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MARCH 21, 2011

From the Superintendent

Governor's Budget Proposal Cuts Firelands Revenue by estimated \$1.1 million

Governor Kasich's proposed budget will slash state funding to the Firelands District by approximately \$1.1 million total over the next two years. The budget was released on March 15 and now must go to the legislature for debate, revision and passage. The final budget must be approved by June 30.

The Board of Education has anticipated a reduction in state support and has identified over \$1 million of cuts before next school year and another \$400,000 to follow in the 2012-13 school year, with more potentially to come. If the May 3rd 4.95 mill levy passes, the Board will consider restoring part of the cuts. This current round of reductions is in addition to \$800,000 in cuts that were enacted before this current school year.

"This cut in state funding is devastating to our district. State funds provide over half of the dollars we receive to run the district. We were in desperate need of additional operating funds before, now we have to cover another \$1.1 million. It is essential that our residents pass the levy in May," said BOE president Dwayne Becker. "If something isn't done soon, we will be in Fiscal Emergency which means we lose local control of our financial and program decisions and hand that responsibility off to the State. We can't let that happen."

Information on the upcoming levy can be found at www.firelandsschools.org. If you would like to host an informational meeting in your community or have questions, contact Supt. Ring at 440-965-5821.

Open Enrollment Starts April 11

The Firelands District will be accepting open enrollment applications starting April 11 at 8:00 a.m. Stop by the Board Office to pick up an application. Students who are currently open-enrolled must re-apply.

Open enrollment to Firelands is now open to residents of all school districts in Ohio.

Go Falcons!
Greg Ring

Jazz Fest 2011

April 14th-6:00—10:00 pm FHS Band Room



Performances by the Firelands High School and SAMS Jazz Bands and possibly more!

Coffee and tasty treats will be available for purchase via donations.

Admission cost is \$2. Proceeds benefit the purchasing of new instruments.

"If you have to ask what jazz is, you'll never know."

-Louis Armstrong

Firelands Band Annual Pancake Breakfast

PLACE: Florence Township Fire Hall

DATE: Sunday, April 10, 2011

TIME: 8 a.m.—1:00 pm

Pancakes, Sausage, Beverages

Entertainment provided by the Jazz Band!

Please come and help support our ever growing music program! Raffles will be held.

Firelands High School

Parents for a Safe After Prom Environment (PSAPE)

Class of 2012 "Night at the Races"

Firelands Class of 2012 Parents would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous support:

A David Anthony Salon and Spa
Above and Beyond Salon
Absolute Machine Tools, Inc.
Advanced Auto Parts-Oberlin/Verm
AgeLOC - Violet Mazzola
American Commodore Tuxedo
Americut
Amherst Coring & Sawing
Amherst Party Shop
Apple Hill
AutoZone - Amherst
Avon - Mary Bozzi
B. Douglas Amberman, D.D.S., M.S.
Babson Fluid Power, Inc.
Bettcher Industries Inc.
Born Implement
Brownhelm Country Store
C & C Music
Champs - Crocker Park
Chemical Pack Services
Club West Hair Salon-Lorain
Columbia Bay
Cranberry Creek Marina
Custom Homes by Mike Dzat
Dave and Donna Smith
Deichler's Tire Center
East of Chicago - South Amherst
Elements Salon
Enger Goodyear
ENT & Allergy Health Services
Firelands Booster Club
Firelands Farms Inc.
Gede Fruit Farms
Giant Eagle-Amherst
Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio
Great Clips-Lorain
Gregory Trucking, Inc.
H & R Block
Henning Way Farms
HIGHPoint Outfitters
Imperial Concrete Services
Impres' Salon and Spa
Jack Matia Honda
Joseph Dewitt Jr.
Kent and Gail Sommers
KLC Consulting
KTM North America

