



The Firelands Express



Volume 13, Issue 109

January 2023

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.



Mock Trial Experience

Students in Mrs. Dempsey's 5th grade gifted ELA class recently participated in a mock trial experience at the Lorain County Justice Center. In the courtroom, the students were attorneys, witnesses, a bailiff, and members of a jury.

Students worked hard to prepare, learning legal terminology, the parts of a trial, how to question a witness through both direct and cross examination, discovering and supporting facts and evidence, public speaking, and more!

Judge Melissa Kobasher presided over the trial and took time afterward to talk with students about careers in law. What a rewarding way to learn about our judicial system and about future career possibilities!

Kindergarten Registration

Fall 2023 kindergarten registration begins March 1st for district residents and open enrollment applicants. Families can prepare for this process by having ready the following documents.

1. Parent or guardian identification cards
2. Birth certificate of kindergarten student
3. Up to date immunization list for kindergarten student
4. Two proof of residency documents, such as utility bills

Other documents that may be needed include any custody papers, special needs documentation, or residency affidavits for renters. See page 2 for more information on enrollment.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Panel Discussion to be Held January 25th

We are sorry to note that we recently have seen an increase in peer-to-peer disrespectful behavior and actions in Firelands Schools. As a result, the climate and culture of our learning environment has been negatively impacted. While these actions represent a fraction of our students, as a school district we cannot ignore this concern. Firelands is a compassionate community that has proven time and again that we gather to both celebrate victories and support each other through difficult times.

In an effort to bring awareness to this issue, the Firelands Local School District will be hosting a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion panel for the community on January 25, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the auxiliary gymnasium at Firelands High School.

Building an empathic, respectful, and inclusive community is a vital part of our future. This important discussion will allow us to share firsthand experiences that will support our efforts to reach these goals. In addition, we have expanded our relationship with the Effective Leadership Academy, through which we currently offer leadership training for students in grades 6 and 9 at Firelands Schools. This program is designed to build a more empathic, respectful, and inclusive culture in our high school and now will be expanded during the second semester to include all our high school students.

We are pleased to welcome back several alumni panelists as well as community members that have agreed to be a part of this important discussion on January 25. Students, staff, community members and alumni are encouraged to attend this important event.

You're Invited to a:



Diversity & Inclusion Panel

January 25th: 6:30 pm ~ FHS Auxiliary Gym



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

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FFA Parli Pro Teams Qualify for District Contest

Congratulations to the Firelands FFA Parliamentary Procedure Teams that qualified for the district contest at Hillsdale and competed at Mapleton High. The senior team earned 3rd in district, narrowly missing a trip to the state contest. Team members were Olivia McGrath, chairperson; Allison Tuggle, secretary; and members Jocelyn Bednar, Lilly Chenoweth, Ruth Howells, and Kyleigh Klingshirn. Alternates were Ryan Campana and Jeanette Crawford.

Congratulations to the novice team that earned 4th in district

and missed a trip to the state contest by less than 10 points! Team Members were President Marshall Ternes, president; Callie Finnegan; vice-president; Kayla Aslaksen, secretary; Addison Beal, treasurer; Jordyn Simpson, reporter; Micah Lee, secretary; Trevor Wiley, student advisor; and member Jocelyn Wyatt and alternate Emma McGrath.

Congratulations on your successes this year, you have made Firelands proud.

*submitted by Mrs. Shanna Finnegan
FHS Agricultural Educator*



Above: Smiling faces at the annual Holiday Preview program. Thanks to all who participated!

Holiday Generosity

Thank you to all of our community members who helped donate items and funds to all of the K-12 holiday giving initiatives! We are so proud of all the hard work by the students to make these drives successful. We also appreciate the generosity of everyone who participated. For a full recap with lots of photos, please see the December 21st Firelands Blog entry on our website.

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. There is limited space for open enrollment.
- 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

- Registration through Final Forms opens for kindergarten. Process can be completed online. This includes BOTH district residents and open enrollment applicants.
- Status notifications for open enrollment applications, Grades 1-12, are sent from Superintendent's Office.

