



The Firelands Express



Volume 11, Issue 91

January 2021

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

Open Enrollment Starts February 1st

Starting Monday, February 1st, the Firelands Local School District will be accepting new K-12 enrollment applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents from any school district in Ohio are welcome to apply, but space is limited and will typically be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Enrollment is tuition free, but parents must pay for all school fees.

We use an online application through Google, available on our website, that is very user friendly and accessible. The online application will open on February 1st at 7:30 a.m. You do not have to come in person as the online application is time-stamped. You may also need to upload PDF documents for IEP, WEP or 504 plans.

Official notification of your status will come by email from the Superintendent's Office throughout the open enrollment process. Please contact Sue Schaefer at (440) 965-5821 ext. 1010 if you have any questions or are having problems with the online application.

On or before March 1st, parents of students in grades 1-12 are notified of their open enrollment status (accepted, pending, waitlist, or denied) and given instructions for registration beginning April 12th.

On or before April 1st, parents of new kindergarten students are notified of their open enrollment status. The delayed notice is due to making sure our district families have ample time to register kindergarten students living in the district. Although you may not know your status, we encourage you to register in March. Please read the next article about the kindergarten registration process.

We will maintain waiting lists until July 1st, at which time open enrollment will end for the 2021-2022 school year.

Parents of returning open-enrolled students must confirm their status through the online form for the 2021-2022 school year. The open enrollment links are located at the end of the student registration webpage, found here: https://www.firelandsschools.org/studentregistration_home.aspx.

Kindergarten Registration Begins March 2nd

Parents living in the Firelands school district with children who will be five years old by August 1, 2021 should plan on registering for 2021-2022 kindergarten starting March 2nd.

Parents will need to enter all registration information through our online Final Forms portal. This can be done at home, but if you need assistance, the Board of Education Office will be open for in person registration. Firelands Elementary School staff will be available at the BOE to collect documents, answer questions and assist with the online registration. There may be a wait time due to COVID safety protocols.

On March 2nd, walk-in registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. On March 3rd, the times are from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Coming in person is not required, but if you do, the office is located at 112 North Lake Street in South Amherst.

If you plan on attending one of these events, please plan to bring your child's birth certificate, 2 proofs of residency, parent/guardian photo ID, shot records, and custody papers (if they apply). Proof of residency includes copies of current utility bill or mortgage statement for example. Hard and scanned copies are preferred, but pictures of these documents may also be uploaded if the entire document is complete and clearly visible.

Parents living out of the district should first apply for open enrollment starting February 1st. **This step must happen prior**

to kindergarten registration. If that step is complete, you can register your child for kindergarten on March 2nd & 3rd. Final acceptance for kindergarteners via open enrollment will be confirmed by email on or before April 1st.

Kindergarten screening is a separate event that is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2021. You will schedule a timeslot during the registration process.

If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact Valerie Schuster at (440) 965-5381. More detailed information will be forthcoming.



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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AMHERST, OH
PERMIT NO. 117
POSTAL PATRON

Enrollment Timeline

February 1st

- Online open enrollment application is available for K-12 students. Out of district kindergarten parents must complete this process before March registration.
- Online confirmation of open enrollment status for returning students begins. This annual process is required for all open enrolled students after the first year.

March 1st

- Status notifications for open enrollment applications, Grades 1-12, are sent from Superintendent's Office.

March 2nd

- Registration through Final Forms is open for kindergarten only. Process can be completed online. This includes BOTH district residents and open enrollment applicants.

March 2nd & 3rd

- The Board of Education Office is open and staffed to assist kindergarten parents if needed. Location is 112 N. Lake St., South Amherst.

April 1st

- Status notifications for kindergarten open enrollment applications are sent from the Superintendent's Office.

April 12th

- Registration through Final Forms opens for grades 1-12. This includes BOTH district residents and open enrollment applicants.

May 19th

- Kindergarten Screening (Required). Time slot will be scheduled during March registration.

July 1st, Open enrollment ends.

Resources

Website with additional links:
https://www.firelandsschools.org/studentregistration_home.aspx

Open Enrollment Questions?

Call Sue Schaefer
Board of Education
440-965-5821 x. 1010
sschaefer@firelandsschools.org

Kindergarten Questions?

Call Valerie Schuster
School Counselor
Firelands Elementary School
440-965-5381 x. 2503

Construction Update

After many meetings and with the generous input of countless community members, staff and students the design of our new High School has been completed! Although it will be well over a year and a half before the building is completed, the renderings on page 9 provide a glimpse of what it will look like when it is finally finished.

Even with the holidays, work on the project did not stop. Over the break, First Energy installed a new utility pole along Vermillion Road and was able transfer their power cables from the old pole (which is in the way of our new high school construction) to the new

pole. Power to the high school, elementary and bus garage had to be shut down for a few hours to accomplish this work.

Also, over the holiday break the School Board approved another construction contract with our construction managers for the next phase of the work. This contract includes concrete and steel work for the new high school. We were very pleased that this GMP came in under budget and keeps the project right on schedule. As the weather begins to warm and spring approaches, keep your eyes on the construction site and you will start to see portions of the building rising out of the ground!



Artwork by Blake Beno, kindergarten student at FES, entitled "Snowman Resist."
More Falcon Art throughout this edition!

January is School Board Appreciation Month

The Firelands Local School District is fortunate to have a slate of board members who are committed to supporting our schools. On January 11th before the regular board meeting, the 2021 organizational meeting was held. Mike O'Keefe and Tom Myers retained their positions of President and Vice-President.

