


# The Firelands Express

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 77

JUNE 15, 2015

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### New Superintendent Selected



On May 11, the Board of Education selected Mike Von Gunten to serve as the district's next superintendent starting August 1, 2015. He was awarded a three-year contract through July 2018. Mr. Von Gunten is a third-generation graduate of the school system and currently serves as the Director of Educational Services for Firelands, where he has worked for the past three years. Previously he served as a school counselor and an administrator at Olmsted Falls High School. Mike began his career as a middle school math teacher in the Elyria City Schools.

Mike is married and has two sons, ages 8 and 11, as well as a newborn daughter. He resides in the District and his sons attend Firelands Elementary School. FLS Board President, Dr. Jane Battig commented, "The Board was looking for a strong leader who could continue the excellent progress the District has made over the past three years and Mike is committed to seeing that happen. In the end, he was definitely the best fit for the position and his strong ties to the community will serve us well for many years to come."

The ESC of Lorain County conducted the search. The ESC received 23 applications, interviewed 19, and recommended six candidates for the Board to interview. The Board conducted first round interviews and three candidates were invited back for a second round interview with a 15-member District committee with representation from teachers, classified, and administrative employees, many of which are parents and/or residents of the District, as well as an outside parent representative.

### A Fond Farewell

It has truly been my pleasure to serve as the Firelands Superintendent for the past three years. I am proud of what we have accomplished and want to thank the District leadership team for their support and hard work directing the changes we made to improve the District. I wish a heartfelt thank you to the teachers and support staff for your tremendous efforts in serving our students on a daily basis. In addition, to our students—you are the best!

I was blessed to work with five fantastic board members who truly care about doing what is best for the students of our community. I am confident that the District will continue to prosper under the leadership of Mike Von Gunten.

As always, GO FALCONS!

Yours in Education,

Dr. Robert F. Hill

Superintendent

## FES GETS "SPRUCED" UP!

The view outside of Mrs. Ollis' Third Grade classroom has been less than ideal since the only windows in her classroom face a boring brick wall. Despite window drawings of a sun and clouds, Mrs. Ollis and her students wanted more. This year students decided to "spruce" up their classroom view by adding an evergreen outside of their window. Students researched three different types of trees until they found the perfect fit...an evergreen by the name *Picea pungens*, also known as "Fat Albert." Albert (or Albie for short) has already made their classroom come alive with ideas and excitement. These students are looking forward to watching it grow over the years! A special thanks to Brian-Kyles Landscaping for donating and planting this very special tree and to an anonymous donor for the engraved stone that was placed in front of it. Your generosity is very much appreciated!



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

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The Communities we serve: Amherst, Amherst Twp, Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp, Camden Twp, Florence Twp, Henrietta Twp, Kipton Village, New Russia Twp, South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

THE FOLLOWING SENIORS AND JUNIORS WERE ERRONEOUSLY OMMITED IN THE 3RD QUARTER HONOR ROLL LIST PUBLISHED IN THE MAY EXPRESS. WE ARE TRULY SORRY AND APOLOGIZE FOR OUR ERROR.

# HONOR ROLL

\* Denotes All A's

## SENIORS

Jessica Adams  
Shawn Alcorn  
Bethany Anderson\*  
Lauren Bansek  
Rebecca Bari  
Andrew Biery  
Stephanie Bohl  
Alyssa Bonomolo\*

Olivia Born  
Stephen Budweg  
Alison Butler  
Kassady Carrier  
Hannah Caruso  
Elizabeth Crawford\*  
Faith Dempsey  
Nicole DeWitt  
Stephanie Dostall

Demi Dovin  
Katie Fath  
Brandy Forster  
John Griffaw  
Brandi Holowecky\*  
Rebecca Jackson  
Joshua Krueger  
Rebecca Reicholf  
Alexandria Yoby

## JUNIORS

Ryan Alcorn  
Michael Anadell  
Taylor Aslaksen  
Jacob Bailey  
Brittany Brlas\*  
Raymond Conry  
Lyndsey Cornwell\*  
Logan Danicki\*  
Summer Deichler  
Dakota Dembek  
Devin Dumke  
Abigail Farley

Cole Ference  
Roy Folley III\*  
Jillian Hajostek\*  
Paige Haynes  
Haley Herrera\*  
Dylan Hickman\*  
Jared Holowenko\*  
Madalyn Hopkins  
Jerrod Horwedel  
Samantha Hribal  
Victoria Hritsko  
Katie Iwanek\*

Michaela Jeffers  
Cassidy Johannsen  
Brylee Jones  
Jesse Jones  
Maxime Knoth  
Victoria Krejci\*  
Brianna Krieg\*  
Hailey Mack  
Kaitlyn Michener  
Rachael Minek  
Katalin Mullins  
Adriana Nigro