- Registration for accepted open enrollment students, Grades 1-12, will begin through Final Forms.

March 1st & 2nd

- The Board Office in South Amherst is open and staffed to assist kindergarten parents if needed. Times are 8:00-3:00 on March 1st, and 3:30-7:00 on March 2nd.

April 3rd

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

May 17th

- Kindergarten Screening at FES. (Required). Your screening time slot will be scheduled during March registration.

Open Enrollment Starts Feb. 1

The application process for open enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year will begin on February 1, 2023 at 7:30 a.m. At that time, the online application will go live and parents and guardians can begin applying through the website for limited open enrollment slots. The application is a Google form that is linked at the bottom of the "Student Registration" page of the www.FirelandsSchools.org website.

Open enrollment space is given on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of slots we can offer depends on our current enrollment. Parents will be notified of acceptance or denial no later than the end

of March. Accepted students in grades 1-12 can be registered online as soon as they receive notification. We will not be able to project the amount of kindergarten open enrollment slots until after the March registration period for district kindergartners. More information about kindergarten registration will follow in the next issue of the Express.

More information about all types of enrollment and registration requirements is posted on the "Student Registration" section of the Firelands website. If you have questions, please contact the board office at 440-965-5821 x.1010.

We are looking for alumni news to share with the community! If you or someone you know has news that you wish to share with the community, email it to sschaefer@firelandsschools.org.

THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Veterans Honored at FES

On November 11th, the 4th grade students presented their annual Veterans Day program for honored guests. Our students worked extremely hard to learn about our veterans and the different branches in which they served. Fourth grade students had the opportunity to invite veterans to the program. Those in attendance were seated in chairs that were draped in white and tied with red or blue bows. Mums adorned with flags were placed in the hallways and around the seating area. The teachers and students decorated the gymnasium and hallways to add to the show of support for the invited special guests.

The students started the program by singing a song that thanked the veterans for their services. From there, selected groups recited important information about Veterans Day and about life dedicated to service.

Principal Choe, the emcee of the event, read information about all of the invited guests. 29 veterans were recognized at the program. 21 additional veterans were recognized but were unable to attend. Lastly, 42 deceased veterans were also recognized.

After names were read (with a brief recap of their service) each veteran received a small token of appreciation from the student that extended the invitation.

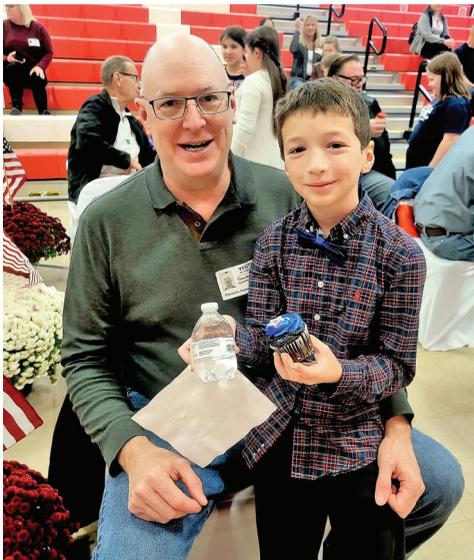
Two of our high school students, Aubrynn Reichle and Julianna Perkins volunteered to play taps for the event. These two individuals have been playing for many years and happily participated in the program.

After the program was complete, students were able to serve their guests a treat and take pictures!

A lot of practice and planning went into this event. Our fourth grade team is honored to share with our students just how important it is to thank our veterans! We are extremely proud of our students!!

The Veterans Day program is a large undertaking that is greatly appreciated! FLSD is happy to recognize the following individuals who made the event possible: 4th grade teachers - Mrs. Hertick, Mrs. Kerestury, Mrs. Scalli, Mrs. Skiles; and Mrs. Socha; Mrs. Williams, Intervention Specialist; Mrs. Woods, FES Music Teacher; Mr. Prihoda and Ms. Bayus, FES Student Teachers; Mrs. Choe, Principal and emcee; Mrs. Groboske, Assistant Principal; Mr. Baumhauer, Physical Education Teacher; Mrs. Hozalski, Mrs. Dalton, and Mrs. Bremke; Firelands Elementary PTG, Sponsor; and Mr. Kerestury, Sponsorship.

