



# The Firelands Express



Volume 11, Issue 93

March 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.

## Firelands High School Winter Sports Wrap-Up

During the winter season at Firelands High School, wrestling, girl's competitive and sideline cheer, girls and boys basketball, girls and boys bowling and gymnastics were all offered. We are thankful to have been able to hold inside sports during the pandemic, even if it looked different from the past seasons. Thank you to players, coaches and parents/guardians for working so hard in order to enjoy the season!

Our Athletic Director, Mr. Stillman, arranged live streaming of events held in the FHS gymnasium due to pandemic restrictions on attendance. In addition, a live Spirit Shop was created in order to purchase Falcon Wear!

The Falcons are part of the Lorain County League (LC8) which encompasses Black River, Brookside, Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone, Oberlin and Wellington.

### Wrestling

Ruben Pina-Lorenzana, FHS Sophomore, finished in 8th-place in the Division II State Wrestling Tournament on March 14th at 106. Ruben set the school record with the most wins in a season with 54. He is the 4th state placer in Firelands history!

Six wrestlers advanced to Districts: Ruben Pina-Lorenzana, Kevin Williams, Kaden King, Mason Stanley, Gavin Varndell and AJ Dunn. King tied the school record for the most wins as a freshman at 43. The Falcons finished 7th at Sectionals to wrap up a great season. The team is coached by Mr. Walbom.

### Cheer - Competitive and Side Line

The Firelands cheerleaders competed at the LC8 Cheer Competition on Saturday, March 13th. The competition took place at Keystone High School and there were 5 teams from our conference that competed. We are very proud to announce that our athletes took first place! Their hard-work and dedication to the sport allowed them to be the first ever champions of the annual LC8 cheerleading competition. Their routine consisted of a cheer, dance, jumps and tumbling. They also had two girls take home awards for best jumps. Macey Taddeo won the award for best double touch and Zadi Grude won the award for best pike. We would also like to thank Traditional Marble and Granite for donating plaques to the competition!

The girls that participated include: Amelia Bacsí, Alexandria Boetticher, Caley Bomback, Brianna Bonomolo, Renee Clippinger, Zadi Grude, Madisyn Jessel, Marley Klekota, Natalie Novak, Jadeyn Ramsey, Lauren Soltis, Grace Stanley, KaraLynn Sweinhagen, Macey Taddeo and Jorja Weber.

*continued on page 2*



## FES Kindness Club



**#BeTheKindKid - Read More on Page 4**

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 NOW. Call 440-965-5821 for more information.

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

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## FHS Winter Sports Wrap-Up continued from page 1

The cheerleading program is overseen by Coach Gasparini. "I am so proud of the FHS Cheerleaders for many reasons. They put in countless hours practicing their routine and it definitely showed this weekend! They rocked the competition floor and left it all on the mat. Not only did they win first place, but they also represented Firelands Local Schools with dignity and respect!"

### Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the LC8 Champions! These ladies brought home the title for the second consecutive year with a 55-39 win over Clearview. The team ended 15-2 overall and made it to the district semi finals, again! This outstanding season lead to acknowledgement for many players, including Coach Kudela. Awards were as follows:

Abbey Schmitz: First-team all-county, first-team all-LC8, third-team all-district. Madison Sutton: First-team all-county, first-team all-LC8, second-team all-district. Megan Sutton First-team all-county, first-team all-LC8. Bella Simmons: Second team All Lorain County. Lauren Valerius Honorable Mention All-Conference, Second Team All Lorain County. Dylan Koba-Nelson: Honorable Mention All Lorain County. Ryley Etherton: Honorable Mention All Lorain County. Coach Dave Kudela: 2020-21 LC-8 Coach of the Year in Women's Basketball!

### Boys Basketball

The team finished with a 15-7 record and were Sectional Champs for the first time in 27 years. The Falcons were led by a starting 5 of all seniors- Casey Kelley, Jakson Talbott, Alex Angle, Mitchell Hodges and Caden Bomback. The 6<sup>th</sup>

Sr.- Evan Zidar played a big role off the bench for the Falcons. All 5 seniors were either All-Conference or All-County award winners.

This team finished 2nd place in the Conference and fell in DII semifinals to a top seeded Akron Buchtel team. Awards were as follows: Alex Angle 2nd LC8, 1st All-Lorain County, HM NE Lakes District. Casey Kelley: HM LC8, 2nd All-Lorain County, 3rd NE Lakes District. Mitchel Hodges: 1st Team All LC8 honors, 1st LC8, D-II Lorain County POY, 2nd NE Lakes District, and Lorain County DII Player of The Year. Jackson Talbott: Honor Roll. Caden Bomback: Honor Roll. The team is coached by Mr. Januzzi

### Boys Bowling

The Boys Bowling team made it to the OHSSA District Tournament for the first time in 12 years after a 3rd place finish in the Sectional Tournament. Connor Cordy led Firelands by bowling the third best series with a 574 on games of 201, 174 and 199.

### Girls Bowling

The 2020-21 bowling season was a success this year that followed with a lot of improvements. We are excited about next season and are hoping to see the program grow with even more bowlers.

