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VOLUME 3 ISSUE 77



Over the past month, we've shared two images on Facebook that underscore the need to continue the discussion on how to address our District's facility challenge.
First, on September 25 the district posted an image of a thermometer showing the 96-degree temperature in Mrs. Copley's classroom on the second floor of South Amherst Middle School (SAMS) at 10:10 AM. This is our reality. SAMS is 107 years old. It does not have the electrical capacity to handle fans for every classroom, let alone AC window units. Then on October 16 the district posted an image of a cracked hot water line at SAMS.

Again, the reality is our antiquated water line has been repaired far too many times and has far exceeded its life span and continues to cost the district thousands of dollars in repairs.
But beyond the money needed to repair this antiquated system - the disruption to learning and teaching is even more concerning. I am honored to be the Superintendent of Firelands and I take my role very, very seriously. As a District, we are privileged each year to be given the responsibility of teaching our youngest citizens in a safe and productive learning environment. But our facilities are preventing us from doing just that. We cannot keep allowing our facilities to disrupt and displace our students.
Currently, a group of residents, educators, parents, and community leaders are meeting to discuss how best to address our facility challenges. The Building Advisory Committee (BAC) is reviewing information about our
facilities, the costs associated with these challenges, enrollment projections, and much more. The goal of the BAC is to come up with a facility plan that addresses these challenges and is in the best interest of students, teachers, and the community. BAC members will ultimately make a recommendation to the Board of Education on how it suggests the District move forward. We'll continue to keep you updated throughout this process.
Sharing the photos of our facility challenges on Facebook, and also now here in The Express is important to make sure our main stakeholders, like yourself, are receiving information and updates about what is happening in the District. If you are not connected with us on social media, we encourage you to Like our district page on Facebook.com/TheFirelandsFalcons, follow us on Twitter @ Falcon_update, and tune into our blog - https:// ffalcons.wordpress.com. And - most
importantly - we also invite you to sign -up for our e-mails. We are starting an initiative to collect email addresses of our parents, alumni, community leaders, and residents to ensure we are communicating across
multiple-platforms and reaching our stakeholders where they already are. We plan to share information and updates periodically with you to ensure you stay informed about what is happening in the school district. Please visit our website and sign-up and let your friends, fellow alumni, and neighbors know that the District wants to stay connected with them, too.

## GO FALCONS!

Mike Von Gunten Superintendent FHS Class of 1995
@FLSDSuper



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## Page 2

At our opening staff meeting in August, Superintendent Mike Von Gunten introduced a staff volunteering program. The goal of this project is to have
\#iCare

## Thank You

The Firelands FFA would like to thank all of our friends that have come together to help us establish two FFA Endowment Funds and additional scholarships!

## Partner Donors:

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Harker
Mr. Dan Pycraft

## Bronze Donors:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alferio
Mr. and Mrs. John Born
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Norton

## Silver Donor:



Mr. and Mrs. James Woodrum
*The Ryan Woodrum Memorial

## Platinum Donor:

The Zukowski Family
*The Kyle Zukowski Memorial Scholarship

## Foundation Donor:

Steve and Courtney Ortner and Family
*Ortner Family FFA Endowment Fund




## BEFORE SGHOOL \& AFTER SGHOOL CARE

## FOR KOG - 5TH GRADE

Firelands Elementary School is now taking enrollments for before and after school care for KDG - 5th graders.

- Morning hours are from 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
- Afternoon hours are from 3:20 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

The cost for the SAFE Program is:

- \$10.00 Registration Fee per family - $\$ 2.50$ per hour

For more information please call Mrs. Raynor at 440-965-5381 ext 2015. Or stop by the elementary school office to complete a SAFE registration form.

