sour cream  
 Thursday - Chicken strips w/roll, Chicken patty w/bun Baked fries, California blend veggie, Fresh fruit, Jello w/topping  
 Friday - Macaroni & cheese & roll, or Rib a cue w/bun, Seasoned broccoli, Cucumber slices, Mandarin oranges

### FEBRUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 27

Monday - Pepperoni stuffed calzone, Or French bread pizza, BBq baked beans, Seasoned carrots, Applesauce  
 Tuesday - Dominoes smart slice, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned green beans, Romaine salad, Chilled mandarin oranges  
 Wednesday - Falcon burger w/whole grain bun, Iceberg lettuce, Cheese, sauce, Sweet things fries, Chilled pears  
 Thursday - Chicken bowl w/gravy, cheese, Seasoned corn, Whipped potatoes, Fresh fruit, Whole grain roll  
**Friday - NO SCHOOL - NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## JANUARY

- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School  
 19 Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Lutheran West JV Tournament TBA  
 20 FES - Staff Meeting - 3:50 p.m.  
 20 Boys Varsity Basketball vs Oberlin 7:30pm  
 21 Coed Varsity Bowling @ Clearview @ Grafton Lanes 4:00pm  
 21 Girls Varsity Basketball vs Clearview 7:30pm  
 22 Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Keystone PAC Double Dual - Keystone & Brookside 6:00pm  
 22 Boys Varsity Basketball @ Edison 7:30pm  
 23 Boys Varsity Basketball @ Brooklyn 7:30pm  
 24 Girls Varsity Basketball @ Brookside 2:30pm  
 26 Coed Varsity Bowling @ North Ridgeville @ Brunswick Zone North Ridgeville 4:00pm  
 28 Coed Varsity Bowling @ Amherst-Steele @ Slovak Club Lorain 4:00pm  
 28 Girls Varsity Basketball @ Keystone 7:30pm  
 28 FES - Finest Falcons Principal's Lunch Brunch  
 29 SAMS - Fabulous Falcon Breakfast - 7:40 a.m.  
 29 Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Brooklyn PAC Double Dual - Brooklyn & Oberlin 6:00pm  
 30 Boys Varsity Basketball vs Clearview 7:30pm  
 31 Girls Varsity Basketball @ Edison 1:30pm  
 31 Boys Varsity Basketball vs Amherst-Steele 7:30pm

## FEBRUARY

- 2 SAMS - PTG Meeting - 2:45 p.m.  
 2 Coed Varsity Bowling @ North Olmsted @ Brunswick Zone North Ridgeville 4:00pm  
 3 FES - PTG Meeting - 7:00 p.m. in Library  
 3 Boys Varsity Basketball @ Brookside 7:30pm  
 4 Coed Varsity Bowling @ Buckeye @ Lake Erie Lanes Vermilion 4:00pm  
 4 Girls Varsity Basketball vs Buckeye 7:30pm  
 6 Boys Varsity Basketball @ Keystone 7:30pm  
 7 Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Buckeye PAC Conference Meet 10:00am  
 7 Girls Varsity Basketball vs Wellington 2:30pm  
 9 FES - Leadership Team Meeting - 3:50 p.m.  
**9 Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 p.m.**  
 9 SAMS - Faculty Meeting - 2:45 p.m.  
 9 - 26 SAMS - Band Malley's Chocolate Sale  
 9 Girls Varsity Basketball vs New London 7:30pm  
 10 Boys Varsity Basketball vs Buckeye 7:30pm  
 11 SAMS - 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert - 7:00 p.m.  
 13 Waiver Day/Professional Day - No School  
 13 Boys Varsity Basketball vs Wellington 7:30pm  
 14 Girls Varsity Basketball @ Black River 2:30pm  
 16 President's Day - No School  
 17 FES - Staff Meeting - 3:50 p.m.  
 19 FHS - Band Concert at FHS - 7:00 p.m.  
 20 Interim Reports  
 20 Boys Varsity Basketball vs Black River 7:30pm  
 21 SAMS - 7th & 8th Grade - Winter Formal Dance TBA  
 22 FHS - Lorain County Solo & Ensemble (Pending LCESC)  
 22 SAMS - Lorain County Solo & Ensemble Contest (Pending LCESC)  
 24 FHS - Choir Concert at FHS - 7:00 p.m.  
 23 SAMS - Cheesecake/Cookie Dough Candy Fundraiser Kickoff  
 25 FES - Finest Falcons Principal's Lunch Bunch  
 26 FHS - SAMS -FES- Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences - Grades K - 12  
 27 Non-Instructional Day - No School