The board membership is rounded out by Dan Pycraft, Ben Gibson and Bob Danicki. The pandemic has brought them new experiences like Zoom meetings, and the construction of the new high school has allowed them to see the fruits of their labor after many years of collaboration and hard work.

Pictured below are Mike O'Keefe, Tom Myers, Ben Gibson, Dan Pycraft and Bob Danicki.

To follow the Board's work, you can find meeting minutes, board policies and more by visiting the website at <https://www.firelandsschools.org/BoardofEducation.aspx>.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education offices in South Amherst. Board meetings are always open to the public.

Please join us in thanking them for their commitment, dedication and service to the Firelands District!



France Trip Planned for 2022

Firelands High School students will have the chance to travel to France over Spring Break in 2022. Some of the locations that will be visited are Paris, Versailles, Chartres, Loire Valley, Mont Saint-Michel, Caen, and Normandy.

Students who will be a junior or a senior in 2022-2023 and who are enrolled in or have completed one of the following classes (French 2, Art 3, or Art History) are eligible to sign up for the trip. The estimated cost per student is \$3,230.

The trip was approved by the Board of Education at their November meeting. EF Educational Tours, the tour operator, has organized

educational travel experiences for over 55 years. FHS has used this company since 1985 for tours to Costa Rica, Spain and France.



Madame Jaime Rice, FHS French teacher, will be leading the trip. Madame Rice has been teaching French for over 15 years and has been to France four times. She also has extensive travel experiences throughout Europe, North America and the Caribbean.

An informational meeting was held in December and five students and two parents are already signed up. There will be a second informational meeting about the trip in the spring. Please contact Madame Rice for more information at jrice@firelandsschools.org.

OSHA 10 Credentials Awarded

Congratulations to all of the students in the Mechanical Principles class for earning their OSHA 10 Credentials.

OSHA 10 courses are designed to teach workplace safety and reduce jobsite hazards. OSHA 10-hour training courses are a way for students and workers to learn about hazard avoidance, workers' rights, filing an OSHA complaint and more. Students earned hard plastic wallet cards they can show to employers giving them a competitive edge as well as ensuring an understanding of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Firelands students scored higher than the state and national test score averages and had a 100% passage rate with no remediation needed!

Congratulations to all students in the Mechanical Principles class. These students will be applying for national CareerSafe scholarships using the information they learned in their online courses.

submitted by Shanna Finnegan



Pictured: Parker Frey was the first student to complete the full course and receive his credentials.

Addison Beal Wins 6th Grade Young Author Award



Pictured at right is Addison Beal who won the 6th grade Young Author Artist Award last school year.

Due to COVID, we were unable to celebrate her great accomplishment, but she is an outstanding author and talented artist.

Congratulations Addison!

submitted by Char Muth

FHS Art - see Page 10



Nature's Last Stand - Stained Glass by Dylan Taylor

SAMS Principal Updates

We now have scheduling complete for second semester. My goal was to cause as little disruption to all schedules as possible and I feel like we have been successful in accomplishing this. It has been a complete team effort from the custodial staff, teachers and office staff.

We are planning for 71% of our students to return to in person learning for the second semester which is up from 61% in the fall. We are excited to have more students in person!

I have been working with teacher teams to identify areas of weakness with students, beyond the typical testing data. In doing this, we are establishing some identifiable skills that we are deciding to work on as a building. Watch for more to come on this in the coming weeks. We are preparing for benchmark testing and looking forward to

seeing growth in our students.

As we prepare for students to start the second semester in a different environment, we will have orientation videos and opportunities for them to meet with the office staff to answer questions.

Our boys basketball season has begun and the boys are hoping for a full season. We are excited to support them as they bring us to victory.

We had a fun week leading up to winter break. It was amazing to see so many staff and students that were participating in spirit week. I think everyone loved the fun and festive atmosphere.

I cannot say enough about our amazing staff, parents and most of all students that have been taking every day in stride and focusing on learning.

*submitted by Cara Gomez
Principal, South Amherst MS*

Students Support Mill Manor Care Center for Holidays

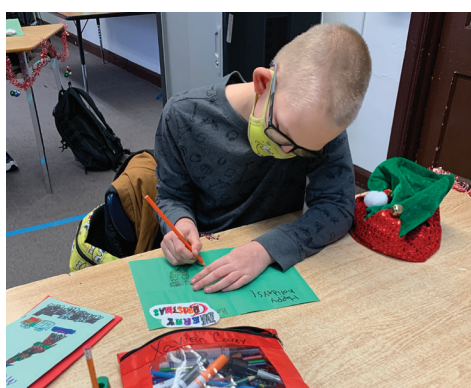
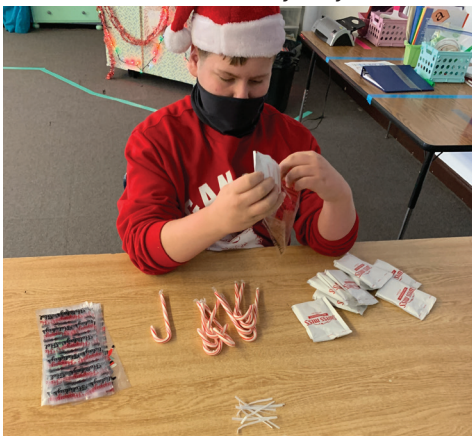
For the holiday season, Mrs. Morgan (FHS), Mrs. Rogers (FES), and Mrs. Ammar's (SAMS) classes completed a community project for Mill Manor Care Center.