# SENIOR BREAKFAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## Bethany Anderson

College Now  
John W. Hostetler  
Firelands Community

## Thaddaeus Gonzalez

LCCC Diversity Incentive  
Award

## Rebecca Reicholf

Community Foundation  
Cameron Greene

## Matthew Gulish

Franklin B. Walter

## Jordan Ruffner

Archie Griffith

## Lauren Bansek

LCCC Trustee

## Alyssa Hayes

LCCC Trustee

## Jacob Rutkowski

LCCC Trustee  
Latteman

## Jacob Barnes

LCCC Trustee

## Garrett Hoffman

LCCC Presidential

## Nicholas Schaffer

Community Foundation

## Jessica Beran

Athletic Booster Club  
Archie Griffith

## Brandi Holowecky

LCCC Trustee  
Joseph L. Knoble Lions Club  
FEA Memorial  
Athletic Booster Club  
Community Foundation  
Firelands Community  
Scholar Athlete

## Johnathan Sigsworth

LCCC Presidential  
Athletic Booster Club

## Olivia Born

LCCC Trustee

## Cole Sklarek

Amherst Rotary  
Athletic Booster Club  
Latteman  
Inspirational Leader Award  
Scholar Athlete

## Stephen Budweg

LCCC Presidential

## Wesley Kromer

LCCC Presidential  
Susan Beecheler

## Heather Smyth

LCCC Trustee  
Falcon Sportsmanship

## Alison Butler

Milad & Fanny Abraham

## Carrie Kubicki

Debbie Cook Fine Arts

## Arianne Szakal

LCCC Trustee

## Brennan Crawford

Strive

## Garrett McKinney

Athletic Booster Club  
Falcon Sportsmanship

## Mikavla Walbom

LCCC Trustee

## Stephanie Dostall

Medical Mutual

## Taylor Odum

Student Council  
Firelands Community

## Karley Zimmerman

Music Booster  
Marine-Semper Fi

## Demi Dovin

Community Foundation  
Firelands Community  
Milad & Fanny Abraham

## Abigail Petrey

Student Council  
Michelle Brand Memorial

## Katie Fath

Student Council  
Jim Solomon  
Milad & Fanny Abraham

## Emily Pohorence

Mr. Muth Memorial  
Ronald McDonald House  
Firelands Community  
Milad & Fanny Abraham

## Ashton Gifford

Firelands Positive People

## WINNER OF THE 2014

## FEA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



The Firelands Education Association would like to announce the winner of the 2014 FEA Memorial Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship goes to an outstanding senior, who writes an essay about what they would personally do to help solve a problem, either on the local, state, or national level. This year's winner was Brandi Holowecky, who wrote about drug abuse, and how she would combat it in Lorain County. Congratulations Brandi, and good

luck to you as you attend the University of Akron in the Fall.



# FLSD SPORTS WRAP-UP

## MS Track

The boys track team finished up another exciting season. They finished the season with a 8-6 record in dual/tri/quad meets, and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the PAC Championships. The girls Track team made an exciting run at the end of the season finishing 7-7 in Quad/Tri/Dual meets but more importantly they finished Runner-up at the PAC Track Championships, falling by only 3 points to Black River

### Conference Champions:

Beau Grude in the High Jump, Long Jump, and 200 Meter Dash in a new school record time.

Lexi Alston in the 100 Meter Dash, 400 Meter Run, and 800 Meter Run, all in new school record times.

### 2nd Place Finishers:

Lexi McCrary in the 100 Meter Hurdles and 200 Meter Hurdles

### 3rd Place:

Macey Butchko in the Discus  
Peyton Phillips in the 100 Meter Hurdles

### 4th Place:

Peyton Phillips in the 200 Meter Hurdles  
Macey Butchko in the Shot Put

### 5th Place:

Alex Brill in the Shot Put  
4 x 400 Relay Team of Tad Miller, Austin Schuler, Sean Perry, and Payton Burgdorf

4 x 200 Meter Relay Team of Jordyn Domin, Emma McDevitt, Becca Hopkins, and Lilly Laughrey

### 6th Place:

Chance Coultrip in the 110 meter hurdles and 200 Meter Hurdles

Alex Brill in the 200 Meter Dash  
4 x 100 Relay Team of Chance Coultrip, Robbie Harker, Daniel Giacobelli, and Sean Perry  
Emma McDevitt in the 200 Meter Dash

4 x 400 Relay Team of Becca Hopkins, Madison Sheets, Jordan Janosik, and Holly Eberhardt

### School Records set or tied:

Beau Grude set the school record in the 200 Meter Dash with a time of 24.2

Beau Grude tied the school record in the high jump with a jump of 5' 10"

Lexi Alston in the 100 Meter Dash with a time of 13.1

Lexi Alston in the 200 Meter Dash with a time of 27.9

Lexi Alston in the 400 Meter Run with a time of 1:00.7

Lexi Alston in the 800 Meter Run with a time of 2:29.7

Lexi Alston in the 1600 Meter Run with a time of 5:41.2

Macey Butchko in the Shot Put with a throw of 32' 7"

### Overall

This group was great to work with and have worked hard all year. Good Luck to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, it will be exciting to watch the contribution you make at the high school level.