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Questions? Contact:

Bob Danicki: (440)371-6149 or Tammy Stanley (440)281-5332

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## FFA SEEKING DONATIONS

The Firelands FFA is seeking donations of FFA official jackets, scarves, and ties in good, usable condition. The chapter is working on collecting jackets, scarves, and ties for students to borrow occasionally or for students that cannot afford to purchase a jacket.

Please contact Shanna Finnegan, adviser, at [sfinnegan@firelandsschools.org](mailto:sfinnegan@firelandsschools.org) with questions or drop off donations in the high school office during regular school hours.

**Thank you!**

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Contact the Firelands Board Office at 440.965.5821.

Please submit all articles and photos to:

[Lseman@firelandsschools.org](mailto:Lseman@firelandsschools.org)

# Firelands Lions Club

“Serving the Community for over 50 years”



## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday'sFor more information call: Fritz Knoble,  
Membership Chairman at 440.965.4122

Support the Firelands Board  
of Education and help us to maintain  
the Firelands Express!

**ADS ARE ONLY \$200 A YEAR!**

Contact the Firelands Board Office at  
**440.965.5821.**

Please submit all articles  
and photos to:

[Lseman@firelandsschools.org](mailto:Lseman@firelandsschools.org)

## BROWNHELM PERFECTION & BB CLUB

The Brownhelm Perfection & BB Club had their awards dinner in November. The clubs first meeting of 2015 will take place on Monday, January 19th. The meetings are held at the Brownhelm United Church of Christ on North Ridge Rd. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and end around 8 p.m. After our first meeting, we will hold the meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. We are always looking for new members to join and help expand the club! Please contact the head advisor, Jen Westover, at 440-574-1310 if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a great year!

Brownhelm Perfection &amp; BB Club News Reporter, Brad Thrasher

## Florence Township Fire Department Pancake Breakfast



**March 8, 2014**  
**8a.m to 1p.m**

**Location: Fire station in Birmingham**  
**Donations welcome!**

## Brownhelm Historical Association

The Brownhelm Historical Association will meet at 7:00 p.m. on February 4 at the Carriage Barn at Vermilion River Reservation, Mill Hollow. After the business meeting our speaker will be Jenna Wilson who is a naturalist with the Lorain County Metro Parks. She will share with us the natural OH common animals in our area and natural history in the area. The public is invited to this free program. Refreshments will be served after the program. Any questions call Bonnie Cutcher at 440-963-7540 or Marilyn Brill at 440-988-4550.

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## Firelands Board of Education

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440-965-5505

## VICE PRESIDENT:

Ben Gibson  
440-320-3427

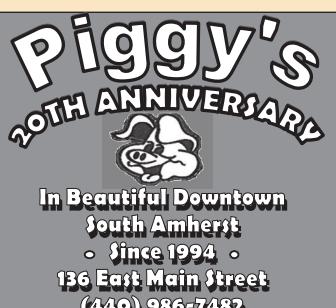
Dwayne Becker  
440-965-7850

Mike O'Keefe:  
440-670-6469

Dan Pycraft:  
440-774-2310

## 2014-2015 Board Meetings

Oct 13, 2014	March 9, 2015
Nov 5, 2014	April 13, 2015
Dec 8, 2014	May 11, 2015
Jan 12, 2015	June 8, 2015
Feb 9, 2015	July 13, 2015



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