The students learned how to plan a project, talked about people who are in need, and how they could use their abilities to help. The classes decided to create holiday cards for the residents. They learned that during these hard times, a holiday card could bring a smile to many people. Goodie bags with hot cocoa and candy canes were also given.

At SAMS, Mrs. Ammar's class joined the 7th and 8th grade choirs to sing three songs: Up on the Housetop, Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer, and Silent Night. All students learned how to use American Sign Language to Silent Night.

The students have enjoyed planning this project and creating cards to spread some holiday cheer.

submitted by Kaylee Ammar



Food Service News

Free meals: This is a reminder that USDA extended free meals to all students, regardless of need, through the end of the school year. All students may get a free breakfast and lunch every day. Alacart items including milk must be paid for.

This extension helps not only families, but the Food Service department as well. Did you know that the Food Service department is self-supporting? We do not use from the general fund to cover expenses. It is important for students to receive meals so we can continue to get the reimbursements for each meal sold.

The free meals are for remote learners as well as those in school.

Meal application/school fees: In order for school fees to be waived, you must complete a meal application and qualify for free meals. If you received a Direct Certification letter or already completed a meal application, no further action is required.

Online students: Information for meal pickup for all online students will be sent out soon for next semester. I will send a link to a Google survey to all online students. For those online students receiving meals now, you are all set through January 20th.

Second semester: All online families will need to complete the survey for the second semester if you wish to pick meals up for your child/children. Pick up will continue to be at South Amherst Middle School on Wednesdays. The times will continue to be 7:45 to 8:45 or 1:15 to 2:15. This time I am requesting that the survey be completed **every week by Friday at noon** for pick up the following Wednesday. This will help the Food Service staff to know how much to prepare.

The meals will be provided at no cost to you. We will provide 5 complete breakfast and lunches. Please email me or call with any questions. jbaumann@firelandsschools.org 440-965-5821 ext. 1011.

*submitted by Judy Baumann
Food Service Director*

COVID-19 Reminders

As all parents/guardians should all be aware, we have had several cases of COVID-19 in our schools. Every parent/guardian and staff member in the District receives notices and those that had possible exposures received a second letter from the building principal.

As a reminder, only Lorain County Public Health will issue quarantine information.

This is an important time to remind everyone that our district's safety protocols mitigate the possible need for mass quarantining.

These measures include:

- Facial Coverings
- Social Distancing
- Increased cleaning throughout the school day
- Daily parent/guardian symptom checks
- Handwashing

Our continued efforts, both at home and in school, are extremely important for in person education and the overall health and safety of everyone.

<https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/>
Phone: 440-322-6367
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Students Receive Donated School Supplies

Recently, The Road to Hope donated an extremely large amount of school supplies to Firelands Local Schools. The Road to Hope is a recovery program in Elyria that provides an abstinence-based, twelve-step environment. Part of their mission is to give back to the community.

In addition, The Friends of Firelands was also able to supply multiple bags of supplies to add to the outreach.

We were able to share these items with the online students who take part in the lunch program. They received bookbags, pouches and all types of school supplies. Lori Roemer, Director of Educational Services, is seen at right, passing out just a few of the donated school supplies during the meal pick up at SAMS!

Thank you to these generous organizations for taking care of our students!



Maybe Our Social Worker Can Help!

Deanna Watts, LSW, LSSW is a full-time social worker for our district. She explains her role here:

My main goal is to provide as much support as possible for our families, students, and school staff. As your school Social Worker, I can help provide and/or assist with:

- ☑ Mental Health Supports (Counseling services, individual, group, tele-therapy).
- ☑ Community Resources (Food pantries, financial assistance programs, COVID relief information).
- ☑ Kinship Care Resources (grandparent/guardian support systems).
- ☑ Liaison from home to school concerns (Online school issues, internet/hot spot help).

Please feel free to contact the school guidance counselor



or me directly via email or phone to discuss any concerns or to schedule a face-to-face or virtual meeting. Confidentiality and safety are my highest priorities.

Email: watts@esccl.org or dwatts@firelandsschools.org
Call or text: 440-334-8801

Academic Challenge 2020

After grueling try-outs, students were selected to be members of the 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade Academic Challenge teams. The team consisted of both in-person and online students.

These motivated, competitive students worked hard researching and studying a list of more than 20 topics to prepare for the Academic Challenge competition! They met after school twice per week beginning in early October, and also put in many hours independently outside of the group practices.

On competition day, each team was well-prepared to demonstrate their expertise, and they did not disappoint! Throughout the rounds, the teams worked well together to answer the most challenging

questions. We are very proud of the hard work, perseverance, and impeccable teamwork that these students demonstrated!

The members of the 5th/6th grade team include fifth graders Cole Deitz, Claire Hasley, Aaron Powers, and Zachary Radman as well as sixth graders Colin Elkin, Brody Schlechter, Maggie Tansey, and Justin Wagner. The members of the 7th/8th grade team include seventh graders Jordyn Simpson, Katie Smith, Daniel Kothe, Nathan Ludwig, Callie Finnegan, Neil Hein, and Logan Parker as well as eighth grader Connor Bass.

Congratulations to all on a job well done!