## FHS NEWS

HOMECOMING 2017 - The Homecoming Game, Event, and Dance of 2017 came off $\%^{\circ}$ as a big success. The Falcons defeated Brookside 47-0 to improve to 6-0 in front of a big $\cdots \cdot$ crowd, which included the Classes of 1962 and 1967, who toured the building prior to the $\%$ game, with many alumni commenting on how the building looked exactly the same as it $\%$ did over 50 years ago. Finally, the Homecoming Dance on Saturday night drew almost 300 students and was great fun. Congratulations to Homecoming Queen Brittany Denney $\therefore$ and Homecoming King Logan Strader.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES - Firelands High School hosted Parent$\%$ Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October $5^{\text {th }}$ and again on Wednesday, October $11^{\text {th }}$. $\%$ FHS promoted the conferences on the website, through Twitter, and with an all-call to High School parents reminding them of the event. Thank you to our parents who attend$\%$ ed on these dates.
$\nabla$ FINANCIAL AID EVENING - The Firelands School Counseling Department hosted a $\nabla^{\circ}$ Financial Aid night on October $11^{\text {th }}$, at $6: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ in the Library Media Center. Speakers $\therefore$ presented to parents and students about the workings of Financial Aid and how any stu$\%$ dent and their family can make a college education both accessible and affordable. Mrs. Zimmer and Ms. Cozza hosted the evening, along with speakers from local colleges and College Now, the organization who assists the FHS Counselors in helping our students $\%$ make choices about careers and colleges.
$\cdots$ PSAT - The PSAT, a practice college entrance exam, was offered to some sophomores $\%$ and juniors on Wednesday, October $11^{\text {th }}$ at FHS, from 8:45 until approximately noon. $\%$ The data from this practice test will help all of the students who took the test understand $\%$ where they need to improve upon for either the ACT and/or SAT, and provides them with $\%$ free resources to prepare for these college entrance exams. The cost of the test was cov$\%$ ered by a grant provided to FHS from High Schools that Work.

## $\because$ FIRST GRADING PERIOD RAPIDLY COMING TO A CLOSE

The First Grading period will end on Friday, October $27^{\text {th }}$. Report Cards will be available $\%$ electronically in Power School within a week to ten days of the close of the first grading $\cdots$ period. As a reminder, OHSAA bylaws require that all students pass the equivalent of $\%$ five 1 -credit classes to remain eligible for the second grading period. Also, Firelands High School requires that all athletes earn a GPA of at least 1.5 in the previous grading $\because$ period to remain eligible for the second grading period.

## * MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING BAND TO OHIO STADIUM

$\%$ The Mighty Falcon Marching Band performed at the Ohio State Marching Band Invita$\%$ tional on Saturday, October $14^{\text {th }}$. They also stayed to watch the Ohio State Marching $\%$ Band perform to close the show that evening. What a thrill this trip was for the MFMB, $\%$ as they were able to experience the excitement and joy which comes with the privilege of $\cdots$ marching and playing at Ohio State. Congratulations to the members of the MFMB.

## Firehnds Art reatured at the ESC

## Lorain Coming Board Ofice Display

Every other October Firelands is invited to display K-12 artwork at the Lorain County Educational Services Center Board Office at 1885 Lake Avenue in Elyria. The first exhibition of the school year is both exciting and challenging. By the end of September elementary students may have had only 4 art classes at the most. It is a great accomplishment for any students to have exhibit-ready artwork this early in the year. The artwork is on display through Nov. 2 in the main reception area of the ESC office building.

Firelands Elementary School participants - Kindergarten: Landon Petrella and Morgan Bartley; First grade students: Lainey Scholl and Matthew Klingshirn; Second grade students: Kinsey Wissinger, Paytyn Young, Emerson Zidar, Ava Huston and Kyrie Holliday; Third grade student: Avarie Carstensen; Fourth grade students: Callie Finnegan, Lyla Fontaine, Michael Janosik and Janna Milleson; Fifth grade students: Jesse Yakunovich and Kyleigh Klingshirn.

Firelands High School participants - from Art Fundamentals Chandler Brotko, Sam Formholtz, Kaya Loyd and Trevor Weller. From Art 1 Caden Boetticher, Sarah Conn, Audrey Lyons and Alex Smith. From Art 2 Renee Clippinger, Kayla Palmer, Hannah Spiegelberg and Brianna Toledo. From Art 3 Alex Brill, Sierra Frazier, John Mullins and Sophia Prideaux. From Art 4 Sarah Drury, Michael Durdak, AnaCecilia McKay Lodge and Abby Perry.


Some of the FHS exhibiting artists;
Sarah Drury, Audrey Lyons, Renee Clippinger,


SAMS is a busy place as always!
We had a great turnout at conferences. We love meeting our families and believe that the home- school relationship is crucial to the success of our students.

