



# The Firelands Express



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 77

JUNE 17, 2016

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



On August 2<sup>nd</sup> the residents of the Firelands Local School District will have a final opportunity to vote on a new, joined 6-8 and 9-12 building. Election Day is August 2<sup>nd</sup> with polls open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm.

**The Firelands Board of Education listened to our community and approved two significant changes to the proposed bond issue:**

**1.** The project calls for a **combination** 3.61 mil property tax which will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$11 per month and a .25% income tax based on your Ohio Taxable Income.

**Income exempt from being taxed includes: social security benefits, disability and survivor benefits, welfare benefits, child support, property received as a gift, bequest or inheritance, and workers' compensation benefits.**

**2.** Rather than demolishing Firelands High School upon the completion of the new building, further consideration will be given as to how the building may be repurposed for future use.

### **Why the Bond Issue is Needed**

◆ **The need to address our facilities is real.** Our middle and high schools are outdated, inefficient and need to be replaced. The State of Ohio inspected the Firelands school buildings in 2006 and 2014 and issued a report specifying the problems in each building.

- ◆ Asbestos was encapsulated many years ago that makes renovations difficult
- ◆ Both buildings do not meet today's standards regarding school safety and security

- ◆ The waste water treatment facility needs to be replaced at SAMS and updated at FHS
- ◆ Science labs are not meeting 21<sup>st</sup> century learning requirements
- ◆ Technology is a struggle due to antiquated buildings
- ◆ Buildings are not ADA compliant

◆ The school construction project calls for a new joined 6-8 and 9-12 building. Included are a field house for student and community use and upgrades to our waste water treatment facility.

◆ The State is so concerned with the conditions of our buildings they are providing \$6,238,379 towards the cost of the project. The August election is our last opportunity to receive this guaranteed amount.

◆ Waiting any longer to address our facility needs will cost our district and our taxpayers more. As our buildings continue to deteriorate, more resources will need to be diverted away from instructional programs in order to address the cost of maintaining our facilities.

◆ District finances are stable and we do not expect to be on the ballot for a new operating levy until after 2020.

### **Interested in Learning More?**

On the web at: [www.iamfirelands.com](http://www.iamfirelands.com)  
Email: [iamFirelands@gmail.com](mailto:iamFirelands@gmail.com)  
Twitter: [@iAmFirelands](https://twitter.com/iAmFirelands)  
Facebook: [#iAmFirelands](https://www.facebook.com/iAmFirelands)  
Phone: Contact Mike Von Gunten, Superintendent, at 965.5821

**GO FALCONS!**

**Mike Von Gunten**  
Superintendent  
FHS Class of 1995  
[mvongunten@firelandsschools.org](mailto:mvongunten@firelandsschools.org)  
[@FLSDSuper](https://twitter.com/FLSDSuper)

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.

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**Welcome to Firelands!**

**Introducing the Firelands Elementary Principal, Mrs. Sun Choe**

Mrs. Choe has been dedicated to the field of education for more than twenty-two years. Eighteen years have been as a classroom teacher in grades 2, 4, 5, and 6. After the classroom experiences, she served as an assistant principal for two years at a middle school. She is currently in her third year as a principal of a K-4 building with approximately 500 students. She is looking forward to meeting all of our young Falcons in the Fall!

**Welcome Dr. Edward Roshong, Special Education Director**

Dr. Ed Roshong will be joining the Firelands administrative team as Director of Special Education. Dr. Roshong has devoted his career of 30 years to advocating for the education of students with disabilities. He comes to us most recently from the Parma City School District where he served as Executive Director of Education for four years. His administrative experience also includes serving as Director of Special Education for more than 10 years in the Parma City Schools, Woodridge Local Schools, and Medina City Schools. He earned his doctoral degree in school psychology from Kent State University, and the first 14 years of his work in education were as a school psychologist in the Medina City School District. He has also taught courses in the Ashland University College of Education for more than 10 years.

**More Teaching, Less Testing**

◆ Our number one goal in the district is to serve students. We have heard your concerns with the large number of hours spent on testing. As part of our commitment to reduce testing and increase instruction, we are eliminating Student Learning Objective (SLO) assessments for the 2016-2017 school year, which were designed to meet the requirements of Ohio's teacher evaluation model. Countless hours of testing time will be replaced with instructional time.

◆ The Firelands Education Association and the district administration has developed a plan based on district state report card data to meet the requirements for teacher evaluation. This new plan is equitable for all teachers, focuses all on a common goal, and helps to ensure that our students are college and career ready. This district measure will not require your child to take any new tests.