*from the Firelands Blog
Jennifer Butchko*



FMS Team Leads Conference



The Falcons 8th grade girls basketball team ended its regular season with a record of 14-2. The team had a habit of starting games slowly, but really heated up in the second halves of games.

In conference play the Falcons defeated Wellington twice, Oberlin twice, and Clearview twice, Columbia twice, Brookside twice, Black River twice. The Falcons lost to Keystone twice.

In non-conference play the team defeated New London and Vermilion.

The Falcons were the 2nd seed for the LC8 tournament. The Falcons beat Black River in the first round and in the semifinals defeated Wellington. The Falcons then faced #1 seeded Keystone in the Championship game.

The Falcons came ready to play and jumped out to an early lead due to some great defense and excellent shooting. The Wildcats made a run at the end of the first half, but the Falcons took a 17-13 lead into halftime. The Falcons had a strong third quarter and took a 29-21 lead into the 4th. The Wildcats clawed their way back to within one point, but the Falcons were able to withstand the run made

by Keystone. Final score 35-34.

The final season record was 17-2. They were 16-0 when scoring 30 points or more and 1-2 when scoring less than 30.

The girls played tough all year long and never gave up, scrapping their way back in some games and persevering some runs by other teams to pull out the wins. They learned to close out games in the right fashion. I am very proud of the way they have handled themselves. They were a great group to coach and made practice fun and interesting at times. They improved tremendously as the season progressed. Working on individual skills and getting quality shots up in the off-season will make them that much better next year. This group has the ability to strengthen the program if they continue to work on all the aspects of basketball in the off-season.

On the team this year were: Macy Paller, Stella Frederick, Amalee Caldera, Morgan Adkins, Dilynn Copley, Emmy Lehman, Lulu Maloney, Kate Yakunovich, Alydia Sonner, and Josie Kirby.

A big Thank You to Preston Kirschner for doing our scorebook all year.

*submitted by Mr. Ty Grude
FMS Teacher & Coach*

Many Opportunities at FMS



Time seems to be flying at Firelands Middle School. Our staff and students have been very busy!

Our after-school program is going well and students are getting the opportunity to participate in things like crafts, martial arts and more. We have many clubs that students have been enjoying. Our Ag Club started with over 40 students, and they have speakers coming in to discuss different varieties of apples soon. Chess Club, Book Club, Student Council, Announcement Club, and Academic Challenge are all going strong. Pictured above is the 6th Grade Middle School Book Club whose members created a story quilt for the book *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Congratulations to our 8th grade girls basketball team and Coach Ty Grude for a phenomenal season! We are proud of your work ethic, perseverance and grit!

Our first band concert was a success, and it is always amazing to hear the growth between the three grade levels. Our Holiday Choir Concert was held on December 7th and it was festive as always, including visits from both Santa and the Grinch!!

In early December, we held a Family Night in conjunction with the PTG which featured a

make your own ornament station, cookies, hot cocoa, pictures with Santa, and a Santa Shop where students could buy gifts. The evening was a festive way to usher in the holiday season.

Our Effective Leadership Academy wrapped up their 10-week program with our 6th graders. Through their Transitions model, they focused on key success skills such as realizing the importance of first impressions, learning to become an iconoclastic thinker, developing a deeper understanding of who they are, and recognizing and becoming advocates for their learning styles. Students were given a pre and post test to determine their growth in those areas. At the beginning of the year, students reported having limited prior knowledge of the reflected concepts. By the end of programming, students achieved an average of 83% mastery.

Our boys' basketball teams have started, and we wish them the best of luck for a wonderful season.

This year is nearly halfway complete and there is so much work still to be done. We are looking forward to the second half of the year. Welcome to 2023 and Happy New Year!

*submitted by Mrs. Cara Hutchinson
FMS Principal*

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Firelands Middle School Students Photo Gallery



Students Volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank



The cross categorical classes at the middle school (Mrs. Ammar) and high school (Ms. Guthrie) volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank. Students bagged and packed over 40 boxes of oranges.