We have a new piece of equipment that we are using in our computer classes. It is called a "Carvey". Students can program a design and then plug the design into the Carvey, and it will "print out" the design. It is a very exciting beginning to our "maker space" dream. Turning a child's vision into reality is what it is all about and we hope this is just the beginning. We hope to have a mosaic created for a wall with our students' designs. We hope to build this idea into a maker space studio someday where we have many design elements involved.

Fall sports are beginning to wrap up, but we were able to hold our Jr. Falcon Homecoming pep rally on the day of the big Homecoming game. After our third year, the adults have figured everything out to make the pep rally a huge success. In addition, now that $2 / 3$ of our students have experienced a pep rally, and know the fight song, they are really getting into the excitement too!

We are working to establish a store for our PBIS program. We are collecting items, donations and cash to provide many attractive incentives for our students. Once a month, they will have an opportunity to visit the store and purchase items with their "Falcon Bucks". We are cleaning out the bell tower to turn that into our store. We are hoping to get a HS art student to design something for the outside of the bell tower.

We began our AIMSWEB Testing. This will allow us to understand where we need to make changes in our teaching and which students need some skill building in areas. I like to think of it in terms of athletics. If an athlete needs practice with their layups, a coach will assist with that skill. We are offering an intervention opportunity so our students can sharpen their skills. This will be offered in math and reading before or after school.

Teachers are planning their peer to peer discussions to open the lines of communication between educators and allow for growth. We are developing a building wide writing initiative which will allow teachers to work together with the purpose of having students write across the curriculum.

Cara Gomez SAMS Principal

## Ten FHS Artists Exhilibit inn Lorrain Cownty rils Shown

Ten FHS art students are honored with selection for the 2017 Lorain County High School Exhibition. This annual exhibition, organized by the Educational Service Center and hosted at the Elyria West River Branch Library, invites participants from all high schools in Lorain County. Congratulations to Art Fundamentals students Garrick Sebolt, 9 and Emma McDevitt, 10, Art 1 students Gracie Yonts and Alex Trendle 9, Art 2 students Mia Kuncel 10 and Dylan Taylor 9, Art 3 students Autumn Szakal and Emily Pluta, 10 and Art 4 students Lynn Born and Isabel Solowiej. Students are competing for Best in Show and People's Choice awards. Go vote for Firelands! The exhibition opens Tues. Nov. 1 and comes down Fri. Nov. 17. The Elyria West River Branch Library is located at 1194 West River Road in Elyria, (near Target and Home Depot) Library hours are Sun. 12:30-4pm. M-Th 10am-8pm, Friday-Saturday10am-5pm.

## Some FHS artists in the Lorain County show; Lynn Born, Isabel Solowiej, Autumn Szakal and Emily Pluta




## Falcon Pride Store

Our Falcon Pride Store will be back in business later this month. Students will be provided a shopping opportunity monthly. Our PTG has provided us with funding and assistance to add Falcon gear from the Spirit Shop. Mr. Stillman has provided us with some FREE incentives to entice our students. PBIS members have sent donation letters to businesses to request donations in various formats. Our first donation has been received. The Lake Erie Crushers donated 4 vouchers for tickets for the 2018 season. We are willing to accept donations of items and money to help replenish the store throughout the school year. We are also beginning to think about our end of year celebrations. We need to determine the criteria and what the incentive will be.

## PTG purchases

The PTG is in full swing and has already made a few purchases to support the students and staff of FES. They have provided us with 3 whiteboards for teachers, an ice machine for the clinic/office staff, the Falcon gear for the Falcon Pride store, and items to help furnish/decorate the new cafeteria and adjacent spaces. Our teachers will also be brainstorming ideas for ways to utilize the money that comes in from the PTG fundraising efforts.

## Book Fair

The PTG hosted the Book Fair at FES the week of Oct 2-6. Our teachers were able to create a wish list of books they would like for their classroom libraries. Students were provided time to shop during their scheduled library class. The Book Fair was also open to parents during conference night.