◆ As a result of this agreement, you will see significantly less time devoted to testing at the beginning and ending of the terms. However, it is important to remember that students will still be assessed using our balanced approach to assessment: State Achievement Tests, Summative, Formative, and Screeners, which drives our instruction. As a reminder these terms are defined as follows:

for placement in certain courses such as algebra and College Credit Plus courses.

**Formatives** – Any teacher-created assessment, graded and/or ungraded, that a teacher utilizes to make instructional adjustments during the learning process and to provide feedback to students.

**Summatives** – Team teacher-created common assessments that judge student mastery on the Ohio Academic Content Standards. These assessments are graded and serve as our final check on student learning.

**State Achievement Tests** – State required assessments used by teachers, the district, and the state of Ohio to determine whether students are on grade level. They also help determine local curriculum alignment to state standards. Students test in math and language arts in grades 3-8, in Grades 4 and 6 social studies, Grades 5 and 8 science, and specific content areas at the high school. These assessments are created by content specialists and Ohio's teachers, of which Firelands has several teachers and administrators present on the committees. Once the test is created, it is loaded into a vendor-platform; the vendor does not create the test.

It is our hope that with this change and our commitment to a balanced approach to assessment, parents, teachers, and students will continue to focus on the educational outcomes that we seek to obtain as a community: developing students who learn, grow, and develop.

Submitted by,  
Dr. Bryan Drost

**Assessments** – Any tool used to determine student understanding and progress. This can be a project, a test, student reflection, a presentation, an observation, an exit slip, etc. There are four types that Firelands uses:

**Screeners** – Assessments to diagnose student learning needs occurring in K-3 (required by the state) in specific key areas to make placement decisions for students and to identify areas of concern as the school year is starting. We must by law screen for giftedness in Grade 2, but may also screen at parental and/or teacher team request at all other grade levels. We also use screeners in other grades

**HOW DO PROPERTY TAXES IN FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOLS COMPARE TO OTHER LORAIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS?**

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE MILLAGE</u>
Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	50.49
Clearview	47.29
Elyria	44.18
Avon Lake	43.49
Lorain	41.89
Avon	41.88
North Ridgeville	41.29
Columbia	41.03
Midview	40.18
Amherst	39.69
Keystone	36.26
*Oberlin	30.64
Firelands	30.37
*Wellington	30.03

\*District also has an income tax

As you can see from the table above, Firelands has the second lowest effective millage (mills actually collected) in Lorain County. With passage of the bond issue in August, the citizens of the Firelands Local School District will be taxed at an effective rate of only 33.98 mills.