Coach Cordy said, "This is definitely going to be a competitive program with lots of success. It's an honor to coach this team. The girls had a fun season and they continue to improve individually as well as a team!" Both teams are coached by Mr. Cordy.

continued on page 3



Amelia  
Bacsi



Lexi  
Boetticher



Brianna  
Bonomolo



Renee  
Clippinger



Zadie  
Grude



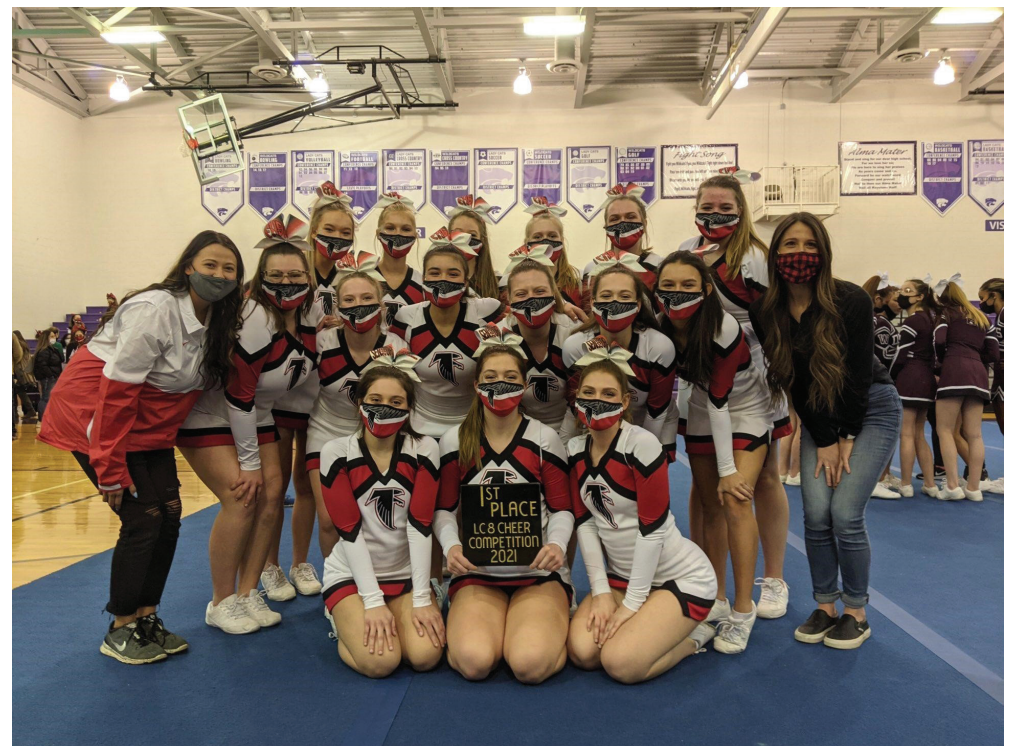
Madisyn  
Jessel



Jadeyn  
Ramsey



Lauren  
Soltis



Alex  
Angle



Caden  
Bomback



Austin  
Copen



Brock  
Grude



Mitchell  
Hodges



Casey  
Kelley



Kyle  
Ransom



Jackson  
Talbott



Gary  
Uhler



Evan  
Zidar



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS



Abigail Aslaksen  
5

Angela Beno  
1

Adrianna Buchanan  
2

Riiley Etherton  
23

Jayden Gurchik  
3

Dylan Koba Nelson  
3

Olivia McGrath  
24

Sammie Novak  
20

Abbey Schmitz  
20

Grace Sherban  
10

Bella Simmons  
12

Lauren Soltis  
4

Madison Sutton  
41

Megan Sutton  
31

Karly Sweinhagen  
42

Hailey Urban  
14

Lauren Valerius  
50

Isabella Zvara  
22



Russell Cole



Connor Cordy



Tyler Mullins



Michael Smith



Bryant Szilagyi



Tommy Ulrich



Brooklyn Brundage



Mandy DeWitt



Morgan DiCesare



Kate Felty



Alaysha King



Lesi Leskovska



Florencia Santolin



Caley Bomback



Gemma Hager

continued from page 2

## Gymnastics

This is the second year FLSD has had a gymnastic team! The team trains at Ten Point O Gymnastics in North Ridgeville. This season, 6 closed competitions took place at Ten Point O, Lakewood Gymnastics, and X-treme Gymnastics.

Both Caley and Gemma participated in floor, vault, balance beam, and uneven bars. Each had a great season and have been training for many years in order to be competitive.

This new team had two volunteer coaches this year: Adam Chapek and Allison Fenik.

The Falcons, once again, had a strong showing in the LC8! Good luck to all of the students participating in spring sports!

*submitted by Jennifer Butchko  
Public Relations*

## Youth Volunteer Opportunity

The Brownhelm Historical Association is offering a Youth Volunteer or Service Opportunity on April 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Brownhelm School & Museum. They are located at 1950 North Ridge Road.

As renovations continue on the 2nd floor of the Historic Brownhelm School & Museum, they have discovered that it's time to move their stash of Grandma's Attic Sale donations. They are seeking as many volunteers as they can get for this work but are specifically requesting youth volunteers who need service hours and have healthy knees and backs for lifting heavy boxes!

They will have pizza for lunch when the work is finished. Please reach out to the BHA at brownhelmhistory@gmail.com to let them know you will be attending.

## Enrollment Timeline

**Please share this information with anyone you know who may need it.**

### Ongoing

- Kindergarten registration for district residents. All students must be registered prior to kindergarten screening in May.
- Online open enrollment application is open for K-12 students. Out of district parents must complete this before registering.

### April 1st

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

### April 15

- Registration for new in-district students in grades 1-12.

### May 19th

- Kindergarten Screening (Required).

### July 1st

- Open enrollment ends.