## Parent Teacher Conference Nights

Our first night of conferences was last Thursday from 4:00-8:00. It was well attended. Our second night is this Wednesday from 4:00-8:00. We are glad that our parents have this opportunity to meet with the teachers and discuss their children. The staff was also able to enjoy a luncheon each conference day that was hosted and organized by our PTG.

## Read with Rusty

We have started a monthly contest for each homeroom. The homeroom in each grade level that reads the most minutes for the month utilizing the MyOn program will be provided a reward. Mrs. Denslow and her dog Rusty will visit and read to the class during a scheduled library class. Rusty is a specially trained dog that is known around the area to enjoy listening to kids read. Our September winners were: Mrs. Walker's class, Mr. Yakunovich's class, Miss M. Andorka's class, Mrs. Ott's class, Mrs. Kerestury's class and Mrs. Lee's class. Sun Choe FES Principal

## Firelands Partners With

 Common VIEWThe Common VIEW Collaborative is a middle school, educationally focused collaborative in Lorain County. Common VIEW's purpose is to improve health knowledge, develop communication and life skills, and support students in avoiding risk behaviors for middle school students. The two school districts participating in the collaborative are Midview and Clearview. Firelands is being brought on through an onboarding process this school year, with the intention of Firelands becoming a full member in the 2018-2019 school year.

The collaborative is funded by the United Way of Greater Lorain County and is conducted through the Lorain County General Health District (LCGHD). The collaborative's other community partners include: Lorain County Board of Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Addition Services Board of Lorain County, Cleveland Clinic, and the Educational Service Center of Lorain County.

- Formed in the 2014-2015 school year this collaborative has been working on:
- Increasing physical activity in the classroom - Yoga 4 Classroom, Desk Cycles, Stability Balls
- Increasing access to healthy food options - through breakfast initiatives, salad bars and healthy celebrations.
- Integrating social emotional learning opportunities and healthy relationships knowledge into daily curriculum.
- Developing an outdoor classroom, playground enhancements, and access to walking paths for students and the community

Firelands is proud to be partnering with Common VIEW and we look forward to working together in the best interest of our students and staff.

## CURRIGULUMN NENJ

## MYON READING

Congratulations FES! The Ohio Summer Reading Challenge from MYON has announced the top schools that spent time reading this summer. FES was named Honorable Mention-reading 81,329 minutes or an average of 111 minutes per student, completing 7,198 books this summer. Way to go FES-keep reading!!!!!!!

## ONLINE DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

District report cards will be available online for all buildings starting with the first reporting period November 7th. Parents from SAMS and FHS experimented with online report cards last spring. Many parent and students were satisfied with the change. I understand that change is difficult and takes time; therefore, if you wish to receive a paper copy of your child's report card, you will need to contact your child's school office and request a copy to be sent home with your child. Online reporting allows parents to have current access to midterm and quarterly grades, and attendance information. There are benefits to getting report cards online-it saves time, saves district money and is environmentally friendly!

Lori Roemer
Director of Educational Services

## Friends of Firelands Membership Drive 2017-2018

Friends of Firelands is a 503c non-profit organization that's sole purpose is to positively support the staff, students, and communities that make up Firelands Local Schools.

Please consider being a part of our organization by taking part in our 2017-2018 membership drive. Current members of Fof will be available at many school events during the months of September and October.
Memberships will be $\$ 20.00$ each, and with that membership you will receive a one-of-a kind free $T$-shirt available in adult sizes small $-2 X$ with the design below.


Any Questions? Feel free to contact FoF President, Ellen Gundersen at friendsoffirelands@email.com.

## Do you know how to recetve informetion from FlSD in the events of bad weather or umioneseen citcumstances?

In the event that a change occurs to a normal school day, information can be obtained from multiple sources. The District uses an all-call system, multiple Twitter accounts, Facebook, text alerts, and web page banners to share important information. We recommend that parents/guardians choose at least two methods to receive information from the Firelands Local Schools.
Our communication tools include the following:

1) All Call Alert System: If your telephone number or custodial information has changed, please contact your building secretary to notify her of the change(s). If you have made a change to your phone number, our database must be updated in order for parent calls to be initiated. Please see the information below to contact the appropriate building to make phone number (or custody) updates:

- Firelands Elementary School: (440) 965-5381
- South Amherst Middle School: (440) 986-7021
- Firelands High School: (440) 965-4255

2) Twitter Accounts: Follow these Twitter accounts for up-to-the-minute information!