New School Resource Officer

FLSD is pleased to introduce our new School Resource Officer, Deputy Trifieltti! Deputy Northeim has left to pursue a different career and we wish him the best of luck with his new adventure!

Deputy Trifieltti comes to Firelands with 17 years of Law Enforcement experience. He started his career in 2004 at The Sheffield Village Police Department under his father who served as a Lieutenant and had over 30 years of Law Enforcement experience. After his time with Sheffield Village he was hired at the Lorain County Sheriff's Office in July of 2005.

Deputy Trifieltti worked the Road Patrol and then served as a Community Resource Deputy for 2 years in New Russia Township. His next stop was on the K-9

partner Brix. The last five years he was a D.A.R.E. Officer with Lorain and Elyria City schools.

Deputy Trifieltti said that he "looks forward to being a part of the Firelands community and is happy to work with students and staff!"



Welcome to Firelands Deputy Trifieltti!

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
Public Relations*

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Firelands Elementary School News & Updates

Head Start & Readiness Skills

The Firelands Head Start teachers use the Learning Without Tears curriculum to strengthen their pre-reading and writing skills. Pictured on the right, they are working with Mat Man, which is used to teach readiness skills such as size recognition, placement, and sequence skills.

As an added bonus, some of our students have gone from scribbles to drawing a person in just a couple of weeks! For more information about Head Start at Firelands, call 440-965-6130.

Holiday Giving Successes

FES students had a lot to give in December!

Coats for Kids collected over 125 coats, hats and mittens. Over 500 toys, books, games, and craft items were donated to the Not Forgotten Box. FES Falcon Leaders did a great job of collecting toys each morning.

Caleb Bednar, grade 5, is a Falcon Leader and recently assisted by reading an announcement for the building about The Not Forgotten Box toy drive. (pictured top right)

FES Falcon leaders will also help with a district wide food drive in January. The FFA and FMS agricultural education classes will be leading efforts to stock our local food pantry and Second Harvest.

Elementary Artists

Pictured at right are some of the amazing pieces our fifth

graders have been working on. From left to right: Molly Tansey (Deer); Alexa Leimbach (Palm Trees); Raegan Beck (Football Player.)

First Grade Artists worked hard to complete these collage self-portraits below! The artists dyed their backgrounds using tissue paper, then used scrap paper, scissors, and glue to create their likeness.

FES 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.

They are actively planning events for the students. Feel free to reach out to them to see how you can assist. You can find them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG).

Their scheduled meetings will be held on the first Wednesday

of the month at 6:30 in the FES Library.

Dates to Remember

Feb. 1.....PTG Meeting
 Feb. 8..... 5th Grade Band Concert
 Feb. 13.....BOE Meeting
 Feb.14.....Valentine's Day Class Parties
 Feb.16..... Parent Teacher Conferences
 Feb.20..... President's Day (No School)

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Groboske
 FES Assistant Principal*



Pre-Apprenticeship Program Debuts at FHS

As part of the new graduation requirements in the State of Ohio, students need to show they are prepared for a career pathway after graduation. The three options would be enrollment, employment, or enlistment. In order to prepare our students for gainful employment we have applied and have been approved for a Pre-Apprenticeship program in Certified Manufacturing Associate (CMfgA) Certification teaching basic technical and job-readiness skills for several apprentice occupations in Lorain County. We have teamed up with Lorain County Community College (LCCC) and Lorain County Manufacturing Sector Partnership (LCMSP) to offer our juniors and seniors in the career connection and CBI work program this life-changing opportunity.

The Certified Manufacturing Associate (CMfgA) is an industry certification focused on basic manufacturing concepts, demonstrating an individual's potential for high-demand, entry-level manufacturing roles.

Covering fundamental topics such as shop math, assembly, maintenance, machining, inspection, and more, this industry-driven certification demonstrates that the individual has basic knowledge of manufacturing and may be an ideal candidate for entry-level manufacturing employment.