### Resources

**Website with additional links:**

<https://www.firelandsschools.org/>

\*Click on "Student Registration"

**Open Enrollment or Registration Questions?**

Call Sue Schaefer at the BOE  
440-965-5821 x. 1010

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

**Kindergarten Questions?**

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



## FFA Creates Buckets of Care to Help Crisis in Honduras

Firelands FFA partnered with the non-profit group CAMO (Central American Medical Outreach) to create care buckets for people in Honduras

This past year, Hondurans have suffered from not only COVID19, but the country was also hit by two category 4 hurricanes two weeks apart. Three and a half million people were affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota; over 130,000 are still living in shelters. Nearly two thirds of the citizens of the country will fall into extreme poverty this year without intervention. A great number of families lost their homes and belongings. COVID19 continues to rage through the Honduran community and conditions are made worse by people packed

in shelters. Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) will be providing temporary shelter homes to assist in getting people out of shelters until homes can be rebuilt.

Firelands FFA partnered with (CAMO) to create Buckets of Care filled with much needed supplies to make a new start for families moving into temporary shelter homes. The FFA Chapter set a goal of making 25 complete buckets. Each lidded bucket

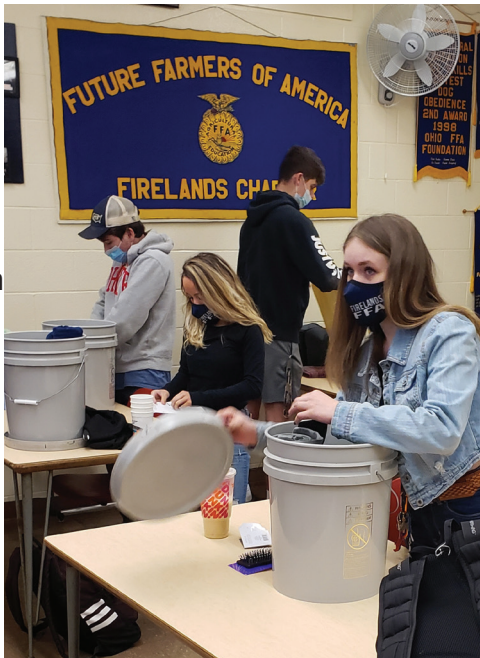
includes 2 sheets, 2 large bath towels, a comb and brush, set of 4 plastic cups, 4 plastic plates, and a spatula, along with a frying pan. Students, parents, staff, and supporters were asked to bring in new or gently used items to fill the buckets. It became evident quickly that the goal would quickly be achieved. With a great deal of support, the FFA was able to make 55 complete buckets and start an additional

28 buckets that will be completed by CAMO. The FFA is proud of their efforts and excited to help so many families in their time of need.

If you have questions or you know of another organization that would like to participate in this cause, please contact Shanna Finnegan [sfinnegan@firelandsschools.org](mailto:sfinnegan@firelandsschools.org) or CAMO Representative and Firelands Alumna, Mary Saylor, [marys@camo.org](mailto:marys@camo.org)

**Pictured at left:** Noah Galloway, Gabe Gargasz, Olivia Galloway, & Madison Witter construct buckets of care to be shipped to Honduras.

*submitted by Shanna Finnegan  
Agricultural Educator/FFA Advisor  
@firelandsffa*



## SAMS Wins 2021 LC8 Wrestling Conference Championships

The Middle School Wrestling team competed in the 2nd Lorain County Conference Wrestling Tournament on February 12<sup>th</sup> and took home the championship, winning the tournament with 236.5 points. Thirteen 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders competed in 16 weight classes and finished with (8) Champions (3) Runner Ups and (2) 3rd place. The 2020-21 Middle School Wrestling Team is the 1st team from South Amherst Middle School to ever win a conference tournament championship with the most ever champions in a conference tournament, scoring the most points in a conference tournament. Congrats to all that competed:

92	Boaz Daittlo- 3 <sup>rd</sup>
98	Colin Eckman- 1 <sup>st</sup>
110	Daren Aslaksen- 2 <sup>nd</sup>
116	Kam Williams – 1 <sup>st</sup>
122	Kase Rogers – 1 <sup>st</sup>
134	Jimmy Berry- 2 <sup>nd</sup>
142	Emily Shupe- 1 <sup>st</sup>
150	Issac Bowsher- 1 <sup>st</sup>

160	Trenton Rosencrans- 1 <sup>st</sup>
172	Clifford Stull- 3 <sup>rd</sup>
209	CJ Gilles- 1 <sup>st</sup>
209	Sam Charley- 2 <sup>nd</sup>
245	Trenton Buchs- 2 <sup>nd</sup>

### SAMS competes in 2021 OAC State Wrestling Tournament

The Middle School State Wrestling Tournament hosted by the OAC was held at the Covelli Center in Youngstown. Firelands Middle School was represented with 4 boys (James Berry 8<sup>th</sup>, Kameron William 7<sup>th</sup>, Collin Eckman 8<sup>th</sup> and Issac Bowsher 8<sup>th</sup>) as well as 2 girls (Emily Shupe 8<sup>th</sup> and Anaiyah Campbell 7<sup>th</sup>).

The boys wrestled hard against some tough competition and left it all out on the mat. James Berry was able to come away with our lone victory during the meet for the boys as he was able to win by fall in his second match of the day.

The girls were up second and they were not going to be denied

in their quest to place at OAC State.

Anaiyah Campbell (7<sup>th</sup> Grader) was able to win her first match on the day only to wrestle the #1 girl in the state in her weight class in the second match and took a tough loss. She battled her way back to 5<sup>th</sup> place and Anaiyah became the first ever girls state placer in both middle school for Firelands Local Schools.