Keri Angney

Treasurer

# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2016



Kaleb Abfall



Jason Adams



Taylor Adams



Ryan Alcorn



Tyler Allomong



Michael Anadell



Taylor Aslaksen



Austin Axford



Jacob Bailey



Victor Bauer



Robert Becker



Jasmine Beckett



Jennifer Beckett



Amy Biglin



Israel Bowen



Hunter Brandt



Brittany Brlas



Dennis Browning



Justin Camp



Tyler Clark



Kyler Cogar



Raymond Conry



Lyndsey Cornwell



Michael Cornwell



Natalie Crawford



Logan Danicki



Dylan Davis



Olivia Deaton



Summer Deichler



Devin Dumke



Joseph Eary



Emily Elswick



Taylor Emery



Allison Ennes



Ryan Fairfield

# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2016



Abigail Farley



Cole Ference



Roy Folley



Caitlin Gallagher



Mikaela Geyer



Mark Goldauskas



Jacob Grasso II



Jillian Hajostek



Molly Hales



Keely Hall



Olivia Harasty



Paige Haynes



Haley Herrera



Dylan Hickman



Jared Holowenko



Madalyn Hopkins



Jerrod Horwedel



Samantha Hribal



Victoria Hritsko



Samantha Irizarry



Katie Iwanek



Michaela Jeffers



Cassidy Johannsen



Leslie Johnson



Brylee Jones



Jesse Jones



Michael Jones



Eric Kasper



John Kasper IV



Colton Koepf



Austin Konicek



Victoria Krejci



Brianna Krieg



Charles Lacy Tennant



Darren Lapp

# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2016



Matthew Lee



Emily Lipscomb



Alexis Lough



Hailey Mack



Michael McClintock



Bradley McGinnis



Kaitlyn Michener



Rachael Minek



Olivia Mowry



Katalin Mullins



Anthony Myer



Lindsey New



Hannah Nibert



Emily Novak



Jack O'Keefe



Julia Ohle



Brandon Palmer



Nathan Phillips



Hope Pine



Ethan Pugh



Brandon Ramsey



Emily Rich



Mark Roberts



Brooke Robey



Dalaney Rogala



Johnathon Rovere



Vitoria Russo



Alexandra Sabine



Lauren Salkiewicz



David Sandrock



Ashlee Saylor



Phillip Saylor



Anthony Schlessman



Dwight Seymore Iii



Shelly Shupe

# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2016



Jeremy Simonovich



Kyle Slack



Jarett Solnick



Katelenn Stacy



Madison Stanley



Aaron Stevanus



Noah Stevens



Alyse Taddeo



Jaret Thompson



Bradley Thrasher



David Tipple



Kathleen Tuggle



Eric Turner



Kayla Unger



Jacob Vaughn



David Vaughn III



Allison Vilagi



Claire Vilagi



Patrick Ward



Erica Wasem



Justin Welch



Lucas Wells



Stephanie Wells



Rylee Wheaton



Lucas Whitacre



Alexandria Willis



Ty Wilson



Wesley Yonts



Timothy Yost

## 2016 FHS Graduates Who Did Not Provide a Photograph

Brandon Albu  
Breanna Barker  
Shelby Bender  
Samuel Bonnett  
Richard Corbin  
Dakota Dembek  
Taylor Diar  
Bryan Feigi

Sheevah Feizkah  
John Fuge  
Gabielle Gonzalez  
Cara Gould  
Katelin Lapash  
Brenden Lawson  
Blake Morris  
Adriana Nigro

Jared Petry  
Thomas Phillips  
Christopher Reinhart  
Alaina Smith  
Tyler Smith  
Paxton Sweet  
Heaven Triplett  
Paige Zimmerman

## WINNER OF THE 2016 FEA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Alexandra Sabine

The Firelands Education Association would like to announce the winner of the 2016 FEA Memorial Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship goes to an outstanding senior, who writes an essay about what they would personally do to help solve a problem, either on the local, state, or national level. This year's winner was Alex Sabine, who wrote about hunger, and how she would combat it in our community, and with it her ideas hopefully spreading to the state level. Congratulations Alex, and good luck to you as you attend the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in the Fall.

## Village of South Amherst Cemetery

Evergreen Cemetery is located on the south side of SR 113, one quarter mile west of South Amherst Road and is well behind the church. Two acres of land were purchased from J.C. and Martha Jackson in 1865. In 1899 another two acres were purchased from Ben and Ellen Redfern. The trustees of South Amherst Cemetery Association bought evergreens and set them out to beautify the grounds. Over the years the trees and the acreage have grown. We now have approximately 3000 interments. Evergreen Cemetery helps us connect to where we have come from by allowing us to reflect and reminisce. The Memorial Garden is a holding place for memories and faith as the winds of the spirits bring peace and calm.

The members of the Cemetery Board are dedicated to maintaining and improving the preservation of the cemetery. As pricing of maintenance and contracted services increase, we find it necessary to increase the cost of our sales.

Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, the increase will take effect. Please visit our web page to view the pricing information at [villageofsouthamherst.com](http://villageofsouthamherst.com).

Cemetery Board Members: Charlie Fisher, Tom Hauck, Rosemary Leshinski

## Village Wide Garage Sale August 13th, 2016.

The South Amherst Village Council would like to invite the community to participate in our annual garage sale. The date of the sale is August 13th, 2016 from 9 AM to 5 PM. No permit is necessary for the residents for this date. If you are having your sale for any other day, a garage sale permit will be required. The cost is \$5.00.

You do not need to register your address; however if you have registered, your address will appear on our [map](#). Registrations were due back to Town Hall by July 25th, 2016. Any questions may be addressed to David Leshinski, Chairperson at 440-714-4247.



## "Say Something Nice Day"

Did you know that June 1<sup>st</sup> was "Say Something Nice Day?" The aim of this special day is to fight against unkindness and to remember and celebrate people. In honor of this day, the Firelands High School Freshman Class Officers sold red and white carnations for \$2.00 each along with a special message to that someone. All carnations were delivered to the recipients at the end of the school day on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Over 100 carnations were sold.

The Freshman Class Officers would like to thank Zilch Florist in Amherst (136 Park Avenue) for helping them with this successful fundraiser. THANK YOU!!!