The Certified Manufacturing Associate offers an initial step into a technology-rich industry filled with opportunities for continued growth and advancement into higher level positions. After earning the CMfgA, students will have the opportunity to work in industry and based on performance could be chosen to continue in an established apprenticeship programs leading to advanced technical certifications, more money, and a fulfilling career.

Questions regarding this exciting new partnership should be directed to program administrators Dr. Zimmer or Mr. Kovi.

*submitted by Mrs. Jennifer Butchko
from the Firelands Blog*

What's the Kindness Closet?

Did you know that FLSD has a Kindness Closet? It is located in the middle school, but it serves all of our students. Some of the items on hand include backpacks, coats, shoes, socks, hats, gloves, clothing and toiletries.

If your child is in need of items, please email Deanna Watts, FLSD Social Worker at dwatts@firelandsschools.org. There is no charge associated with the Kindness Closet.

If you would like to donate items, please contact Deanna first to see what the highest need is. Thank you to all who have helped support this initiative!

FIRELANDS KINSHIP NETWORK

- supports guardians who are raising grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or foster children
- provides information, resources, opportunities, support and networking
- meets February 10, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the board office in South Amherst

For more info contact dwatts@firelandsschools.org

Technology Internship Expanded for 2022-2023



Amy Matotek, Director of Technology, is pleased to have Bryant Szilagyi continue his summer internship into the school year. Bryant is a senior at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School and works three days a week in the Technology Department. His main focus is on help desk tickets and Chromebook repair.

Firelands FFA

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RAFFLES

LIVESTOCK CLINICS

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THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

Firelands High School News & Updates

The Firelands FFA, Tri-M Music Society, and Teen Leadership Corp want to thank all students in 6th through 12th grades that brought in donations for Ronald McDonald House and Lorain County Toys for Tots. There were 1098 donations collected! Congratulations to the top four winners of the donation challenge! In 1st place with 70 donations was Ms. Clark's class. Closely behind in 2nd was Mr. Hertensteiner's class with 68 donations. In 3rd place, Mrs. Finnegan's class had 37 donations. Mr. O'Rourke's class rounded out the top 4 with 33 donations. Thanks to all of our students for making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Congratulations to the Firelands FFA Greenhands that applied for the Ohio FFA Beck's Hybrids Blue Jackets grant program. We are pleased to announce that six greenhands earned their FFA jackets through the program. Congratulations to Audrey Smith and Emma McGrath, their jackets sponsored by Beck's Hybrids. FFA Alumna, Jess Zurcher, sponsored jackets won by Charlee Polen and Jeanette Crawford. Callie Finnegan and Jordyn Simpson won jackets from Alumnus, Don Daniels, at Centerra Co-op.

On November 18th, we held our winter sports pep rally at the end of the day. We also held our 1st annual Powderbuff volleyball game where the staff fell to the seniors! The seniors were rewarded with a pizza lunch. The staff team is pictures in the center.

Students in Mrs. Guthrie's class prepared a Thanksgiving feast for the administration and office staff as a thank you for all that that do. (Pictures at top center.)

The Broadcasting class has



a YouTube channel. Students and teachers are doing a great job learning many new skills. Go to YouTube and search on "Firelands News Network."

Mrs. Notarberardino's English IV class used endowment grant funds for a trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art. They explored artistic representations of epic heroes after reading about three epic heroes from various cultures. (Pictured above.)

As the Class of 2023 prepares for graduation, seniors in English IV will be working on a project to earn the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal as a state requirement for graduation. To earn the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal, motivated high school students must demonstrate specific professional skills required for success in the workplace. Students must work

with at least three experienced and trusted mentors who validate the demonstration of these skills in school, work or the community. We are looking for community members who would be interested in mentoring our students in practicing and developing these skills. If you are interested, please contact Megan Notarberardino at 440-552-6388 ext. 410108 or mnotarberardino@firelandsschools.org.

The Honors Choir had the privilege of performing at Playhouse Square on December 16th as the opening act before the performance of *A Christmas Carol*. They did an amazing job.

Student Council hosted a Winter Wonderland event for students on the last day before break. Students followed a shortened bell schedule in the morning and then were able to select an activity for the last 90 minutes of the day. They chose from watching a movie, attending open gym, cookie decorating, coloring/card making, and playing Mario Kart. A good time was had by all!