### A big thank you goes out to the following people for helping to make the conference meet a success:

Greg Grude, Roberta Grude, Ellen Gundersen, Beth Sullivan, Bob Donelson, Ian Valerius, Cole Lewis, Liz Lewis, Kristi Palmer, Aric Alston, Kellie Alston, Aaron Alston,

Jen Purcell, Cullen Grude, Marnie Lewis, Allison Vilagi, Chrissy Grude, Zadie Grude, Brock Grude, Jack Valerius, Sheri Wasem, Erica Wasem, Tristen Hildebrandt, Kennie Searight, Leo Spagnola, Brad McGinnis, Jared Horwedel and Ryan Ladd.

**A big thank you goes out to my staff,** Matt Krieger, Chelsey Copley, and Julene Woods for all the hardwork you did this season and on Saturday.

## HS Track

The high school track team capped a great season off at the Regional Track Meet in Lexington. The team sent multiple runners in both boys and girls events at Regionals. On their way to regionals the girls team finished as conference runners-up and the boys won their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive championship.

There have been personal records broken and lots of improvement by all of the athletes. Dalaney Rogala, Jordan Ruffner, and Derek Reynolds have all been recognized as runners of the week by either the Journal or Chronicle. Some highlights of the year were Brennan Crawford running a 9:43 3200m to win PAC, The boys 4x800 of Cullen Grude, Jordan Ruffner, Patrick Brightbill, & Derek Reynolds running the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest time in school history 8:08. Faith Rico setting the high jump school record at 5'5". Dalaney Rogala qualifying for Regionals in 3 events: 200, HJ, & LJ. The girls 4x800 of Erica Wasem, Jess Beran, Megan Vaughn, & Tori Hritsko qualifying for Regionals. Derek Reynolds finished 5<sup>th</sup> at regionals in the 800m with a 1:57. The 4x200 Relay of Aaron Alston, Colin Myers, Jordan Ruffner, & Cole Lewis set the school record with a 1:32.8. Congratulations to Coach Greg Norheim who was named the PAC Coach of the Year. He finished his career with conference championships his last 3 years.

## HS Softball

Playing in a tough conference with powerhouses Keystone and Columbia has not held the varsity team back from a strong season. The team finished 17-11. They demonstrated great improvement. They finished third in the PAC Stars Division with a 10-5 record in conference play behind first-place Keystone and second-place Wellington. The team has used a good offense to complement pitchers Samantha Hribal and Claire Vilagi. Hribal and Vilagi provide a righty-lefty duo that leaves teams off-balance. Eight Falcons hit above .300, led by Vilagi, who was hitting .409. Catcher Alex Willis followed with a .405 average and third baseman Alexis Shick led the team in power categories. The team is hit a collective above .300 average. The JV team has also finished the season on a tear. After starting slow out of the gate the JV team has raced to a 10-4 record. The team is led by the pitching of Madison Palmer on the mound who has been dominating opponents at bat. The softball teams look to improve upon this season and continue to become a dominant program in the Lorain County Softball scene.

## HS Baseball

The Varsity baseball team clinched a share of the Patriot

Athletic Conference Stars Division Championship with a 7-0 win over Clearview in the final conference game of the season. The Falcons finished conference play with a 13-3 record tying them with Keystone for the championship. This is the first baseball conference championship for the Falcons since 2005 and their first in the Patriot Athletic Conference. The Falcons improved their record to 18-6 on the season. The team has been led by the strong play of the senior class mixed with great performances by underclassmen pitchers and field players. The team made a nice run in the tournament defeating Bay and Keystone before falling 4-3 to #1 Holy Name in the district semi-final. The JV team has had a very strong season as well with a record of 16-6. The team is comprised of mainly freshmen with a handful of strong sophomores. The future looks bright for the Falcon baseball program.