Emily Shupe (8<sup>th</sup> Grader) came out in the first round and dominated with a pin in the 2nd period. In the semifinals she went up against the #4 girl in the state and came out with crucial win in ultimate tie breaker winning 4-3. Emily then goes into the finals against the #2 girl in the state who is returning freestyle state champion. Emily went out and made a statement, winning her 2nd state title in 3 years (wrestled for Vermilion during 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade) 8-1 to become Firelands 2nd ever girls placer

and first ever State Champion in both middle school or high school wrestling. Both Anaiyah and Emily has worked extremely hard this past year competing against boys during practice and during most matches. We are very proud to call you Falcons and look forward to the coming years as the girls compete for High School State Championships.

Anyone looking to wrestle, girls or boys, in grades K-12 next year or wanting to do freestyle or Greco this spring and summer please reach out to myself at [tstillman@firelandsschools.org](mailto:tstillman@firelandsschools.org) or our Head Wrestling Coach Josh Walbom at [j.walbom@yahoo.com](mailto:j.walbom@yahoo.com)

*submitted by Ty Stillman  
Athletic Director*

**[WWW.FALCONATHLETICS.ORG](http://WWW.FALCONATHLETICS.ORG)**

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# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Food Service Department & USDA Free Meal Program

### Free meals for all students

The USDA continues to offer free breakfast and free lunch to all students regardless of need. This extended benefit for free meals is to help families financially during these difficult times.

This extension helps our families/students as well as the Food Service department. Our department gets Federal reimbursements for each meal that is sold, so please encourage your child/children to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Free meals for online students We continue to offer

free meals to our online students. If you would like to sign up for meal pick up for the remainder of the school year, please contact Judy Baumann at 440-965-5821 ext. 1011 or [jbaumann@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbaumann@firelandsschools.org). I send a weekly reminder call and an email to those families that signed up. If you have missed a pick up and did not notify me, I will assume you would like to be removed from the list.

### Instructional fees

Instructional fees are only waived if you qualify for free meals based off the information provided on a meal application

or if your child was approved through Direct Certification. If you received a Direct Certification notice at any time, please sign and return the form. A signed form must be received in order to waive the school fees.

### Meal assistance

applications At some point the USDA will no longer offer the free meals to all. If you feel your child will qualify for assistance, complete an online application so it is in place for

the start of the school year: [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com)

**The approved meal status will roll over for the first month of the start of the school year. A NEW APPLICATION must be completed every school year. At this time USDA has not said if the free meals will be continued into the next school year.**

*submitted by Judy Baumann  
Food Service Director*

## SAMS Wrestlers



MS FALCON  
**WRESTLING**

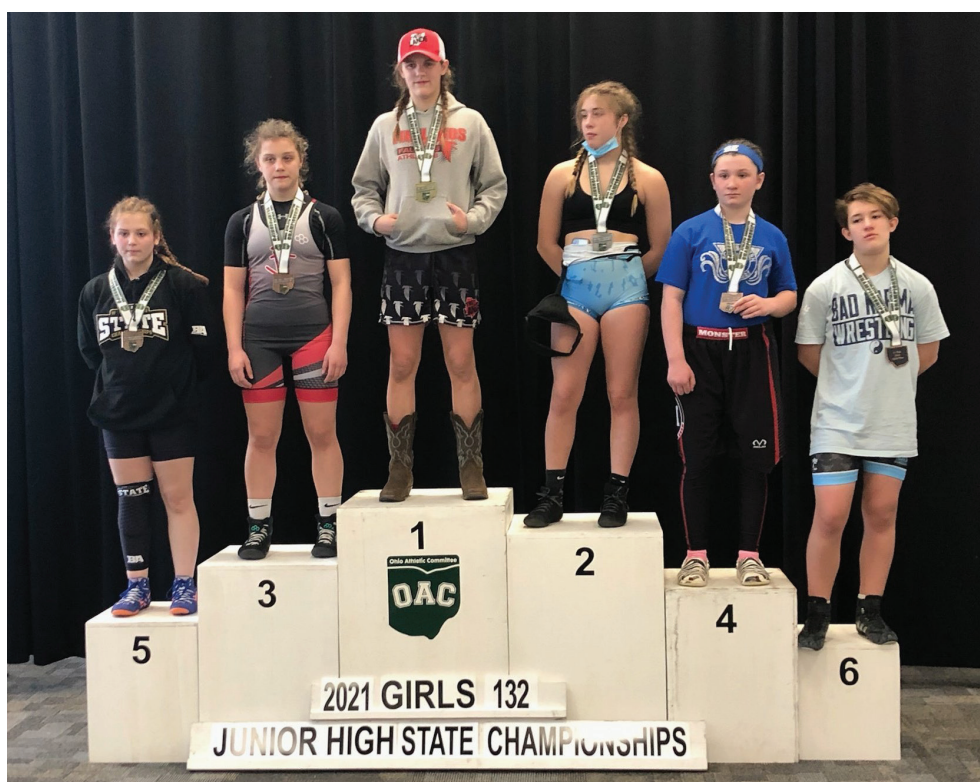
8  
CHAMPIONS

3  
RUNNERS UP

2  
3RD PLACE



2021 LC8 Team Champions



## FFA Week Celebrated

Firelands FFA members are the leaders of tomorrow. They are driven, perceptive and willing to help others through community service such as Christmas Family & Harvest for America. FFA gives many young people an important push to consider their futures- what kind of people, citizens and professionals they intend to be. FFA builds leaders, and leaders impact the future.