- @FLSDSuper (Superintendent Mike Von Gunten)
- @Falcon_update (Public Relations, Jennifer Butchko)
- @Firelandstrans (Transportation Coordinator Milt Sayler)

3) Facebook: We have created The Official Facebook page for Firelands! Like us at The Firelands Falcons

Visit us at https://www.facebook.com/TheFirelandsFalcons.https:// www.facebook.com/TheFirelandsFalcons to stay connected.

## 4) Text Alert System:

Parents have the option of utilizing our text alert system as well. In order to enroll in this program, simply go to our home page at FirelandsFalcons.org and click on the social media tab. Follow the newsletter icon and create an account. You will receive text messages regarding school cancellations, delays or special circumstances once enrolled.
5) Web Page Notifications:

Alerts will be posted on our web pages in the event that our school day will be altered.
6) Blog

Click our Blog tab \& sign up for inbound blog posts @ https://
ffalcons.nordpress.com
Information will also be shared to traditional news sources. If you have any questions or need assistance in setting up account please contact Jennifer at (440) 965-5821 ext 1015!

## FOOD SEBRVICE

## DEPARTMENT NENS

Meal applications can be filled out anytime throughout the school year. If you have a change in household size, income, loss of job or now receive SNAP or OWF, please fill out an application. It only takes minutes for an application to be processed which will provide you with immediate help if your child qualifies. A notification letter with the results is mailed to all households that apply. Applications can be found on the Foodservice tab, board of education or at your child's school office. Please do not hesitate to contact Judy Baumann, Foodservice Director at 440-965-5821 ext. 1011 if you have any questions.

## OMMME NEIUS OR IIEN MPP FOR YOUR PFOME

Also, check out the new online meal app which can be downloaded on your phone for free (My School Menus). You can also print the menu from the
Foodservice tab. This new online menu will provide you with the nutritionals for each menu item.

## Wilitiary Family Information

> Looking for all Firelands Community and FHS Alumni that are active military. Please contact Jennifer at Jbutchko@firelandsschools.org or $(440) 965-5821$ ext 1015, so that we can stay in touch with you and to offer assistance with programs especially designed for military families.


# Firelands FFA at Lorain County Fair 

By: Macey Butchko, Reporter

## Wellington, OH - The Firelands

 FFA chapter dedicates a large chunk of their time preparing for a successful week at the Lorain County Fair. Many students show their animals that they have raised for market and auction and spent hours budgeting and recording data in preparation for that week. They can enter a wide variety of projects such as animals, crops, and still-life shop projects. The chapter works very hard to contribute to a successful fair and proudly represent Firelands as they compete in their project classes! The Firelands FFA was proud to have have two members on the Lorain County Fair Royal Court; Claire Vilagi and Michael Anadell. Mike was chosen as the fair king! We have a lot to celebrate, check out our award winners below:
## Beef department:

Taylor Kenska, Grand Champion in BBR and Reserve Champion in Modern Beef (1st in all classes), Grand Champion Modern Beef, Braeden Casper

## Rabbit department:

Hailie Bates, 4th place in Beginner

Showmanship Cheyanne Zenda, 1st place in Senior Showmanship

## Sheep department:

Megan Brandich, Grand Champion Beginner Showmanship

## Goat awards:

Megan Brandich, Grand Champion level III Pack Goat and level II Reserve Grand Champion Breanna Dechant, 1st in Senior Beginner Boer Showmanship

Ag, Shop, and Crop awards earned:
Bianca Inman, Grand Champion in medium metal working and 1 st in Ag. Engineering
Breanna Dechant, Grand Champion FFA poster
Emily Holcomb, Supreme FFA Exhibitor (most points in shop, crop, and animal projects for all exhibitors)
Matthew Kovach, Grand Champion engineering and Reserve Champion Lagrange Engine Club Restoration Ian Valerius, Grand Champion vegetable production Evan Born, Reserve Champion engineering


## Success in swine:

Bianca Inman, 3rd place in showmanship
Robert Harker, Reserve Class Champion hog

Awards earned for fowl entries: Robert Harker, 1st in Turkey Showmanship and Grand Champion in Small Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes

Firelands FFA members serving on Lorain County Junior Fair Board:

President: Michael Anadell, Vice President: Claire Vilagi, Secretary: Samantha Ives, Executive Members: Christopher Fath, Sean Miller, Allison Vilagi, Members: Evan Born, Zach Born, Keith Cornwell, Brenden Cooper, Genalda Finley, Bianca Inman, Matthew Kovach, Nathan Kovach, Garrett Lewis, Rachael Minek, Colin Myers, Morgan Nance, and Madison Stanley.