Lake Erie Crushers
Liberty Ford- Vermilion
Lighthouse Insurance Agency
Lisa Maclay-Scentsy Consultant
Lorain Medina Rural Electric Coop
Maintenance Systems of No Ohio
Mama Jo Homestyle Pies
Mary's Decorating
Matus Winery
Monster Tan
My Little Secret - Vermilion
Nordson Corporation
Oberlin Inn
Pampered Paws
Piggy's Main Street Market
Pizza Hut-Amherst/Oberlin
Quesadilla's
R.E. Rice Inc.
Ron Poyle Enterprises, Inc.
Russell Real Estate-Judy Wargo
Sam's Club - Elyria/Sandusky
Saylor's Transport
Sheriff Phil R. Stammitti
Small Scholars University, Inc.
Smokin Joes & Country Breeze
Sterks Catering
Subway & Mickey Mart-Birmingham
Swan Creek
Texas Roadhouse
The Alpha Group
The Comfort Zone-Mary Bari
The UPS Store
Thirty 31 - Mary Bozzi
TSC
Tuffy Auto Service- Amherst
Tuffy Auto Service- Elyria
Vermilion YMCA
Victory Tube
Walmart-Sandusky
Wendy's- Vermilion
White House Artesian Springs
Widener Construction
Williams Brothers Builders
Willow House
Woolly Bear Restaurant
Ziggy's Pub and Restaurant

And a special "thank you" to all the volunteers that made this possible!

—KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION—

If you have a child who will turn five on or before September 30, 2011, he/she is eligible for kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year. Kindergarten registration will take place at Firelands Elementary School during the week of March 21 - 24 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. To shorten the actual registration time, registration packets will be available beginning March 14th. These packets contain all of the necessary forms to be completed and are a timesaver during registration week.

In addition to the information requested in the packets, parents should also bring the following documents on the day of registration:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Immunization Record
3. Proof of Residency
4. Applicable Custody Papers

Starting with 2011-2012 school year, kindergarten will be an all day program for all students. There will be no additional cost for all day kindergarten. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 440-965-5381.

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

You may view this issue on line at:
www.firelandsschools.org

FIRELANDS SPORTS UPDATE!

The winter season has come to a close. Firelands athletes have once again represented the community and school district very well. Below is the list of team and individual accomplishments for the 2010-2011 winter sports seasons.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Vermilion @ Firelands Friday, February 25, 2011 Sailors 79 Falcons 37

On this Saturday afternoon, snow day makeup game, Firelands ran into a buzz saw as the Sailors shot 27-51 (52.9%) from the field and 8-15 (53.3%) from the 3-point line for a 79-37 victory. On the afternoon, Firelands shot 11-40 (27.5%) from the field and 2-18 (11.1%) from the 3-point line. Joey Ritz led the Falcons with 10 points, while Kyle Smith chipped in 8. Cody Northeim had 7 rebounds and Joe Hyster added 5 on the day. Nick Deichler, Joey Ritz, Kyle Smith, and Joe Hyster each had 2 assists. Firelands drops to 4-16 overall and 2-10 in the West Shore Conference. Firelands @ Avon Friday, February 18, 2011 Falcons 44 Eagles 58 Firelands started off the first half of the game, 3-25 (12%) from the floor to fall behind, 32-11 at halftime. The second half was a different story as the visitors shot 9-11 in the third quarter to pull within eight, 43-35 after three. Avon held on in the fourth quarter for a 58-44 conference victory. Kyle Smith led the Falcons with 13 points, while Joey Ritz chipped in 10 points. Cody Northeim had 10 assists to go with Nick Deichler's 6 and Brett Helton's 5 boards. Kyle Smith had 8 assists on the night, while Nick Deichler contributed 4. Firelands drops to 2-11 in the WSC, while falling to 4-15 overall.

Special Awards

Kyle Smith: 2nd team WSC and 1st Team All-County Division II
Cody Northeim: Honorable Mention WSC and 2nd Team All-County Division II
Joey Ritz: Honorable Mention All-County Division II
Joe Hyster: Honorable Mention WSC and Honorable Mention All County Division II

BOWLING

Girls Varsity: Kaylynn Cuson-Jr., Erika Richardson-so., Emma Northeim-so., Karlie Canfield-so., Haley Strong-so., Erika Hornyak-so., Maggie Clark-so., Tara Brown-so., Emily Krieg-fr., Hannah Branz-fr.

Boys Varsity: Tom Vancs-sr., Matt Rainey-sr., Ben Roberts-sr., Nate Danko-jr., John Vancs-so., Kevin Migra-so., Tom Battig-so., Austin Zapola-so., Teddy Chambers-so., James Keressi-fr., Chris Kubicki-fr., Justin Williams-fr.