We are excited to announce that we will have the doors at the west entrance open during games and events for our handicapped and elderly guests. Please park in the west parking lot on Vermilion Road. As a reminder, senior citizens get in free to all home events.

We are selling lanyards to raise money for our PBIS rewards programs. This will help us fund things like Fabulous Falcon and our weekly rewards. They are \$6 each or 2 for \$10. They will be sold at all home basketball games near the ticket table. The lanyards are double sided as shown to the left.

submitted by Mrs. Cathy Keener
FHS Principal





lcjvs.com

Apply Now for
the 2023/2024
school year!



Successful Fundraiser by JVS Students for Blessing House

The Lorain County JVS Early Childhood Education FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) Chapter recently hosted a pajama party fundraiser to benefit the Blessing House of Lorain County. This two-part event collected 116 pairs of pajamas that will be delivered to children in our local communities.

The Blessing House, located in Elyria, helps families in crisis by providing shelter for children and support for their families.

According to Sarah Francis, an Early Childhood Education junior from Firelands, there were two opportunities to collect pajamas. "The first was a pajama party for Lorain County JVS preschoolers to attend and the cost for that event was a pair of pajamas."

The second opportunity was at Powers Elementary School in Amherst, where Early Childhood Education students volunteered

at their Secret Santa Shop event, and attendees could donate pajamas for the fundraiser.

Francis shared why the Blessing House was selected as this year's recipient of the fundraiser efforts. "We have students here at LCJVS that have been supported by the Blessing House, and together as a class we felt it was a good cause to support."

"It feels really good knowing that we are helping people out," said Chloe Parsons, Early Childhood Education junior from Firelands. "Being able to give pajamas to kids that don't have any, or need new ones, makes you feel good."

Lorain County JVS is now accepting applications for the 2023/2024 school year. Learn more and apply today at www.lcjvs.com.

*submitted by Cheryl Fridenstine
PR/Marketing Coordinator
Lorain County JVS*



Chloe Parsons and Sarah Francis, LCJVS Early Childhood Education juniors, smile with pairs of donated pajamas.

Board of Education December Meeting Highlights

The board was presented with the highlights of the FHS Flex Factor by FHS teacher, Carol London. Details can be viewed on the [FIRELANDS NEWS NETWORK](#) on YouTube. Bus driver of the year Stacy Studstill was recognized and celebrated.

All of the highlights from November/December building activities can be found in the administration reports posted with the board meeting agendas [online](#). Judy Baumann, food service director, stressed the importance for families to take advantage of the free and reduced lunch program. Applications can be located on the [food service web page](#) and can be filled out anytime of the year and especially if families'

Food Service Information

Meal applications can be completed anytime during the school year. If you have an income change or loss of job, you can complete an application.

Direct Certification letters: If you received a letter saying your child qualified for free meals, it is very important you return the letter for instructional fees to be waived. Fees are not automatically waived.

Negative Meal Accounts: We have many accounts that have gone into the negative. Please reach out if you need help. Complete a meal assistance application even if you are unsure if your children would qualify. It is very important that accounts have a positive balance.

Menus: Download the Falcon App for easy access to *my school menus*. You can also go to [www.myschoolmenus.com](#). Click on a menu item to see the nutritional for that item. Menus are subject to change daily due to unforeseen circumstances.

circumstances change.

Board member Dan Pycraft shared that the Endowment committee has approved \$15,820.00 in teacher grants that will be awarded to teachers in January.

Superintendent Mike Von Gunten highlighted the Holiday Preview, the staff who put efforts into its success, the talented students that performed, the TLC students for their efforts, the great food from The Nest, the funding provided by Friends of Firelands, and the wonderful turnout from local senior citizens and retired staff members.

The Kinship Network program was discussed. It has been supporting grandparents, aunts, uncles, and foster parents who have custody of students.

We offer **ala carte** items at all schools. Ala carte items can be purchased in addition to a school meal or by themselves. The prices vary.