National FFA Week was February 14-20 and was sponsored by Tractor Supply Company and Carhartt as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The Foundation is the fundraising arm of the National FFA and supports

programs by working with sponsors to raise funds for scholarships that are awarded to outstanding members. Firelands FFA Chapter is celebrating National FFA Week a few weeks later than National FFA Week this year.

Our FFA week celebration was March 15-19. More than 760,000 members will participate in National FFA Week activities at local, state, and national levels. As a part of National FFA Week, Firelands members are planning held special events including the annual "Drive your Tractor to School Day."

*submitted by Shanna Finnegan,  
Agricultural Educator/FFA Advisor*





## Firelands Elementary School News & Information



### FES Celebrates Mrs. Dempsey

Mrs. Dempsey, Gifted Specialist for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, was recognized as a "Terrific Teacher" by Mix 102.7 at the end of February. Mrs. Dempsey (above) was nominated by one of her 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. We were so excited to hear her on the radio and share in the moment with her. Kudos to Mrs. Dempsey for all of her efforts that are noticed by so many.

### FES Hero = Nurse Maurer

The staff and students know how lucky they are to have Nurse Maurer at FES every day. She is appreciated more than she knows. Her willingness to support students and help them with whatever is hurting are just two reasons that she is loved by many. Students took some time to put their gratitude in words. Their words are heartfelt and meaningful. Thank you to Nurse Maurer for all she does.

*Dear Nurse Maurer,  
Thank you for being there for me. You always comfort me when I don't feel comfortable. Thank you for helping people at the hospital. Thank you for being a great nurse. Thank you for helping people with the vaccination at the hospital. You are the best nurse ever.*

*Sincerely,  
Lilah J. (Grade 3)*

*Dear Nurse Maurer,  
Thank you for being our nurse and caring for us when we are hurt. You understand when we are hurt and take care of whatever happened. It's so awesome that you take care of over 700 hundred people each year and no matter how much you get tired you are always so nice to everyone. I hope you stay here for a long time so other kids can see how nice you are and how much you care for all of us. Thank you for giving people the vaccination and thank you for being our nurse.*

*Sincerely,  
Khloe M. (Grade 5)*

*Dear Nurse Maurer,  
Thank you very much for all the stuff you have been doing around the school like getting me ice when I hit my knee and when I was stung by what I think was a bee you got me ice and now you are giving all the teachers vaccines so I just wanted to say thank you for everything.*

*Sincerely,  
Avan U. (Grade 4)*



Kenna Fortner works on her Alma Woodsey Thomas drawing

### Spelling Bee

On Wednesday, March 3 twenty-two students (11 third graders and 11 fourth graders) participated in the Spelling Bee at Firelands Elementary. Students were able to bring two guests to cheer them on. It was wonderful to see parents and community members back in the building to root for their speller. The students worked hard studying the spelling words with the hope to become the third and fourth grade Spelling Bee champion. Five top winners were given a trophy for their achievement. In fifth place was Brooklyn Krupp, fourth place Leah Mason, third place Lilah Jordan, second place Julia Widener, and the winner of the third and/ fourth grade Spelling Bee was third grader, Finn McMullen, from Mrs. Kline's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class.

On Wednesday, March 10 the Spelling Bee for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders was also held at Firelands Elementary. This competition included 11 fifth graders and 12 sixth graders from SAMS. They all worked hard and did a great job during the competition. The winners

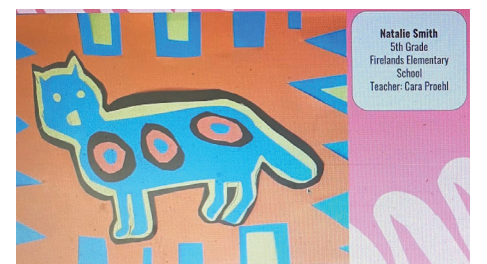
included: 5<sup>th</sup> place, Natalie Smith; 4<sup>th</sup> place, Garrison Lee; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Preston Kirschner; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Jeremy Ortiz; and 1<sup>st</sup> place, Austin Ludwig from Mr. Frenk's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.

The top 4 winners from each bee will be competing in the county competition in May. Good luck at the Lorain County Spelling Bee!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Choose to #Bethekindkid

Students in Mrs. Lee and Miss Zysk's classroom won a giveaway which allowed for everyone in the class to get their own T-shirt. The T-shirts came from a nonprofit organization located in Pittsburgh, PA called JAMBethekindkid Inc. This organization spreads kindness through the concept of making items. The members create and sell items. 100% of the proceeds are then donated to a charity of their choice. The T-shirts say "#Bethekindkid" which promotes and encourages kindness within the students. Throughout the year, the students and teachers have been having discussions about how to be a kind student and how to spread kindness within the community. The students and teachers will be wearing their T-shirts every Wednesday to help spread their message along with creating opportunities within their school environment to create a kind, positive atmosphere. (See picture on page 1.)