## Youth Summer Camps

### PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO TEAM FIRELANDS

**Football:** July 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> @ Firelands HS – 10am to 12pm – \$20 advance; \$25 day of - Grades 3-8  
Head Coach: Mike Passerello – Email: [mike\\_passerello@amherstk12.org](mailto:mike_passerello@amherstk12.org)

**Wrestling:** July 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> @ South Amherst MS Small Gym – 9am to 11am - \$25 - Grades K-8  
Head Coach: Josh Malave - Email: [jmalave@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jmalave@firelandsschools.org)

**Volleyball:** June 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> @ South Amherst MS - \$45 before 6/10; \$55 after 6/10 – Grades 4-12  
Head Coach: Diane Price – Email: [price\\_6@yahoo.com](mailto:price_6@yahoo.com)

**B & G Soccer:** July 27<sup>th</sup>-July 29<sup>th</sup> @ Firelands HS – 630pm to 8pm - \$25 advance; \$30 day of – Grades K-8  
Girls Head Coach: Morgan Ziegler – Email: [morgziegler@gmail.com](mailto:morgziegler@gmail.com)

**Boys Head Coach:** Jim Fossie – Email: [jamesfossie@gmail.com](mailto:jamesfossie@gmail.com)

**Baseball:** June 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> @ Firelands HS – 9am to 1130am - \$45 – Grades 3-8

**Head Coach:** Dan Ransom – [dransom0010@gmail.com](mailto:dransom0010@gmail.com)

## Summer Lifting/Conditioning/Open Gyms

Almost every varsity program offers opportunities for students to participate in summer workouts to improve their abilities. Non-mandatory lifting/open gym/conditioning are the best way to improve your speed, strength, & skill to become the best athlete you can be. All high school and junior high school students who are interested in participating in athletics next year are strongly encouraged to get involved in the summer programs. Please contact the head coach of the sport for more specific information on their offerings. A full list of head coaches and email addresses is listed on the schools athletic page <http://www.firelandsschools.org/FalconAthletics.aspx>

## Fall Sports Start Dates – HS & MS

All fall sports will officially start for MANDATORY practice on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. In order to participate in tryouts and practices every student must have on file a current OHSAA Physical, Emergency Medical Form, Insurance Waiver, & Concussion Form. All of these forms can be accessed at <http://www.firelandsschools.org/FalconAthletics.aspx>

# FHS NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015** – 149 Seniors proudly participated in Graduation on Friday evening, May 29<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony was highlighted by speeches from Class President Cole Sklarek, Salutatorian Rebecca Reicholf, and Valedictorian Emily Pohorence. The evening ended with the ceremonial changing of the tassel and then the Firelands Fight Song played as graduates celebrated their achievements with family, friends, and community members.

**CLASS OF 2015 GARNERS OVER \$950,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP AND COLLEGE CREDITS** – The Class of 2015 was offered almost \$570,000 in Scholarship money. Combined with the over 1,100 College Credits our students have earned, the Class of 2015 earned over \$950,000 in scholarship money and college credits. What a great achievement for this year's graduating seniors.

**FHS STUDENT OF THE YEAR**—Firelands High School, in conjunction with the Firelands Lions Club, is proud to announce the 2014-15 Student of the Year is:

## TAYLOR ODOM

Taylor was the November Student of the Month. Taylor was President of Student Council and was a member of FFA. Taylor will attend Kent State University in the Fall.

**UNDERCLASS EXAMS** – Underclassmen took their exams last week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thurs

day. This completed the second semester for all of FHS.

**REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION** – Final 2014-15 Report Cards will be mailed by the end of the week. Please look for them in your mail this weekend.

**FANTASTIC ATHLETIC SPRING** – The Baseball team won a PAC title and both Baseball and Softball advanced to the District Semi-Finals. Our Track team had impressive District meets, and several students qualified to regionals, with Derek Reynolds in the 800 m run, Delaney Rogala in the High and Long Jump, and Faith Rico in the Long Jump narrowly missing out on qualifying to the State Meet in Columbus. Congratulations to all of our Spring Athletes on a great season.

**SUMMER UPDATE ON FHS WEBSITE** – Look for an updated Falcon Flyer on the Firelands High School website sometime near the end of July. It is here you can find information regarding events which begin before the school year begins, as well as plan for materials for courses your students will be taking. Have a great and restful summer. See everyone on September 1<sup>st</sup> for the first day of school.

# CHOIR NEWS

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

The following South Amherst Middle School choir and band students participated in the Lorain County Honors Choir/Band Festival held at Keystone High School on April 15: Choir - Macey Butchko, Lilly Dempsey, Halli Kromer, Gavin Markel, Ava Mastellone, Mark Molnar, Jasmyn Munoz, Kayla Reisinger, Angie Smith, Rachel Taddeo, and Alex Velez. Band – Cora Born, Michael Carty, Trinity Craycraft, Christopher Jackson, Tyler Rado, Isabel Soloweij, Lauren Widener, and Logan Willis.