*Submitted by Teresa Dempsey
and Tasia Socha
Academic Challenge Advisors*

FALCON STRONG



FRIENDS OF FIRELANDS

Gift Card Drive

FRIENDS OF FIRELANDS WILL BE COLLECTING GROCERY STORE AND GAS GIFT CARDS FOR FIRELANDS FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

Donations can be sent to the secretaries in each building. At the end of the month, the counselors will distribute to Firelands families as needed. We appreciate your donations and support for our neighbors.

A Look Back at Falcon Athletics



As 2020 comes to an end, I think that all of us will take a few extra moments to reflect upon what will certainly be a year to remember. For many of us, reflecting back will force us to dwell on all of the negative things that occurred and be excited for the year to finally come to an end.

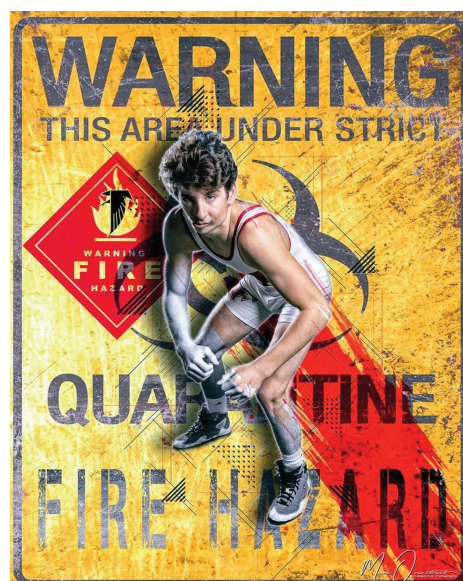
As I reflect back on 2020, I would like to remember all of the things that we as Falcons accomplished during the past 12 months, and all of the life lessons that we were able to learn together along the way. There have been so many opportunities to feel disappointment, sadness and loneliness over the past year. Those are all real things that we all felt and that made much of the year extremely difficult to navigate.

Let's take a look back through 2020 and celebrate all of our athletic accomplishments, individual growth and character building opportunities, as well as all of the life lessons that we learned together that will make this past year such an important year for the future success of all of us as Falcons.

January 2020 came in with an extreme amount of cold weather and snow giving us all a few snow days early on. We

would soon trade those snow days back in for the chance to spend time together with our teammates, classmates and coaches. Our girls' varsity basketball team led the way with an undefeated 14-0 season in the inaugural season of the new Lorain County League, winning the first LC8 championship of 2020. The Varsity Wrestling team followed suit in February as they took home the LC8 Tournament Championship behind a dominant performance by the most decorated wrestler in Firelands Falcon history, Payton Burgdorf. Payton continued his dominance in the month of February as he became a Sectional and District Champion at 126lb - only giving up a single point during his 8-0 journey to becoming the schools only 4 time OHSAA State Qualifier. That's when things took a bit of a turn and the "new normal" was ushered into all of our lives. While the Wrestling State Championships were cancelled, Payton was awarded the Division II 126lb OHSAA Virtual State Champion. All things considered, we'll take it.

From that point on we were not able to get back together as Falcons and restart athletics until June 2nd. That meant our



spring sports were cancelled and we were not able to see our boys track team defend its conference championship, or baseball team make a run in the state tournament, or see what could easily have been the most talented softball team in school history take the diamond for one last season.

June 2nd was like Christmas morning as it had been over 100 days since last time teammates gathered and trained together looking to bring individual and team success to the Falcon community. Seeing our athletes in person and hearing them banter with one another flashing their smiles under their masks reminded not only myself, but all of the coaches that were able to work with our athletes why we do what we do. Providing these student athletes the opportunity get back to some sort of "normal" is all that we set out to do, and the 120+ kids that signed up for summer strength and conditioning showed their commitment. No matter the protocol or procedure that we threw at these kids they adapted and adjusted to anything that was needed to continue the course and get back to competition.

Once fall sports were given the green light and we put back on the red, white and black our athletes showed that their

preparation and perseverance proved the difference. The boys varsity soccer team were crowned Champions of the LC8. While the girls' varsity soccer team, varsity football team, varsity

golf team and varsity volleyball team all finished 2nd in the LC8. Competing for conference championships is always a goal in Firelands Athletics. Accomplishing this success while coming off the most unique pre-season ever was something our athletes, coaches, parents and community can be very proud of. In spite of all of the turmoil happening all around our world, our football team used this opportunity to come together and have the most successful season in school history winning two OHSAA Playoff games and finishing the season 8-2. Not having a full complement of fans during this run was difficult, but I never heard a complaint from parents, only gratitude when they had the opportunity to watch their child compete. If nothing else, this pandemic taught all of us to never take for granted the opportunity to compete, practice, perform and cheer as a Falcon.

As we slowly begin to return to the "old normal" in the coming months, I will never forget the many opportunities to demonstrate great character in the face of adversity. 2020 never seemed easy, but it felt so rewarding reaching our goals under the circumstances. As the leader of Firelands Athletics for the past 5 years I have never been more proud of our coaches,

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

A Look Back ...

parents, staff and of course the athletes for being, what I felt, was the best community at adapting to change. Change is the one constant that we all have in our lives. Those that adapt and adjust to change and adversity in our daily lives will be the individuals that find the most success throughout their lives. If 2020 taught us nothing

else let's remember the lessons of gratitude, perseverance and resilience that we learned as a Falcon Athlete over the past 12 months. I am truly grateful and honored to serve each and every one of you and look forward to the continued success of the Falcon Nation in the years to come.