## FIRELANDS CLASS OF 2016

### VALEDICTORIAN



Julia Ohle

The Valedictorian is named for achieving the highest grade point average in a students' class over the course of 8 semesters of High School. Our 2016 Valedictorian is Julia Ohle. Julia graduates from Firelands High School with a GPA of 4.197. Julia is the daughter of Tonya and Dave Ohle. Julia participated in basketball, was the secretary of the Art Society, and was captain of the Academic Challenge team. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society. Julia will study English and Education at Baldwin Wallace University.

### SALUTATORIAN



Emily Novak

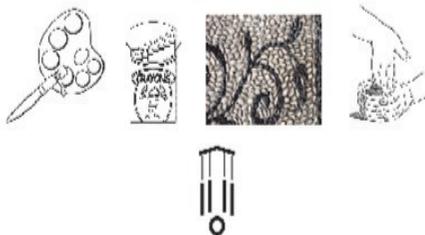
The Salutatorian is named for achieving the second highest grade point average in a students' class over the course of 8 semesters. Our 2016 Salutatorian is Emily Novak. Emily graduates from Firelands High School with a GPA of 4.185 on a 4-point scale. Emily is the daughter of Jim and Kristian Novak. Emily participated in band for 4 years, volleyball for three years, and cross-country for 1 year. She also participated in Tri-M for 1 year, TLC for 1 year, International Club for 1-year and student council for 2 years. She is a member of National Honor Society. Emily will study Neuroscience at The University of Mount Union.

## MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND'S 2015 – 2016 Sponsors

LCCC  
South Amherst Fireman's Association  
Gyros & More  
First Federal Savings of Lorain  
The Cuyahoga Group  
Mowry Photography LLC  
Mama Joes Pies  
D & A Towing & Recovery  
Larry's Driving School  
Vaughn's Auto Repair & 24 hr. Towing  
Firefighter's Community Credit Union  
Kohl's Cares  
Florence Township Fire Dept.  
JPI  
Born 2 Laser  
Deichler Tire  
Sassy Chicks  
Studio Q  
Auto Zone  
Walmart  
Giant Eagle

Target  
Personal Stitch  
Marco Pizza  
Monster Tan  
Dairy Queen  
Atlas Theater  
Piggy's  
Bob Evan's  
Merit Dental  
Cleveland Cavs  
Cleveland Browns  
Lake Erie Crushers  
African Safari  
Solnick Family  
MacLean Family  
Harbortown Towing & Auto Body  
Firelands School District  
Firelands Administration  
Mighty Falcon Parents  
Mighty Falcon Volunteers  
Mighty Falcon Fans

# Firelands Express Art Camp



## Theme: A Delight for the Senses

A camp devoted to experiencing art through the five senses

- ◆ Dates: July 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 Time: 9am – 11am  
(Drop Off 8:45am and Pick Up 11:15am)
- ◆ Location: Firelands Elementary School
- ◆ Age Group: Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> Graders at Firelands Elementary\*
- ◆ Cost: \$20 per child (covers all supplies and camp shirt)
- ◆ Deadline: Registration closed on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016
- ◆ Campers will hold a Five Senses Art Show on Friday!
- ◆ Art Camp Limited To 50 Participants – sign up TODAY!!!
- ◆ Planned and run by Grace Pohorence as her Girl Scout Gold Award
- ◆ Supervised by Firelands Art Teacher, Mrs. Tawil
- ◆ Staffed by volunteers from the FHS Art Society and GS Troop #543

\*K-5 students from other schools may be registered if the camp does not fill by the deadline

If you would like to register your child or children, please complete and send to:

Grace Pohorence 9305 Joppa Road Huron, Ohio 44839

Questions? 440-965-9303

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age/Grade/Current Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (full camp forms sent to this address)

Any Concerns or Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose Camp Fee of \$20 - checks can be made out to Troop 543

\*If there is a financial hardship or families are sending 3 or more children, contact Grace for a revised camp fee (965-9303)



Safety Town will be JULY 11, 12, 13 from 9:00-11:00am at Firelands Elementary School. Anyone wishing to help to please contact Natalie @ [saylornatsteve@hotmail.com](mailto:saylornatsteve@hotmail.com) or by phone 440-965-5872.

# Cafeteria News

**Meal Applications:** If your child receives meal benefits, their status will roll over for the first 30 days of the school year. A new application must be filled out each school year and turned in the first 30 days for uninterrupted services. Meal applications can be turned in any time throughout the school year if assistance is needed.

**Meal prices for 16-17 school year:** Firelands High and South Amherst Middle \$2.85 and Firelands Elementary \$2.65.

**Direct Certification:** Direct certification notices for free meals are sent out in August. If you receive this notice you do not have to fill out a meal application but you do need to return the signed letter to waive school fees.

FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND'S  
Night at  
All Pro Freight Stadium  
Fundraiser

Lake Erie Crushers vs. Evansville Otters

SATURDAY July 2, 2016 at 7:05pm

Home Box Tickets \$9.00. Add the food package for only \$5.00 extra.  
(includes hot dog, Ballreich's potato chips, and soda)

\$3.00 of every ticket sold will benefit The Mighty Falcons!!

For more information contact Tanya Clark at 440-506-4109 or visit the Firelands Band Boosters website at: [firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com).

Deadline for tickets is June 20, 2016.

See you at the game!!



FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND  
Band Camps

- June 16 & 17 Freshman Band Camp
- June 20 – 24 Mighty Falcon Band Camp #1
- August 1 – 5 Mighty Falcon Band Camp #2
- August 5 Mighty Falcon Picture Day

Uniform Fittings

Uniform fittings for next season will be during the June Band Camp.

Thursday June 16  
Friday, June 17

Hours: 8am – 1pm



## FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND'S General Membership Meeting Dates



Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in the FHS Band Room.

## FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL presents THE MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND'S BAND ON THE RUN

5K



SATURDAY JUNE 25, 2016

Registration starts at 9:00am

5K begins at 10am

\$25.00 registration

Guaranteed t-shirt if registered on or before June 11, 2016.

Race will be held at :

Lorain County Metro Parks – Vermilion Reservation – Bacon Woods  
Race information at :

[www.bandontherun.racewire.com](http://www.bandontherun.racewire.com) or  
[www.mfmb.org](http://www.mfmb.org)

Proceeds benefit The Mighty Falcon Marching Band's hard working students!



FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL  
MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND'S  
Annual Band Camp Picnic

Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m.

This is a potluck meal with the Band Boosters providing burgers and hotdogs and everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

Freshman and Sophomore Families : Side Dish  
Junior Families : Dessert  
Senior Families : Drinks  
(please note that due to the contractual agreements of the school district, all soft drinks must be Coca-Cola products and cans are appreciated).

See you there!!

## FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND'S



Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuffy Tire & Auto Service Center  
101 N. Leavitt Rd, Amherst