The Firelands, first ever, Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction was held on May 6 in the music room to inaugurate the Firelands Chapter 6986 into the National Tri-M Music Honor Society with the help of the Midview Tri-M Chapter 2522. The following students are continuing members: Jared Holowenko, Madalyn Hopkins, Hailey Mack, Ashlee Saylor, and Katy Tuggle. The new inductees are:

Ryan Alcorn, Grace Boucher, Kayla Bailey, Karli Bukovac, Dakota Dembek, Sarah Gallo, Mikaela Geyer, Katie Iwanek, Katalin Mullins, Emily Novak, Angelina Rivera, Cassidy Stevens, Noah Stevens, and Jarett Solnick. The seniors who graduated as the first Tri-M members of Firelands were: Shawn Alcorn, Bethany Anderson, Sydney Bowman, Elizabeth Crawford, Alyssa Hayes, Abigail Petrey, John Socha, Hannah Vitale, and Karlie Zimmerman.

Concert and Select Choirs brought home two Superior Ratings from the Trills and Thrills Competition on May 15!! Both groups received outstanding comments from the judges!

I am so proud of the choir students at both South Amherst and Firelands! I am also thankful for all the parental, administrative, and community support of the choral program. Looking forward to another great school year in 2015-2016!!



HONORS CHOIR



SELECT SUPERIOR



TRI-M



CONCERT SUPERIOR



# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2015



Jacob  
Abrahamowicz



Jessica Adams



Shawn Alcorn



Bethany  
Anderson



Emma Bacsí



Lauren Bansek



Rebecca Bari



Jacob Barnes



Bryce Bartolotta



Alexis Bennett



Jessica Beran



Andrew Biery



Maisie Bonnett



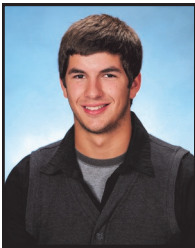
Alyssa Bonomolo



Olivia Born



Sydney Bowman



Stephen Budweg



Alison Butler



Shaylin Canterbury



Alexis Caraballo



Kassady Carrier



Hannah Caruso



Mckenna Casper



Tristan Clark



Marissa Colby



Austin Conner



Richard Corbin



Brennan  
Crawford



Elizabeth  
Crawford



Faith Dempsey



Bradley  
Deremiah



Nicole Dewitt



Eileen Donovan



Stephanie Dostall



Demi Dovin



Katie Fath



Grace Folley



Brandy Forster



Emily Foster



Ashton Gifford



Thaddaeus  
Gonzalez



John Griffaw



Shannon Griggs



Cullen Grude



Matthew Gulish



# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2015



Samantha  
Halcomb



Jody Hanko



Nicholas Harris



Alyssa Hayes



Emily Herchler



Alexander  
Hertenteiner



Hannah Hicks



Austin  
Hildebrandt



Tristan  
Hildebrandt



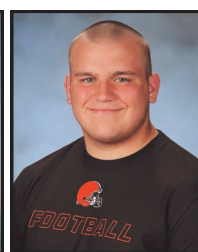
Garrett Hoffman



Brandi  
Holowecky



Rebecca Jackson



Nicholas  
Johnson



Rachel Johnson



Daniel Kasper



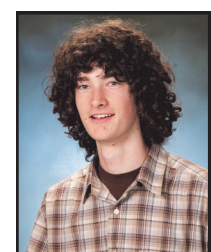
Daniel Klesta



Haley Koelsch



Cassidi  
Kowalski



Wesley Kromer



Joshua Krueger



Carrie Kubicki



Kyle Kudela



Noah Larson



Cole Lewis



Elizabeth Loring



Joshua Mallett



Garrett  
Mckinney



Brianna Mele



Bradley Midkiff



Kayla Morris



Mallory Muniga



Giorgia  
Nicolaou



Rachel  
Nitchman



Emily  
Novosielski



Taylor Odom



Dean Ortnr



Kyle Owens



Jamie Penkava



Steven Pete



Lauren Peterson



Leslie Peterson



Abigail Petrey



Jared Petrey



Emily Pohorence



Cale Polen



# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2015



Rebecca  
Reicholf



Brittany Reising



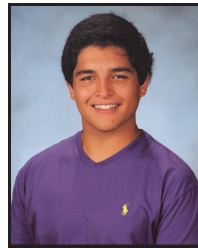
Derek Reynolds



Jonathan  
Reynolds



Valerie Riccardi



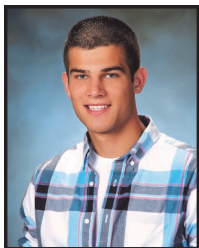
Adrian Rios



Ashley Rister



Nathan Rizzuti



Jordan Ruffner



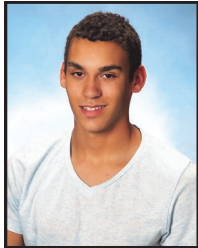
Jacob Rutkowski



Derek Sanders



Victoria Saylor



Jordan Schuler



Alexis Shick