*submitted by Ty Stillman
Athletic Director*



2021-2022 District Calendar and Board Meeting Dates

The Firelands Local School District official calendar for 2021-2022 has been approved and is published on the school website. You can find it by going to <https://www.firelandsschools.org/> and clicking on "Calendar". Choose the 2021-2022 option from the drop down menu.

The Board of Education also approved board meeting dates for 2021: February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 15, and December 13. These meetings are always open to the public. More information is on the website under Board of Education.



FFA Partners with Ronald McDonald House Charities Again



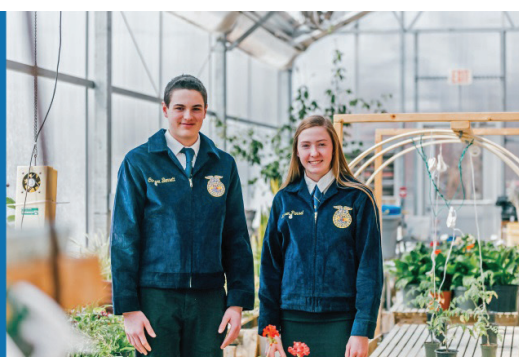
community
CLUNKER CLEANUP



(800) 332-8201

Give chapter code: OH0088 (Firelands) when donating!

Thank you for your support!



Get rid of those old, unused vehicles and farm equipment while benefitting Ronald McDonald House Charities.



Ohio FFA has partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio (RMHC) for a second year to create a statewide *Community Clunker Clean Up*. Ohio FFA chapters, including Firelands, are working to clean up their communities by removing and donating used vehicles and farm equipment to benefit RMHC. The Ohio FFA chapter that secures the most donations, of at least five vehicles, by April 1, 2021, will receive a \$10,000 prize, generously donated by Telhio Credit Union. *Firelands FFA was second place in Ohio last year by only one donation! Help Firelands FFA and Ronald McDonald House Charities by making a donation! Donations can be from anywhere in Ohio!*

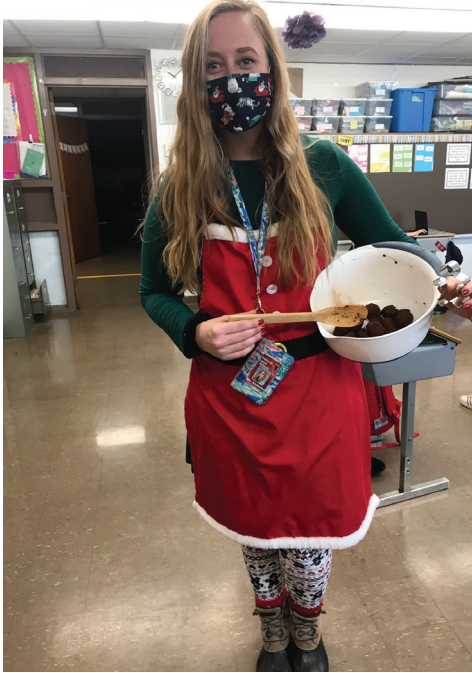
To support Firelands FFA, community members can call 800-332-8201 to schedule the pick up of their used vehicle

or equipment and use the promotional code (#OH0088) to ensure the donation is associated with the local FFA chapter. All car donations must be accompanied by the title of the car. Funds raised through auction of the donated item will directly support RMHC families. Donations may qualify for tax deductions.

"We encourage the Firelands community to share this opportunity with family and friends as every vehicle donated makes a life-changing impact," said Shanna Finnegan, FFA Advisor. "We were amazed at the support we had last year and couldn't believe how simple the donation process was. We are excited to help clean up our community again, while also helping more families in their time of need."

continued on page 9

Firelands Elementary School News & Photo Gallery



Second Grade Learns About Gingerbread

FES 2nd grade classes studied gingerbread during the month of December. Students read about the history, traditions and fun behind gingerbread. They got to smell the spices that make up gingerbread. They also read several books that were different versions of the “Gingerbread Man” story. Students also made story folders about a fiction book they read. All students made a non-edible spiced ornament to take home. A good time was had by all!



Exciting Traditions with Mrs. Dolnosich and Mrs. Hignett

The students in Mrs. Dolnosich and Mrs. Hignett's 2nd grade class did not skip a beat this past December. In second grade, it has been a tradition to build and decorate gingerbread houses using graham crackers, frosting, and candies. The students that are learning virtually were still able to experience this tradition. They instead made and decorated gingerbread houses using cardboard, glue, craft supplies, and anything else they might have at home that would help to make their gingerbread house complete! The students had a



great time sharing the creative ways that they decided to decorate their houses.