All proceeds go to the Mighty Falcon Marching Band

# SENIOR BREAKFAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

<b>Kaleb Abfall</b> Falcon Award	<b>Gabrielle Gonzalez</b> LCCC Diversity	<b>Emily Lipscomb</b> Firelands Community	<b>Emily Rich</b> Student Council Cameron Greene LCCC Trustee	<b>Alyse Taddeo</b> Student Council LCCC Trustee
<b>Taylor Adams</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Jacob Grasso II</b> Athletic Booster Latterman Scholarship	<b>Alexis Lough</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Mark Roberts</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Bradley Thrasher</b> Scholar Athlete LCCC Trustee
<b>Ryan Alcorn</b> LCCC Trustee	<b>Dylan Hickman</b> OAPSE	<b>Katie Michener</b> Falcon Award Falcon Award LCCC Trustee	<b>Brooke Robey</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>David Tipple</b> FFA Chapter Award FFA State Award
<b>Michael Anadell Jr.</b> FFA Chapter Award FFA State Award	<b>Jared Holowenko</b> OAPSE	<b>Rachel Minek</b> Firelands Community FFA Chapter Award FFA State Award LCCC Trustee	<b>Delany Rogala</b> OAPSE	<b>Heaven Triplett</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary
<b>Taylor Aslaksen</b> LCCC Trustee	<b>Jerrod Horwedel</b> LCCC Trustee	<b>Blake Morris</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Johnathon Rovere</b> LCCC Trustee	<b>Kathleen Tuggle</b> Jim Solomon FFA State Award Music Booster LCCC Trustee
<b>Jacob Bailey</b> LCCC Trustee	<b>Samantha Hribal</b> Athletic Booster	<b>Katalin Mullins</b> Michelle Brand Memorial Falcon Award	<b>Vitoria Russo</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Kayla Unger</b> LCCC Presidential
<b>Robert Becker</b> Falcon Award	<b>Victoria Hritsko</b> FFA State Award	<b>Anthony Myer</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Alexandra Sabine</b> John & Ethel Lupe Memorial FFA Chapter Award FEA Memorial Community Foundation LCCC Trustee	<b>David Vaughn III</b> LCCC Trustee
<b>Amy Biglin</b> OAPSE	<b>Samantha Irizarry</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Lindsey New</b> Mr. Muth Memorial Scholarship	<b>Lauren Salkiewicz</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Jacob Vaughn</b> LCCC Diversity
<b>Hunter Brandt</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Kathryn Iwanek</b> Student Council LCCC Trustee	<b>Emily Novak</b> Medical Mutual LCCC Trustee	<b>Ashlee Saylor</b> LCCC Trustee	<b>Claire Vilagi</b> FFA Chapter Award FFA State Award LCCC Presidential
<b>Justin Camp</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Michaela Jeffers</b> LCCC Trustee	<b>Julia Ohle</b> Scholar Athlete Franklin B. Walter Scholastic Challenge LCCC Trustee	<b>Phillip Saylor</b> OAPSE	<b>Allison Vilagi</b> FFA State Award LCCC Presidential
<b>Lyndsey Cornwell</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Cassidy Johannsen</b> Susan Beechler LCCC Trustee	<b>Jack O'Keefe</b> Latterman Scholarship	<b>Dwight Seymore III</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Patrick Ward</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary
<b>Raymond Conry</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Leslie Johnson</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Brandon Palmer</b> John W. Hostetler FFA Chapter Award FFA State Award LCCC Trustee	<b>Shelley Shupe</b> Student Council LCCC Trustee	<b>Erica Wasem</b> Amherst Rotary Firelands Community LCCC Presidential
<b>Logan Danicki</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Brylee Jones</b> Firelands Community OHS A Award LCCC Trustee	<b>Arianna Pina</b> LCCC Diversity	<b>Jeremy Simonovich</b> Athletic Booster Latterman Scholarship OHS A Award LCCC Trustee	<b>Justin Welch</b> OAPSE
<b>Dakota Dembek</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Jesse Jones</b> FFA State Award LCCC Presidential	<b>Ethan Pugh</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary LCCC Diversity	<b>Kyle Slack</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Rylee Wheaton</b> OAPSE Athletic LCCC Trustee
<b>Devin Dumke</b> College Now OHS A Courageous Student Firelands Positive People LCCC Trustee	<b>Austin Konicek</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Brandon Ramsey</b> LCCC Presidential	<b>Madison Stanley</b> FFA Chapter Award	<b>Wesley Yonts</b> LCCC Presidential
<b>Joseph Eary</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary	<b>Brianna Krieg</b> LCCC Trustee		<b>Noah Stevens</b> LCCC Presidential	
<b>Abigail Farley</b> LCCC Diversity	<b>Charles Lacy-Tennant</b> STRIVE - Amherst Rotary			
<b>Caitlin Gallagher</b> Firelands Community FFA Chapter Award FFA State Award LCCC Presidential	<b>Matthew Lee</b> FFA State Award STRIVE - Amherst Rotary			

## 4H meeting for Pitchfork Pals

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Pitchfork Pals 4H Club met. For starters the Lamb and Goat tagging and weigh-in are on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-11:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds. The final Quality Assurance meeting is on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the New Russia Township Hall. You must attend one Quality Assurance meeting to be able to take your animal to fair. Bob Evans is hosting a fundraiser on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales to Ohio Farm Bureau, FFA, and 4H clubs. Go to [www.Lorain.OSU.Edu](http://www.Lorain.OSU.Edu), click on Program Areas/4H Youth Development/4H Clover Communicator Newsletter for details on the Bob Evans fundraiser. Pitchfork Pals will once again walk in the Birmingham Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup>. All members need to arrive by 11:00 behind the Birmingham Community Center to decorate our club's float. Remember to bring bags of candy to throw out to the kids along the route. Line up for the parade is 12:30 with the parade starting at 1:00. 4H Teen Camp at Kelly's Island is June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> with many other camps available this summer. For more information on camps, check out the Clover Communicator or talk with your advisors. Enjoy your week!

Submitted by: Ryan Ortner

## A Great Year in FFA for Foreign Exchange Student, Pablo Barranco

**Oberlin, OH** – At the 2015 Lorain County Fair, Mrs. Finnegan-Firelands FFA Advisor, recruited Pablo Barranco to join the Firelands FFA after meeting him with his host family.

Barranco was hosted by the Chad and Amy Grude family of Wakeman. Barranco hails from Seville, Spain. In Spain he enjoys spending time with family and friends and long-boarding. Upon his arrival, he immersed himself in American culture and schooling. In school he maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA and was in-

involved in cross-country, track, and FFA.