Pay Schools Central [www.payschoolscentral.com](#) allows you to complete a meal application, make online payments to your child's account, and use the reporting system to see purchases and balances.

Account payments can be made with cash, check or online. Make checks payable to Firelands Local School (Food Service in memo). For FES only, please send payment in a zip lock baggie or envelope with the student's name.

We need subs! If you are interested in subbing in our kitchens, please contact Sue Schaefer for information.

Questions?
Contact Mrs. Judy Baumann,
Food Service Director
440-965-4255 ext. 3097

Contact Mrs. Deanna Watts at dwatts@firelandsschools.org for more information.

He also discussed the finality of the sale of and transfer of the South Amherst building and property to IRG. The current central office is under contract for free rent, but responsible for utilities until a future move towards the Vermilion Road campus. The district will be participating in the Effective Leadership Academy. A flooring issue in the new high school has been resolved with the

manufacturer and in addition to a refund, floor replacement will occur during the 2023 summer break. Finally, Howard Park, a 22 year employee as a custodian, will retire in January. He will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his retirement.

The next four board meetings are February 13, April 17, May 15, and June 12. For meeting agendas, minutes, policy and member info, go to <https://www.firelandsschools.org/BoardofEducation.aspx>.

*submitted by Mrs. Ellen Gundersen
Firelands Board of Education Member*



Pictured above are school board members, from left to right, Ben Gibson, Tom Myers (vice-president), Ellen Gundersen, Mike O'Keefe (president), and Dan Pycraft. Each year, the Ohio School Boards Association designates January as School Board Recognition Month, to bring awareness to the important role that school boards play in our community and schools. We appreciate their efforts and all they do for us!



 **School Board** 
Recognition Month
JANUARY 2023



THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

FLSD Winter Weather Policy

Several predictions have already been made as to how our winter will play out! NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) predicts wetter than normal conditions. While local meteorologists agree, they tend to predict a battle of below normal temperatures and a very early start to the bitter cold with average snowfall and cold rain mix.

Poor weather conditions can be difficult for parents and the school system. To best prepare for the season, we will again share information regarding our district's policy for closing or delaying school due to inclement weather. The Superintendent may close the school, dismiss students early or delay the opening of school in the event of hazardous weather.

Normal procedure for inclement weather conditions are as follows: Road and facility monitoring begins as early as 4:00 am or in some cases, the day before a front arrives. The superintendent and fleet

operations manager work together to determine if a weather delay or closure is necessary. Road conditions, building and grounds conditions, air temperature and weather forecasts are all taken into consideration. Typically delays or cancellations are announced between 5:15 – 6:15 am. In some cases, a closure can occur the night before but most often a final decision is made in the early morning hours on the day of the closure or delay.

As a reminder, we must comply with minimum hours of instruction each year. The district may extend its school year if the school closes enough that it approaches the minimum instructional hours of required time. If necessary, calamity make up days begin June 7th. You can find these dates listed on the district calendar.

In the event we alter a school day due to the weather, FLSD will post information on the district website, FirelandsSchools.org, and Twitter accounts: @FLSDSuper and @Falcon_Update. We will also post on the Firelands Falcons Facebook page, School All-Call and/or district email, local media outlets and the Firelands Local Schools App (download app from your play store).

It is important that children are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. If you are in need of assistance securing winter items for your child please contact our social workers, Mrs. Watts at dwatts@firelandsschools.org or Ms. Ashley Blair at ablair@firelandsschools.org.

Please note that it is very important to make sure that your current email address and telephone number is available through Final Forms. Our database must be current in order for parent or guardian calls/emails to be initiated. If you need to update contact information please do so through the parent portal here.

Two Hour Delay: If a two hour delay is called, school buses will start picking up students two hours later than their normal pick up. The SAFE Program at FES will not be open in the am. There will be no transportation to the Early Learning Center. All in person students will begin their school day two hours later than the normal

bell schedule. The dismissal time will remain the same. FHS and FMS students may have a schedule change. If that were to happen, the principals will share the schedule change.

*from the Firelands Blog
Mrs. Jennifer Butchko*

We Need Substitutes!

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Next Board of Education meetings:
February 13
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