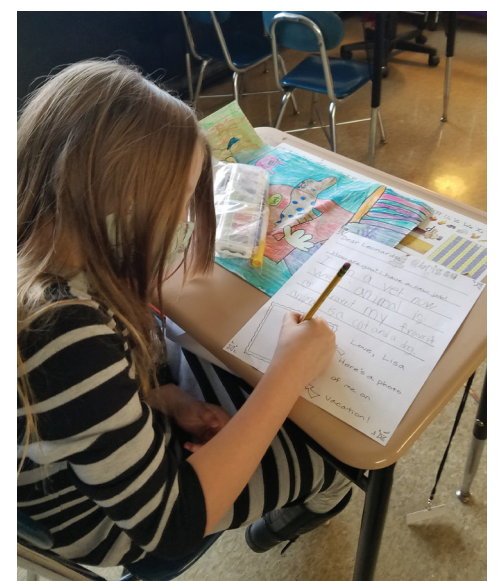
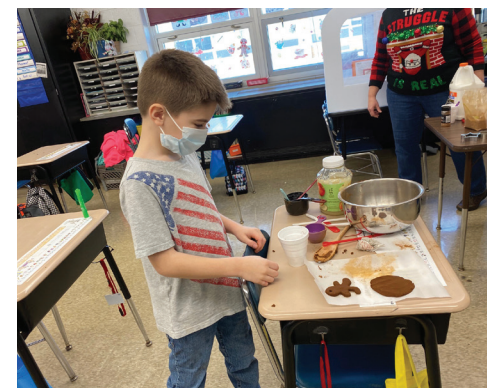
Before Winter Break, the students also worked on reading and writing about informational texts about Winter Traditions. Students were given a topic to read and learn about. The Winter Traditions topics included The German Christmas Pickle, The Gingerbread House, The Scotch Pine, and The Christmas Tree.

The students read their articles several times, highlighted the important facts in their articles, used a graphic organizer to organize their thoughts, and typed a final copy to display and share with their classmates! All of the students had a fun time learning about the different Winter Traditions!

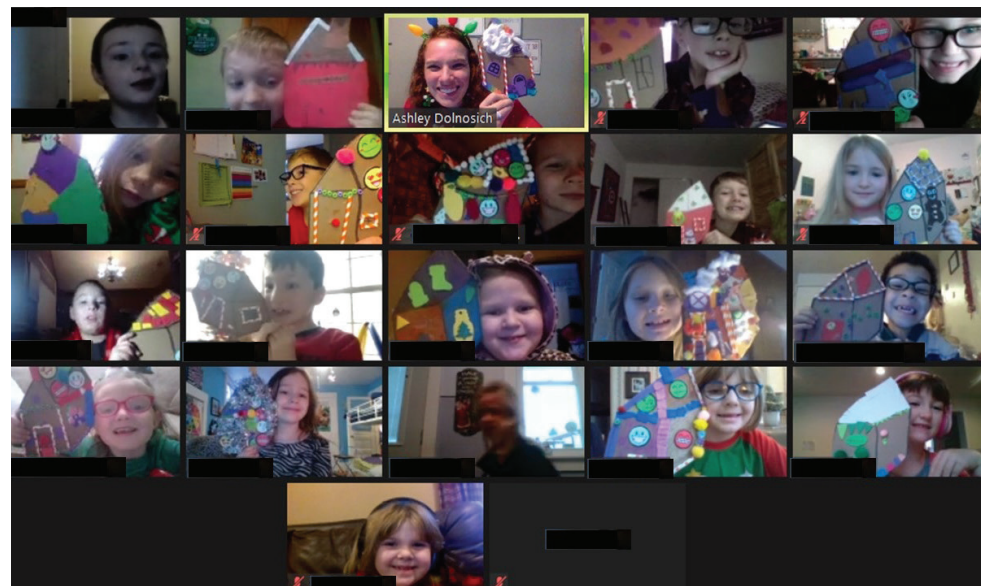
Not Forgotten Toy Collection

Thank you to the Firelands community for donating several hundred toys to the Chronicle Telegram's Not Forgotten Box collection!

We are so grateful to our in-person and online families who so generously provided toys for this collection. The donations helped make an exciting Christmas for many of our local children!



Above: 2nd grader Clarissa Miller with her Leonardo da Vinci letter.



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FES News & Photo Gallery

PBIS Rewards

Students at FES continue to earn Class Dojo points when demonstrating positive behavior within the classroom. They earn various rewards for their points. Rewards are distributed monthly. Many students have earned a bouncy ball and a shout-out on the morning announcement. Others have earned mystery bags of goodies and the pleasure of telling a joke to their class. Upcoming rewards include earning a Crazy Hair Day and the opportunity to have a show and tell to their class. If you know an FES Falcon, please ask them what rewards they have earned and what they are looking forward to.

FES Upcoming Dates

There are a few dates to remember for FES parents. There is no school on Monday, January 18 or Monday, February 15 due to holidays.

The end of second quarter is Friday, January 22. Second semester/third quarter begins Monday, January 25. At that time, students that selected to change their educational option will join their new class. During the end of January and beginning of February, students in all grades will be assessed through our district assessment (aimswebPlus) in the areas of reading and math. This information is considered by teachers when determining targeted interventions for their students.

Parent Teacher Group

Firelands Elementary is very lucky to have an active PTG (Parent Teacher Group). Parents of FES students are encouraged to become involved with this group. They meet monthly and find ways to further enrich the FES environment for all of our students. Their next meeting

will be February 4 at 6:30 via Zoom. A link will be shared as the meeting date approaches. Feel free to reach out to them to see how you can assist and hear more about how you can be involved during the 2020-2021 school year! You can find them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG) or on Twitter (@FESPTG).

*submitted by Laura Groboske
Assistant Principal*



Above: Kindergartner Ray Sebastian with alphabet painting.

These are the final architectural renderings for the new Firelands High School
(as noted on p. 2 in the Construction Update)



FFA Clunker CleanUp

continued from p. 7

FFA is a dynamic youth organization dedicated to providing students with premier leadership, personal growth and career success. FFA members are preparing for leadership roles in agricultural science, business and technology.