In the FFA his accomplishments are numerous. He accomplished more in one year than many will accomplish in their four years in the program. He won an FFA jacket for being the first of his classmates to memorize the FFA Creed. He memorized the FFA Creed not in his native Castilian Spanish but in Puerto Rican Spanish; the official translation for the students from Puerto Rico. He learned the Creed in English as well so that he could answer questions about the Creed in English. He competed at the county public speaking contest where he won overall and moved on to the sub-district speaking contest

at Plymouth High School. He won sub-district FFA speaking and district FFA speaking contest at Shelby High School where he qualified for Ohio FFA speaking contest. At the state contest in Marysville he wowed judges with his impressive speaking and knowledge of the Creed. He earned fifth in state for public speaking!

Barranco attended National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in October. During the school year he has logged over 200 hours of FFA activities like leadership activities, community service, and fund-raising. At the State FFA Convention in April he helped to pack meals at Ohio FFA Fights Hunger and he crossed the stage at conven-

tion to accept recognition on behalf of the chapter. He forged a strong relationship with Matthew Klopfenstein, the former Ohio FFA President. Klopfenstein invited Barranco on stage in front of nearly 10,000 people to help him deliver his retiring address.

Barranco has left a lasting impression on the FFA chapter. His work, leadership, cooperation, and lessons in diversity will benefit the chapter for years to come. He returns to Spain the third week of June for his senior year. He plans to attend college in the United States in 2017.

# FES NEWS

The year has flown by, but it sure was fun! We packed so much into this school year! We couldn't have accomplished all we did without the support of the parents, community and Board. Be sure to check out Mrs. Mudore's Twitter @PrincipalMudore, our district and FES websites, as well as the Firelands blog, for our most updated news and activities.

**PTG News:** We would like to give a huge thank you to our PTG for their continued support to our staff and students. The Walk-a-Thon was a success as usual! We can't begin to thank all those involved to make this event happen. Field day was as fun-filled as ever! We appreciate the parents that volunteered their time to make this a success. Please follow the PTG on Facebook or go to the website for updates.



**Field Trips:** FES kept Mr. Saylor and the rest of the transportation staff busy the last month with our numerous field trips. The kindergartners went to Lake Erie Nature and Science Center where they experienced nature up close and personal. First graders were treated with a trip to Green Circle which was a great connection to what they have been learning in the classroom. Third graders got to take a tour on Lolly the Trolley to learn more about Cleveland and the surrounding areas. The fourth grade had the opportunity to visit the Allen Art Museum and Oberlin Heritage Center. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade took a trip to the zoo.

**United We Stand for Mrs. Proehl and Joel:** The last few months have been emotional at FES as two of our own have been recently diagnosed with Cancer, but that doesn't stop the FES Pride. Staff, students and the community have stepped up to show our support to both families. The FES students recently raised over \$2,000 for Pennies for Joel. Several staff members including Mr. Von Gunten stepped up and had their heads shaved at a recent assembly. Mrs. Woods facilitated a day for staff and students to wear T-shirts to support their fight. Stacy Studstill and Sam Gibson, with help from Sam's mom Kristi Gibson, designed and secretly distributed T-Shirts for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to wear to the zoo to show their support for Joel. Stay tuned for another great event organized by Mrs. Woods, a benefit dinner for Joel and Mrs. Proehl on July 16 at German's Villa. More information to come about where to purchase your tickets.



**Music News:** Over the last month or so, we were treated with the opportunity to see how much our FES musicians have grown. The second graders put on a fabulous choir concert which included puppets and the Honors Choir. The fifth grade

band students put on a fabulous concert as well. It is so amazing to see how much the students learn and grow in just one school year.

**Talent Show:** Staff and students were treated to a one of a kind talent show at FES hosted by FES's own Mr. Seeley. There were so many students who were courageous enough to share their talent on stage with the whole school. The afternoon was filled with fun and entertainment. Thank you to all the staff members that put their time in to make this a success.



**5<sup>th</sup> Graders:** The fifth graders have had a busy month! Earlier this month they had the opportunity to learn for two experts, Dr. Tim Conrad and Officer Don Stanko, about Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety. There was a lot of information shared and many helpful tips to keep the students safe. Fifth graders also graduated from DARE this past week. We are so appreciative for this program and know that even if it makes a difference in one student's life, it is worth it! The fifth graders also went to SAMS for an orientation to their new school. Finally, fifth grade recognition took place to recognize all the hard work and accomplishments of our fifth graders as they head on to the next phase of their life, Middle School. We will miss them, but wish them well on their next chapter of life!

**Advisory Committee:** The Bathroom Stall Door Project is complete. The four students whose designs were chosen, had their designs painted on the bathroom stall doors near the gym. The students were then able to sign their name and date it, so they can be a part of FES forever.