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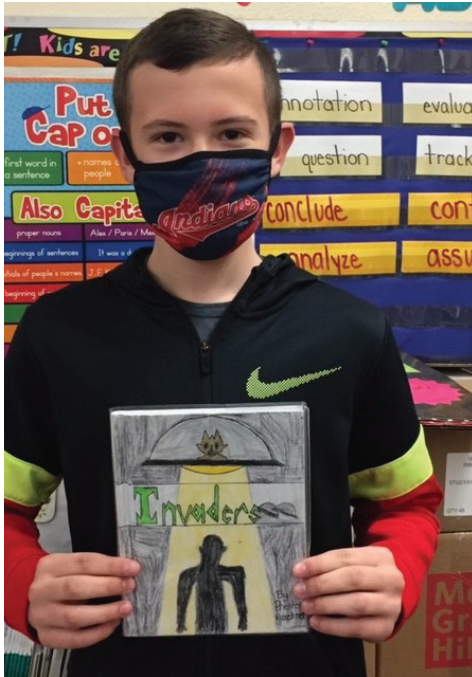


Natalie Smith's cut paper Mola



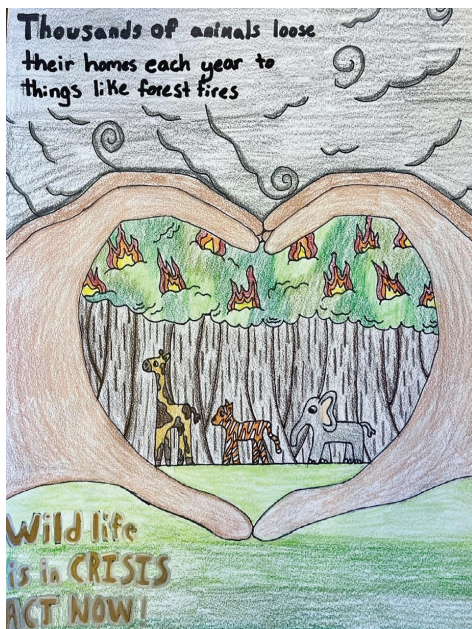
# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Young Author Writer Award



Congratulations to Preston Kirchner for his outstanding performance last year with the Lorain County Young Authors contest. Preston received the highest honor for the 2020 Young Author Writer Award for his book called Invaders. Way to go Preston!

The 2020-2021 Young Authors Conference for grades 3-6 is being held May 18, 2021 through the Educational Service Center of Lorain County. To find out more about this program, contact Debbie Hunt at the ESC, [hunt@escl.org](mailto:hunt@escl.org) or 440-324-3174.



## South Amherst Middle School

In March, students at South Amherst Middle School began their "One School, One Book" initiative. This project has no homework assignments and no grades. The goal is for everyone to be reading the same book and participating together. There are assignments they can complete voluntarily and can earn prizes and recognition.

Teachers worked on analyzing AIMS WEB testing data and developed plans to fill in as many gaps as possible prior to ending the year. They were able to see some promising growth in many of our students.

SAMS held two band and one choir concerts that were recorded and shared with

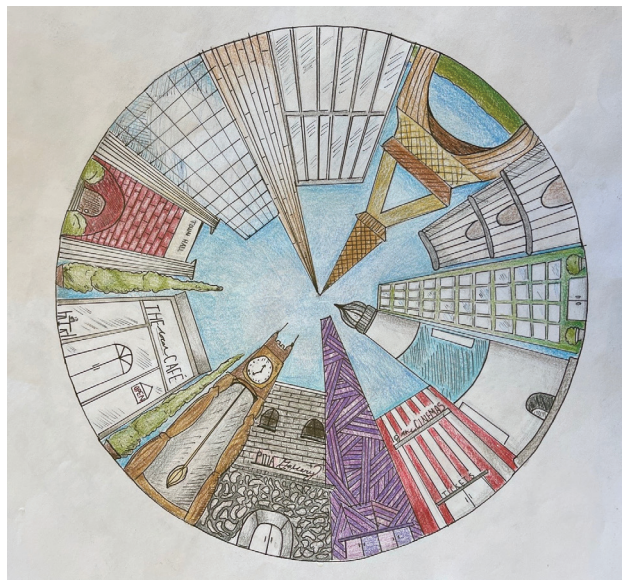
families digitally. This was a huge undertaking and we commend our music department for making this a priority.

We also held a "jeans week" fundraiser as a final push to collect gift cards for our families in need.

Scheduling has begun for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the 2021-2022 scheduling season will begin for other students very soon.

### SAMS Featured Artwork, clockwise from top left:

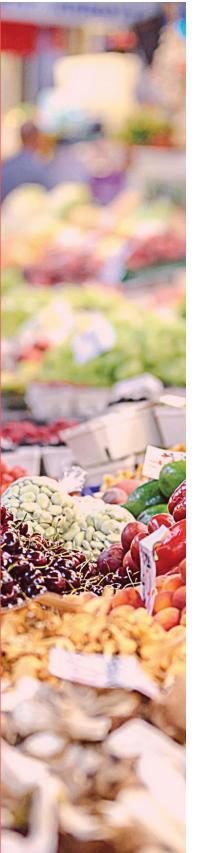
Radial City by Claire Ohle, Grade 8; Peacock by Aiden Bokulich, Grade 8; Self Portrait by Hope Born, Grade 6; Social Cause Poster by Maddie Holland, Grade 8.



"For it is in giving that we receive"  
St. Francis of Assisi

On behalf of Friends of Firelands we would like to thank the community for their grocery and gas card donations. A little over one thousand dollars was collected. The guidance team at Firelands is grateful for your support in helping them, help our neighbors.

Nakita Doane - President  
Friends of Firelands





# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands Elementary, continued from p.6

### Kindergartners Participate in Learning from The Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Through grant funding from the *Community Foundation of Lorain County* the kindergarten students will be able to participate in two virtual programs put on by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. During "Starry, Starry Night" the students will explore the evening sky and learn about the Moon, planets, comets, and stars. During "Healthy Habits: Basic Hygiene" the students will explore nutrition, hygiene, and exercise through interactive activities. Students will discover the important roles these habits play as they practice making healthy choices.