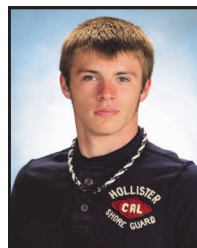
Jonathan  
Sigsworth



Cole Sklarek



Casey Smith



Colin Smith



Jamie Smith



Adam Smyth



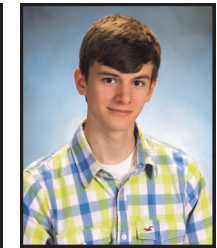
Heather Smyth



John Socha



Dylan Srawley



Brandon Stanton



Emily Staveski



Darrell Stevens



Louis Stevens



Patrick Stewart



Adriana Street



Spencer Streibel



Brittany Studstill



Josiah  
Sweinhagen



Gustave Tapper



Zackary Tollett



Hannah Vitale



Mikayla  
Walbom



Ashley Wammes



Jacob Wells



Hunter Widener



Madison Widener



# Firelands High School Graduating Class of 2015



Peter Wilhelm



James Willbond



Codie Wilson



Amy Woody



Jacob Wright



Alexandria Yoby



Taylor Young

Karley  
Zimmerman

## FIRELANDS CLASS OF 2015

### VALEDICTORIAN

**Emily Pohorence**



The Valedictorian is named for achieving the highest grade point average in a students' class over the course of 8 semesters of High School. Emily gradu-

ates from Firelands High School with a GPA of 4.137 on a 4-point scale. She is a member of FFA, Marching Band, and National Honors Society. Emily was also our Firelands Lions Club Student of the Month for January. Outside of school, she was a recipient of the Girls Scouts Gold Award and the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. She was chosen to represent Firelands High School on Channel 5's Best of the Class TV spots. Her parents are Gerald and Susan Pohorence. Emily plans to attend Cleveland State University and major in psychology and specialize in pediatric clinical psychology. Congratulations to Emily on a wonderful FHS career and experience .

### SALUTATORIAN

**Rebecca Reicholf**



The Salutatorian is named for achieving the second highest grade point average in a students' class over the course of 8 semesters. Rebecca graduates from

Firelands High School with a GPA of 4.113 on a 4-point scale. Rebecca was a member of the Bowling Team, where she was also their Most Valuable Player. Rebecca also played softball for four years at FHS. Her other activities include Class Officer, Junior State of America, National Honors Society, the Academic Challenge Team, and a 4-Year Honor Student. Her parents are Kim and Todd Reicholf. Rebecca will attend John Carroll University where she will study to become a Nurse Practitioner. Congratulations to Rebecca on a fantastic four years at FHS.

## 2015 FHS Graduates Who Did Not Provide a Photograph

Michael Adkins

Mitchell Hildebrandt

Cheyenne Beachler

Dylan Jones

Adam Beursken

Keegan Koepf

Stephanie Bohl

Kayle Lang

Dakota Cloesmeyer

Mackenzie Miller

Sheevah Feizkhah

Briana Rivera

Brady Flowers

Thomas Rose II

Brook Flowers

Nicholas Schaffer

Jeffrey Gregory

Joshua Schieferstein

Chelsea Grills

Max Schmittle

Brook Grizzell

Erin Slack

Glenn Harris

Marc Stone II

Daniel Heberling

Arianne Szakal

Aaron Williams



Safety Town will be  
JULY 6, 7, & 8<sup>TH</sup>  
from 9:00-11:00am  
at Firelands



Elementary School.

Anyone wishing to help to please contact Natalie @  
[saylornatsteve@hotmail.com](mailto:saylornatsteve@hotmail.com) or by phone  
440-965-5872.

## CONGRATULATIONS CHAYCE BALDWIN

6th grade student, Chayce Baldwin won first place in the Lorain County Young Authors program for BEST illustrator. Just around 1300 students from Lorain County participated in this program this year and Chayce earned first place for top illustrator in sixth grade. Chayce has an amazing talent for writing and illustrating. His book entitled, *To the Moon* is a heartwarming story of two friends and their journey together. Look for a copy of this book on display at the Fine Arts Festival.