Firelands FFA is taking part in this charitable effort to help families in need while also teaching students the importance of lending a hand and giving back. Firelands FFA has 92 members who are part of the Ohio FFA Association made up of more than 25,000 members. Together, Ohio FFA chapters can make a collective impact to improve the quality of life for others while creating lasting leadership skills for their careers. More information is available at <https://ohioffa.org/foundation/programs/community-clunker-cleanup/>.

Open 365 days a year, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio gives families a home-away-from-home directly across the street from Nationwide Children's Hospital. The organization provides support for families of children who are hospitalized by providing the ability for their parents to stay near them. In addition to the Ronald McDonald House, RMHC operates a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in Central Ohio – a traveling medical clinic providing primary care to children who have a hard time getting to the doctor, as well as the Ronald McDonald Family Room at OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital. More information available at rmhc-centralohio.org.

For questions about Firelands's Community Clunker Clean up, please contact sfinnegan@firelandsschools.org
Shanna Finnegan
Agricultural Educator/FFA Advisor

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FHS Art Students Exhibit in 2021 Regional Show

The Lorain County Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition has been providing a program to recognize, exhibit and honor excellence in visual art from 7-12 grade students for over 50 years. This year has not changed that mission. Although the Stocker Center Gallery at LCCC is closed for the year, an exhibition will still be mounted - virtually.

The Lorain County region includes public and private middle and high schools from Lorain, Erie and Huron counties. 384 students entered nearly 1000 works from high schools and junior high schools from the area. Work was submitted and juried virtually. The judges were art and design professionals from northeast Ohio. Work was judged by originality, technical skill and emergence of personal vision and voice.

This has been an exceptionally challenging

year for art students overall. In-person art students at Firelands are working in a distanced studio with limited supply access this year. Online art students have the extra challenge of working in a hands-on class, remotely. All students had to photograph their own work and upload it into the unwieldy Scholastic system.

Firelands High School is so pleased to have entered 55 works from 24 hard-working students from Art 2 through AP Art & Design, including the Online Portfolio course. 16 works have been selected for the

exhibition! Placing among the 350 pieces in this show is like placing in "districts" in sports.

Students earn third place "Honorable Mention", second place "Silver Key" and the first place of "Gold Key". Those works earning a regional "Gold Key" here advance directly to *national* jurying in New York City this spring.

Gold Keys: Lydia Dougan, Christian Malicki, Amanda Mitchell and Delaney Overstreet.

Silver Keys: Violet Daley, Amanda Mitchell and Cohen Overstreet.

Honorable Mentions: Alyssa Baker, Jocelyn Bednar, Caden Boetticher, Violet Daley, Lydia Dougan, Alex Krebs, Amanda Mitchell, Delaney Overstreet and Dylan Taylor.

The virtual gallery, hosted on "kunstmatrix.com" will launch in January and close in April. A launch party will be held online. Awards will be distributed through the art teachers. More information to come.

*submitted by Laura Tawil
FHS Art Teacher*

Congrats Artists!

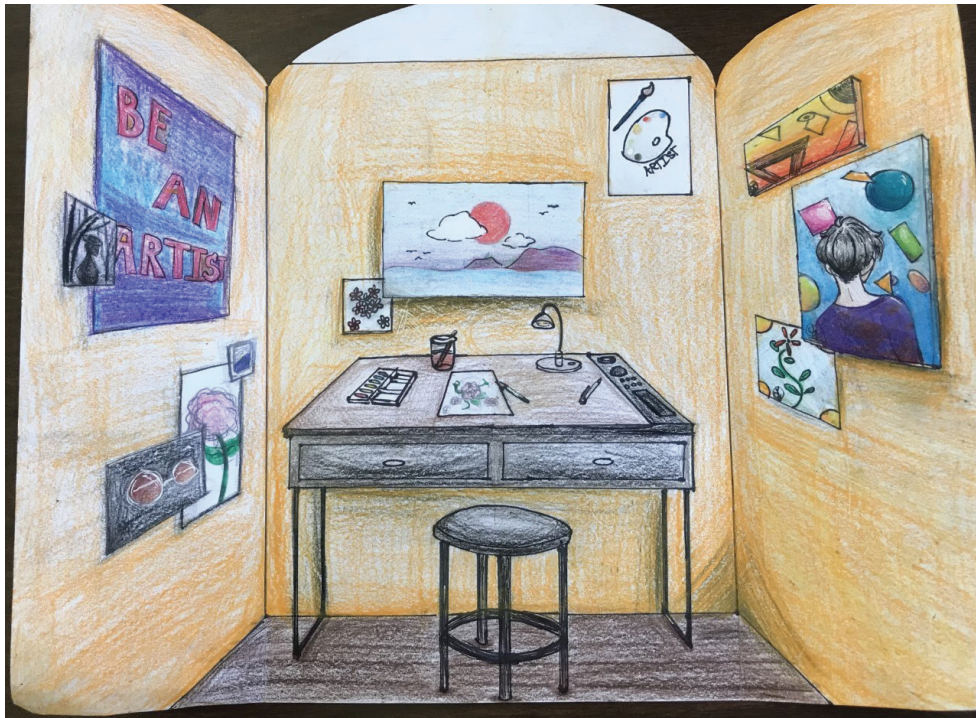
Works of art shown here, from left to right, are from Alex Krebs, Lydia Dougan, Delaney Overstreet, Caden Boetticher, Amanda Mitchell, and Christian Malicki.