### 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. We are so proud of our students as they continue to earn rewards. The students were all able to participate in Crazy Hair Day. The top 3 staff vote getters that had to participate were Mrs. Dolnosich, Mrs. Walker and Mrs.

Woods. It was a fun day by all! More Crazy Hair Days (May 7 and June 3) and Pajama Days will be scheduled. Students will also begin to hear more about end of the year raffles for those that have earned enough points to enter. 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 will be no school for students on Friday, March 26 due to staff vaccinations. Thursday, April 1 will be the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. PTG will be meeting via Zoom on April 1 at 4:30 pm. Please also mark your calendars for Spring Break – April 2-11 (school resumes Monday, April 12).

### Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

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 April 1 at 4:30 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 FES*



## FES Yearbook Cover Contest & Art Exhibition Results

This year's FES Yearbook Cover Contest winners are: Amelia Branco for the front cover (bottom left) and Landon Zarrelli for the back cover (bottom center). Thank you to EVERYONE who submitted entries to the contest -- there were some beautiful drawings this year.

Congratulations, Amelia and Landon!

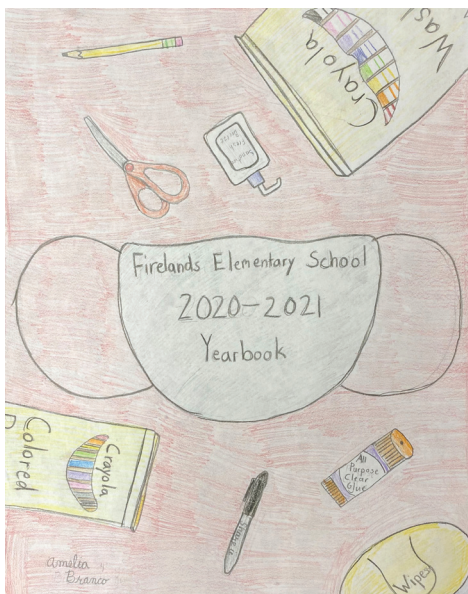
The month of March is officially Youth Art Month and Firelands was well represented in the Ohio Art Education Association state shows. Artists Kinsley Jones and Lydia Beltz (both 1st grade) had work displayed for the Youth Art Month and Young People's Art

Exhibition shows. Artists Natalie Smith (5th grade), Nikolas Zagar (5th grade) and Madison Robenolt (2nd grade) had work displayed and recognized at the 2021 Northeast Ohio Art Education Association Youth Art Month Regional Exhibition.

The all-digital event was broadcast via Zoom on Sunday March 14, along with a virtual Awards Presentation. FES's Nikolas Zagar took 2nd Place with his watercolor and Natalie Smith took Best in Show for her cut paper work (see page 6). Well done!

*submitted by Cara Proehl  
FES Art Teacher*

**Featured above:  
TJ Logan's Art Rabbit**





## Firelands High School Looks Forward to Prom, Senior Events

We are proud to announce our next two Lions Club students of the month: January, Casey Kelley (pictured below, center), and February, Edwin Hicks (pictured top right).

March 3rd was the school day SAT test. We tested 132 students, which included online, in-person, and JVS students. This was an excellent opportunity for students to take a college prep test for free at their high school. We are excited that we were able to offer this in an environment where all of our students, including our online students felt safe. Thanks to Mrs. Baumann, we were also able to provide a free breakfast and free lunch to all students that came in to test.

LCCC is once again hosting the Lorain County Scholastic Art Show. This year the exhibition is

virtual and on display until March 19<sup>th</sup>. Firelands High School has 16 pieces in the show this year!

We hosted our second annual career fair on February 18th through Zoom. Each company had an individual break out room. Students and community members had the opportunity to meet representatives from different organizations in individual breakout rooms.



Twenty-eight families had the opportunity to learn about healthy cooking after the FFA meeting on March 4th. They worked with Dr. Jennifer DePalma, a Firelands alumni, pediatrician, and lifestyle coach where they could cook alongside her to prepare a meal. The meal was Pork Tenderloin Medallions with a Balsamic Pan Sauce, Green Beans with Balsamic Vinaigrette, and Garlic Mashed Potatoes. A good time was had by all!

### Upcoming Important Dates

**April 27, 6:00 pm:** Senior Awards Night. This is a special evening event to honor those seniors that are receiving awards and/or scholarships. The event will be held in the FHS gymnasium. Invitations will be sent out at a later date. Each senior attending will be able to



have two guests.

**May 8, 7:00 pm:** Prom at New Russia Twp Hall. We are still in the planning stages using guidance provided by LCPH. More details will be shared as we work with LCPH to plan.

**May 26 & 27:** Senior Exams. Exams will be given during regularly scheduled block periods. Any senior that misses a scheduled exam due to illness will need to complete the exam after graduation practice on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**May 28, 8:30 am:** Senior Breakfast. The senior breakfast is optional and will be held in the FHS gymnasium. Students will be served breakfast and appropriate spacing will be followed. Students must wear a face covering when not actively eating. No outside guests are permitted to attend.

**May 28, 10:00 am:** Graduation Practice. All students MUST participate in graduation practice in order to participate in commencement. Practice will begin immediately after the breakfast. Seniors not attending the breakfast are encouraged to arrive by 9:45 am in the FHS gymnasium in the event that we begin practice early.

**May 28, 7:00 pm:** Graduation at Falcon Stadium! This will look different than in past years. However, we plan to have graduation outdoors in the stadium with limited guests. We are working with LCPH to determine guidelines and will share them once they are finalized.