## Firelands Transportation Year End Overview.

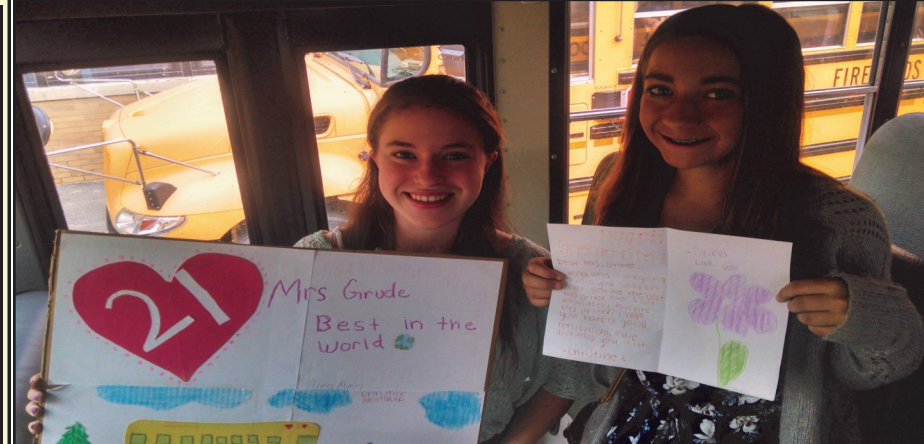
This year the Firelands Schools Transportation team had an accident free year, traveling over 400,000 miles over the course of the School Year, and certainly one long cold winter!

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, two of our drivers participated as drivers in the Regional School bus Driver's Road-e-o in Amherst. This year's events included a written test, curb line pull up, right hand turn, student pick up and drop off, both right and left, backing serpentine, depth perception, off set street and stop line. A big Thank You to Natalie Saylor and April Harker for representing Firelands Local Schools at this event. Also helping out that day as judges, were Sara Schlechter, Carolyn and Milton Saylor.

This year was the first time in history that we have had a mother- daughter combination both driving at the same time, when Sarah Watts joined our driving team this spring. Pictured with her Mother Diane Votruba.



We also wish Mrs. Grude the best as she will be officially retired from bus driving on July 1<sup>st</sup>, after serving our district for 36 years. Congratulations and Enjoy your retirement. She has driven about half a million miles over the years on routes and trips. She loved driving the trips, especially the ones that her Grandchildren participated in. Thanks again for all your years of dedicated service to the District!



Contact: Theresa Gabbard, Sr. VP

### PRESS RELEASE

EcoChem Alternative Fuels LLC 565 Metro Place S. Suite 3035

Phone: (614) 707-6419 Dublin, Ohio 43017

Email: [tgabbard@EcoChem.US](mailto:tgabbard@EcoChem.US) [www.hpcdfuel.com](http://www.hpcdfuel.com)

### Firelands Local School District Joins The Clean Fuels for Schools Initiative!

(Oberlin, Ohio, April 20, 2015) -- Firelands Local School District has approved a change in its school bus transportation program that promises to save thousands of dollars a year in fuel and maintenance costs while significantly reducing the district's carbon footprint.

Firelands switched from commercial grade diesel fuel to High Performance Clean Diesel™ (HPCD), a more efficient, low-emission diesel fuel from EcoChem Alternative Fuels, LLC. EcoChem is a Dublin, Ohio company whose patent-pending fuel refinement technology was demonstrated to President Barack Obama during last months visit to Cleveland.

EcoChem and the Ohio Schools Council (OSC) are supporting a public-private partnership called the Clean Fuels for Schools Initiative™ that seeks to assist in the development and integration of best technology and best practices to improve Ohio schools' energy security, economic stewardship and environmental impact.

Firelands Transportation Director Milton Saylor called the move a "win-win" for taxpayers and for the environment. "We expect to purchase 10,000 fewer gallons of fuel per year which will be a significant cost savings. At the same time, we can reduce our carbon footprint by about 100,000 pounds per year," said Saylor.

Many other Ohio Public school districts have already joined the Clean Fuels For Schools Initiative™ and switched to HPCD. These schools are reporting double-digit improvements in MPG and double-digit reductions in carbon pollution.

Three other OSC member districts, North Ridgeville City Schools, Twinsburg City Schools and Berea City Schools, recently switched to HPCD™. Firelands is the fourth North East Ohio school to sign with EcoChem.

For more information about EcoChem, HPCD™, or the Clean Fuels for Schools™ program, please contact Theresa Gabbard, EcoChem Senior Vice President at (614) 707-6419.





Coach Malave, head wrestling coach at FHS, has been selected to be a staff coach on the Ohio Greco Wrestling team. This prestigious team will represent the state of Ohio at the National Tournament in Fargo, ND this summer.

This has been Coach Malave's first year as head coach for the Firelands Wrestling

Team. While in high school, he placed third at the state tournament at 135 his senior season with Lutheran West in 2008. He then graduated from Mount Union in 2012, wrestling all four years at 141. From 2011-12 he won back-to-back Ohio Athletic Conference titles, qualified for the Division III Championships, was a two-time academic All-American and placed seventh nationally in 2012 — earning All-America honors. His experience and dedication has led the wrestling team to a 2nd place finish in the PAC this year!