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

SAMS Art Students Create with Colored Pencils

Submitted by SAMS Art Teacher Kacie Szemplak.



Clockwise from top:

Charlee Polen, Gr. 7, "My Career Gateway"; Autumn Buchanan, Gr. 8, "Analogous Animals"; Sarah Bartish, Gr. 6, "Texture Monsters"; Elijah Zidar, Gr. 8, "Magic Squares"; Kaitlyn Smith, Gr. 7, "Perspective Bedrooms".

Firelands Band Boosters General Membership Meetings

The Firelands Band Boosters' mission is to provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Programs in grades 5-12. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Currently, our program is meeting virtually through zoom to conduct our monthly business meetings. If you are interested in attending, please email the boosters at firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com, and we will provide you with the appropriate link.

The dates for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

January 19, 2021
February 16, 2021
March 16, 2021
April 20, 2021
May 18, 2021
June 15, 2021



**Firelands
Band
Boosters**



Visit

[www.firelandsschools.org/
ARTDEPARTMENT.aspx](http://www.firelandsschools.org/ARTDEPARTMENT.aspx)

for an amazing array of Art related resources for artists of all ages, including museums, apps, and more!

To visit the online art gallery for each Firelands school, go to the main website

www.firelandsschools.org

and click on each school link. Scroll down the middle of the page until you see the art gallery slideshow.

Enjoy!

The Firelands Express is published 9 times each school year by the Firelands Board of Education. The Board of Education can be reached at:
112 North Lake St.
S. Amherst, Ohio 44001

Main Office: 440-965-5821;
Treasurer's Office: 440-965-5701.

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

CEDARSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
12220 Gore-Orphanage Rd.
Wakeman, Ohio
Phone: 440/965-4660
Jane Bradford-Battig, D.V.M.
Leonard R. Battig, D.V.M.

The Comfort Zone
Salon & Spa
440-986-2520

Henrietta United Methodist Church
www.henriettaumc.org
"Pray for Our Children & Our Nation"
52148 S. R. 113 (Telegraph Rd.)
440-965-2400,
Worship Services:
9 a.m./11 a.m., Sunday School: 10 a.m.

**BUSINESS CARD
ADS WORK GREAT
AT 2 X 3.5 INCHES**

**9 ISSUES - \$360
OR JUST \$40
PER ISSUE!**

**YOUR LOGO
HERE!**

**CLASSIC AD
1 X 2 INCHES - 9 ISSUES
\$200 TOTAL**

Dewey Pelton
Septic Tank Cleaning
Pumping & Installation
440-965-8919
Go Falcons!

WATSON WELLNESS, INC.
Dr. Jeremy W. Watson, D.C.
Chiropractic Physician
162 Park Ave. Amherst OH 44001
440.452.7420
www.watsonwellness.net
watsonchiro@hotmail.com
[f/WatsonWellnessInc](https://www.facebook.com/WatsonWellnessInc)

DEICHLER'S... NOW THAT'S A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!

Full Service Auto Repair and Maintenance
Deichler's
Tire & Service Center
South Amherst 440-966-9701 www.deichlersofamherst.com
48487 TELEGRAPH ROAD IN SOUTH AMHERST

**FATHER AND SON
SEPTIC SERVICES**

**Septic & Aeration Systems
Cleaned, Installed & Repaired
Call (440) 965-5800**



Gary Dodson
(440) 320-6464



Thinking of
buying or selling?
Give us a call...
Free market
analysis!



Natalie Iafolla
(440) 308-7336

We are at your service, Firelands!



Steve Schmittle
Financial Advisor

20 South Main Street
Oberlin, OH 44074-1627
Bus. 440-775-4357 Fax 888-204-0358
TF. 800-755-4944
steve.schmittle@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**NEW CONSTRUCTION:
BUSINESS/SERVICES**

Material Inquires:

Call BSHM or email: <http://www.bshm-architects.com/>

BSHM Architects – Columbus Office:
1020 Goodale Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43212
614.447.9770

BSHM Architects – Youngstown Office
15 Central Square
Suite 300
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
330.744.4401

Work on the job: Mark Barr at OFCC:
Ohio Facilities Construction Commission
Mark Barr, Project Manager
30 W. Spring St., 4th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
330.425.3480 or 614.466.6290
mark.barr@ofcc.ohio.gov



Peggy Karolak Ins Agcy Inc

Peggy Karolak, Agent
805 Patriot Drive, Suite C
Wellington, OH 44090-1302
Bus 440-647-4600 Fax 440-647-3777
peggy@peggykarolak.com



The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.

LEWIS FARMS
"OHIO RAISED BEEF"



**CUSTOM FREEZER BEEF
BEEF BUNDLES**

49293 PLATE ROAD
OBERLIN 44074
440-653-3332

**1/4 OF A PAGE - 5.5 X 5 INCHES
\$150 PER ISSUE**

or

**1/8 OF A PAGE - 5.5 X 2.33 INCHES
\$100 PER ISSUE**

**EVEN MORE ROOM FOR YOUR BUSINESS
OR ORGANIZATION TO SHARE INFORMATION
WITH THE FALCON COMMUNITY!**



The Transportation Dept.
is currently seeking individuals
looking for employment as
substitute bus drivers.

Please go to the
Transportation page on the
website for more information.
<https://www.firelandsschools.org/Transportation.aspx>.

You can also call Milt Saylor
at 440-965-4105 x.5001.