**Newspaper:** Our two students in Mrs. Ollis' language arts that began their FES Newspaper, were able to donate \$26 to the FES library. The girls would like the money to be used to purchase more library books.

**Thank you:** I want to take a moment to thank Mr. Von Guten, the Board, the administrative team, staff, student and parents for allowing me the opportunity to be part of the Firelands School District. Everyone here has gone above and beyond to make me feel welcome. This past year was an amazing opportunity and I am sad to see it end. Unfortunately, I am in a position in my life where I need to make my decisions based on what is best for my family and I was offered a position with Avon Local Schools, allowing me to be close to home. I would like to specifically thank Mr. Von Gunten for his continuous support this school year. He was an amazing mentor and boss and I would be honored to have the opportunity to learn from him again!

## College Now

College Now of Greater Cleveland is offering ACT Boot Camp July 25-29 from 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM at Firelands High School in the Computer Lab, Room 220B. You must register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Lorain-Act-Bootcamp-Registration>. Registration is free for the first 15 students and they will also receive a free official ACT practice book. Deadline to register is July 18, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Howard at [vhoward@collegenowgc.org](mailto:vhoward@collegenowgc.org).

## Firelands/South Amherst Choral Department

The Firelands/South Amherst Choral Department has been very busy these past two months.

The following South Amherst Middle School choir and band students participated in the **Lorain County Honors Choir/Band Festival** held at Keystone High School on April 13: Choir – Hailie Bates, Claire Boucher, Megan Bowling, Kaleb Carver, Shelby Clark, Kenzie Denney, William Folley, William Krejci, Brooklyn Ollis, Maribeth Petry, Logan Ramsey, Amy Rister, Samantha Walcott, Kaylee Wells, and Christine Whitacre. Band – Chayce Baldwin, Renee Clippinger, Rebecca Hopkins, Chris Jackson, Emily Stewart, and Lauren Widener.

**The Second Annual Firelands Chapter 6986 Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction** was held on May 19 in the music room. The following students are continuing members: Kayla Bailey, Grace Boucher, Karli Bukovac, Sarah Gallo, Angelina Rivera, and Cassidy Stevens. The new inductees are: Cora Born, Michael Carty, Owen Cogar, Rachel Coggins, Trinity Craycraft, Kaylyn Eary, Madison Flanagan, Hannah Gerstacker, Serena Hoffman, Rachel Jackson, Samantha Jones, Halli Kromer, Ariel Langer, Ariana McClung, Nick McCrary, Emma Mowry, Justin Ollis, Tate Smith, Joseph Socha, Isabel Solowiej, Autumn Swiers, and Logan Willis. The seniors who graduated as the Tri-M members of Firelands were: Ryan Alcorn, Dakota Dembek, Mikaela Geyer, Jared Holowenko, Katie Iwanek, Katalin Mullins, Lindsey New, Emily Novak, Ashlee Saylor, Jarett Solnick, and Noah Stevens.

**Concert and Select Choirs brought home two Superior Ratings** from the Trills and Thrills Competition on May 20!! Both groups received outstanding comments from the judges!

I am so proud of the choir students at both South Amherst and Firelands! I am also thankful for all the parental, administrative, and community support of the choral program. Looking forward to another great school year in 2016-2017!!  
Submitted by Wendy Johnson

## "Living History Museum"



Ring in the fourth annual "Living History Museum," a success once again at South Amherst Middle School. This year the 8<sup>th</sup> grade history and language arts departments were provided with a \$1000.00 grant from the Nordson Foundation. This funding deferred costs for the students to devise, construct, and demonstrate their skills and knowledge in regards to their historical topics.

The "Living History Museum" provides a multidimensional integrated learning experience for all eight graders here at SAMS. The project encompasses skills across the curriculum including: history, language arts, science, math, music, art, drama, and technology. The investigation of history topics and the research of nonfiction are the core of the museum project. The final projects are designed to combine, emphasize and synthesize all of the above disciplines. Our aim is to challenge the intellect using The Depths of Knowledge levels that will create interactive experiences that engage students into higher levels of thinking and performance. Students must critically analyze and evaluate people, places, human environment interactions, movement, and locations of events during the time period of Westward Expansion 1400-1896. This year, awards will be announced during the eighth grade awards assembly to the teams that had the best tri board, best skit, best costumes, best prop, and best overall presentation. Great job eighth grade! Plus, thank you to all the sixth and seventh graders for touring the museum.

Submitted by, Darla Baumbick and John Carlock

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