*submitted by Cathy Keener  
FHS Principal*

## Special Needs Transition Fair To Be Held April 29th

Calling all parents, guardians, and educators of students with special needs ages 14-22: Join us for our 1st Virtual Transition Fair on April 29th from 1:00 PM - 8:00 pm!

We are excited to have LeDerick Horne as our keynote speaker from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Mr. Horne is a poet and activist with Learning Disabilities. His presentation is called "A Path to Pride and Success."

There will also be numerous breakout rooms with speakers who will discuss topics such as

Medicaid waivers, accessibility services, Post-Secondary educational options, and how to have difficult conversations with your child.

This program is being presented free of charge through the collaboration of State Support Team Region 2 and the Educational Service Center of Lorain County.

To register, please use the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/lederickhorne2021>  
or call 440-324-3173.



**Featured above:  
Nathan Doane  
"People at Work"**



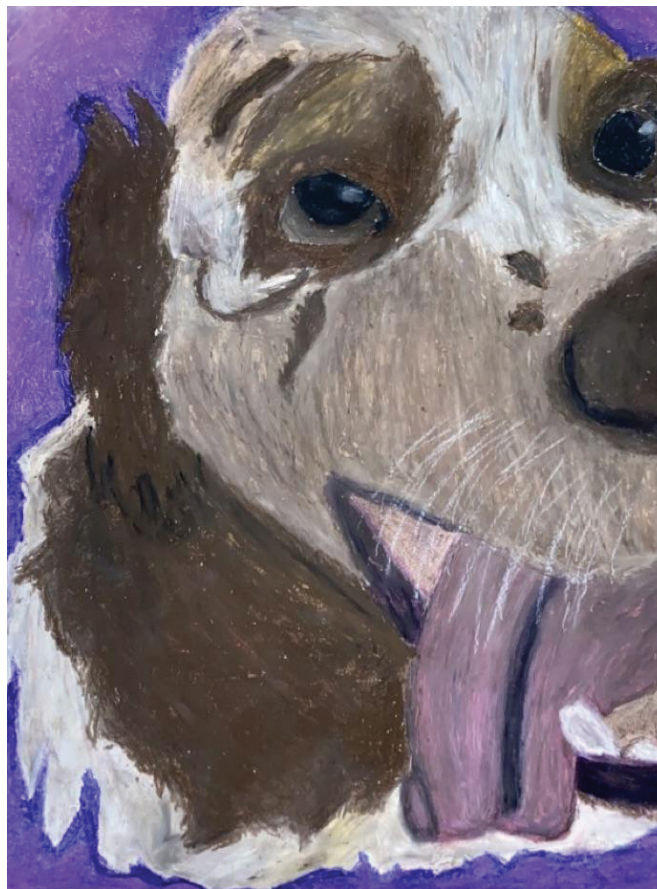
## FHS Featured Art & Exhibition Results

This annual Northeast Region Youth Art Month Exhibition invites works from the K-12 members of the Ohio Art Education Association. This year the exhibition of 101 works is virtual instead of being hosted at the Akron Art Museum. Works competed by grade clusters and awards were given.

FHS freshmen [Reagan Evans](#) and [Christopher Radman](#) and sophomore Gabby Smith

have art works included in the 2021 Northeast Region Youth Art Month Exhibition. Reagan is exhibiting a tessellation painting (top left), Christopher is exhibiting a 2-point perspective drawing (middle left) and Gabby is exhibiting a 3-D constructed painting (bottom left).

Visit the NE OAEA website <https://www.ohioarted.com/northeast.html>. Congratulations to all of these great artists!



## Bednar Takes 2nd at State

Jerry Tollifson, a long-standing, beloved, and influential artist, educator and state Fine Arts Consultant inspired countless students and teachers across the state. Jerry conceived a writing competition as an annual opportunity to recognize students for their ability to articulate and compose critical responses to artworks. The Jerry Tollifson Art Criticism Open (JTACO) is one way his legacy continues to encourage and shape art students and teachers today.

FHS freshman Jocelyn Bednar took 2nd place in this competition among a pool of 80 entries. The theme for the 2021 competition was "Overcoming". Jocelyn chose teamLAB's video installation "Black Waves: Immersive Waves" as her essay subject. She states, "This essay challenged me to think deeper into the "why" of my feelings towards the artworks that I love." Jocelyn now adds "Black Waves: Immersive Waves" among works that she likes. Jocelyn will be sent a gift package sponsored by Sargent Art. Her work will also be featured in the quarterly OAEA newsletter and showcased on the OAEA website.





# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Help Available for Families



**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](mailto:watts@esccl.org) or [dwatts@firelandsschools.org](mailto:dwatts@firelandsschools.org)  
**Call or text:** 440-334-8801

## COVID-19 Mental Health Care

Lorain County's COVID Care team is taking action! These teams are dispatching across the nation to help neighborhoods recover from the social and emotional health challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The team of local familiar faces offers community-based outreach and education to

relieve stress, especially if those stresses are or may become health concerns.

To connect with a Care Counselor to learn about local resources, call 440-240-7025 or 440-322-6308. Other resources are the Crisis Text Line (text 4hope to 741741); the Ohio CareLine (call 1-800-720-9616); or visit [mharslc.org/find-help](http://mharslc.org/find-help).

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For more information or to register please contact Mike O'Keefe at 440-670-6469 or email [Okeefe24@icloud.com](mailto:Okeefe24@icloud.com)



## 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](mailto:firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com), and we will provide you with the appropriate link. The remaining dates for this school year are as April 20, 2021, May 18, 2021 and June 15, 2021.



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