Thank you to everyone involved for another successful year at the Lorain County Fair! The Firelands FFA is proud to represent and work hard to provide our community with a strong chapter!

The 2017 Fair Royal Court, Mike Anadell, king, $4^{\text {th }}$ from left, Claire Vilagi $8^{\text {th }}$ from left.


## $7^{7 \text { TH }}$ annual



On September $13^{\text {th }}$ Firelands Elementary kicked-off the eleventh year of Falcons on the Fly, a walking/jogging program for all students. A huge thanks to the Firelands Elementary PTG and Bettcher Industries for making this program possible, as well as to our many parent volunteers! The FHS marching band played and created a fun atmosphere as the elementary students walked and ran their first laps of the year. The main objective of this program is to increase the amount of structured, physical activity time spent by the children. Students learn the lifelong benefits and enjoyment of walking/jogging.


Falcons on the Fly helps make recess time be spent more constructively by all students. Students may choose to do one lap, then play something else - or they can choose to walk/jog the whole recess.



The Mighty Falcon Marching Band 2017/2018 Sponsors

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Allen Januzzi, CPA
Mowry Photography

## Looking for

## Gommomity hiformaitons

Firelands publishes a weekly blog on all community activity. If you have a group that is active in the Firelands district, we are happy to post information regarding events, fundraisers, open houses, etc. You can visit the blog page at: https://ffalcons.wordpress.com and look for Community Updates.

In addition to the Community Updates, a monthly article is published regarding our Falcon Alumni. Topics covered include graduations, engagements, career changes, new businesses, birth announcements and more.

The above information is also shared on Twitter, @Falcon_update, and on our new Facebook page, The Firelands Falcons.

To submit information please contact Jennifer at (440) 965-5821 ext. 1015 or at: jbutchko@firelandsschools.org

## NOTMCE

 The Board has a duty to protect and promote the health and well-being of all students and staff. To that end, The Board of Education passed a resolution prohibiting the use of all forms of tobacco, including electronic cigarettes, from being used at any time on school grounds, athletics facilities, or parking lots.
## Friends of Firelands


"Our strength will grow through community"

Friends of Firelands is a 503c non-profit organization that's sole purpose is to positively support the staff, students, and communities that make up Firelands Local Schools.

Did you happen to see a yard sign for a 2017 graduate? That was $\mathbf{F 0 F}$ !!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday March 10, 2018 @ German's Villa.

Join us for our $3^{\text {rd }}$ annual fundraising event. Food, music, raffles, auctions, and much more!

Would you like to become a member of FoF? Look for our booth at various school events, or email friendsoffirelands@gmail.com with your request. Membership is $\$ 20$ for the 2017-2018 school year, and each member will get a FALCON NATION T-shirt.

## SPECLAL NOTIGE

Firelands Local Schools Institutes A New "Safer Schools Tip Line"
Operated by the Ohio Department of Public Safety-Office of Homeland Security,
844-SaferOH
(844-723-3764)
is an anonymous tip line that will accept both calls and texts 24 hours a day. This service allows both students and adults to share information regarding any safety concerns with school officials and law enforcement.

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Please submit all articles and photos to: Iseman@ firelands schools.org
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20177－2018 Board Meetings AUGUST 14， 2017 SEPTEMBER 11， 2017 OCTOBER 9， 2017 NOVEMBER 8， 2017 DECEMBER 11， 2017 JANUARY 8， 2018 ＊＊ FEBRUARY 12，2018＊＊ MARCH 12，2018＊＊ APRIL 9，2018＊＊ MAY 14，2018＊＊ JUNE 11，2018＊＊ JULY 9，2018＊＊
＊＊Tentative，subject to Board approval
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