**Congratulations Coach Malave and our Freestyle and Greco State Tournament Qualifiers!**



Congratulations to First Grader, Emaley Burnworth, who took a blue ribbon for her undersea-themed watercolor at the Ohio Art Education's Youth Art Month Exhibition. This show took place at Case Western Reserve University's Art Studio in University Circle and featured work from elementary and middle school art students from Northeast Ohio. Terrific job, Emaley!



## COLE SKLAREK IN THE RUNNING FOR THE MIKE GARCIA AWARD!

Cole is enrolled in the Firelands High School chapter of Teen Leadership Corps. Their mission statement is: Teen Leadership Corps empowers teens to achieve their leadership potential through a character and service based curriculum administered by high schools. TLC is a force for change and leadership by youth in Northeast Ohio and has partnered with several Northeast

Ohio companies and organizations including Cleveland Indians Charities. Cole had the opportunity to speak at their convention this year through his leadership role as a Teen Leadership Corps Council member. He has improved countless lives in our school district and beyond this year alone by participating in and leading events such as Kick it for Cancer for local young cancer patients, Toys for Tots at Christmas for elementary students, Keep Kids Warm Drive for students in our district, and he mentors 5th grade students in our district. Cole participates in his church's youth group logging hours of community service helping those that need yard work done and has participated in their live nativity scene the last six years.

His biggest accomplishment was organizing an assembly last week at Firelands High School on the subject of youth and drugs. Cole has been deeply affected by seeing friends ruin their lives, with one losing his life through drugs. He organized three speakers to come to our school including Heidi Riggs, the mother of an athlete lost to heroin in Pickerington a few years ago. Heidi works for the attorney general as a speaker against drugs. Cole contacted her himself and convinced her she was needed at Firelands. Cole was the first speaker and ran the program.

In April two Cleveland artists from Center for Arts-Inspired Learning visited Firelands Elementary. Bonnie Dolin spent a workshop day with 2nd graders, teaching them printmaking, based on classic Native American symbolism. Students had the opportunity to create their own print series. Wendy Mahon spent two workshop days working with 1st graders, teaching them about celebratory customs in Sub-Saharan Africa. Students first built their own masks and then worked collaboratively in decorating them.



Congratulations to the following artists, who had work chosen to represent Firelands Elementary School at the annual Lorain County Schools Elementary/Middle School Art Exhibition held at Midway Mall:

- \* Evan Meszaros (K)
- \* Brody Schlecter (K)
- \* Jocelyn Bednar (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- \* Olivia Bonomolo (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- \* Danny Dempsey (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- \* Allison Stewart (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- \* Mary Dempsey (5<sup>th</sup>)
- \* Gemma Hager (5<sup>th</sup>)

Well done, artists!



## BROWNHelm 4-H CLUB



The Brownhelm Perfection & BB 4-H club went on a field trip to the Lorain Coast Guard station on May 4th. The club members learned about Coast Guard boot camp and how they rescue people from the water using their boats and sometimes their helicopter. The kids also went on to a Coast Guard boat to see what it was like. The trip was a fun and educational experience for both members and their parents. On May 16th, 2015 the members held a bake sale at the Amherst T.S.C., and they brought their animals for customers to enjoy and pet them.

On May 18th, 2015 the club held its meeting at the Brownhelm UCC. The club members brought their project books and worked in them and were also informed when they will show their projects at the Lorain County Fair. Grayson Dovala gave a demonstration on archery safety and Gypsy McDougale gave a demonstration on cake decorating.

News Reporter Colin Adams



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Mrs. Baumann, Food Service Director for Firelands, is pleased to announce that the PayForIt.net mobile app is now available for IOS (Apple) and Android. The PayForIt.net Mobile App provides the ability to make payments to replenish Lunch Accounts and view purchase history. The PayForIt.net mobile app is a *free* download.

The Pay For It program allows you to put money on your child's account with a credit card with a small convenience fee attached. This program has many features such as providing you with your child's lunch account balance and also a short report of what has been purchased on their account. This part of the program can be used even if you choose not to make an online payment. There is no fee to use the reporting system but you still have to enter a credit card number. You can sign up for pay for it by logging on to [www.payforit.net](http://www.payforit.net), and then follow the instructions listed. Under "my account" it allows you to set up email reminders as well. The student I.D. number that your child enters into the pin pad to purchase a meal is needed to set up a "pay for it" account.

Please visit our [Food Service page](#) for information regarding the Food Service program at Firelands Local

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