Highlights:

Boys Varsity: Nate Danko - Chronicle Telegram High School Bowler of the Week. Tom Vancs - District Qualifier. The boys despite a losing record had a successful season as most improved their scores from last year. The North Shore Bowling Conference had 15 very strong bowling teams.

Girls Varsity: Kaylynn Cuson - Chronicle Telegram High School Bowler of the Week - twice Kaylynn Cuson - District Qualifier. 4th place (13 teams) North Shore Bowling Conference season & in the conference tournament. 6th place (17 teams) Sectional Tournament. The girls had the most successful season in the 10 years of the FHS program. With all bowlers being underclassmen, next year could be big.

Boys JV: Justin Williams - High Series North Shore Bowling JV Conference Tournament

The boys jv team struggled this year with new bowlers and bowlers moving away during the season. Next year should see some major improvement.

Girls JV: Credit has to given to the girls jv team for their enthusiasm thru out the season as there is a definite lack of jv teams in our conference. Most of their matches were bowled unopposed.

Girls Basketball (8-13):

The Lady Falcons varsity basketball team ended its season with a hard fought lost to Bay in the sectional championship game. The varsity team ended its season with a 9-12 record overall and 6-8 in the WSC. The team was lead in scoring by freshman Casey Morrisette averaging eight points per game. The Lady falcons had six players average between six and eight points per game with each of them leading the way in scoring at least twice. The team leader in rebounding was Megan Kudela with just over nine per contest. The team played really competitive all season long as they lost three games in overtime and two others right at the end. The girls fought hard and really played as a team. We want to thank our seniors, (Alie Gillen, Jen Newman, Kayla Young and Kayleigh Vogel) for their leadership and dedication to the program, they will be missed.

Special Awards

Megan Kudela: 2nd team WSC, 1st Team All-County Division II, Special Mention All-District
Allie Gillen: Honorable Mention WSC and Honorable Mention All-County Division II
Rachel Holowecky: Honorable Mention All-County Division II
Destiny Samples: Honorable Mention All-County Division II
Kayleigh Vogel: Honorable Mention All-County Division II

SWIMMING

The 2010/2011 swim season wrapped up on Feb. 18 as Storm Hancock competed in the district championships at CSU finishing 22nd. Storm is only the 2nd boy from Firelands HS to make the district champs and it was a great way to end a great season. As a small team we don't take up a lot of wins but the improvement of our swimmers was impressive and we had many personnel best times though out the year and at the sectional tournaments at Akron and Lakewood. The girls team of only 4 swimmers had 7 out of 10 swims that were best times at sectionals and the boys team of 12 had 19 out 27 best times.

We had many new faces on the team this year and they did a tremendous job, showing steady improvement thought out the year. I enjoyed their enthusiasm for swimming, a sport that is very demanding.

Our 2nd 3rd and 4th year swimmers showed great leadership and all put in some nice swims along the way and showed that hard work does pay off.

We lose 4 seniors this year and I would wish the best to Kayla Huffman, Jake Wood, Chase Squires and Storm Hancock as they begin a new chapter in their lives. I will miss you! Coach Dan, Firelands Swimming

WRESTLING

Wrestling team ended up with a record of 1-6 in conference with an exciting win against vermilion at our last home meet. All kids involved made impressive gains throughout the year. Angel Alexander, district qualifier was voted team mvp. Caton Wilson, a 1st year wrestler and district qualifer was voted most improved wrestler. Team captain awards went to Chuck Sees, a district alternate, and Gage Widener. Looking forward to an exciting next year

GO FALCONS!

GUIDANCE CORNER

Important Dates

March 24th Parent/Teacher Confer- ences: Conferences will be held in the gym at FHS 3:00pm to 7:30pm.

March 24th - PSEO Parent meeting at FHS in the Library at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will go over the criteria of the eligibility requirements and expectations of the pro- gram. The parent/student commitment form will also be explained.

March 28th - PSEO scheduling at the LCCC begins.

March 28th - End of 3rd grading period.

Incoming Freshmen Class

Firelands Youth-4-Youth will be host- ing an incoming Freshmen assembly/tour on May 17th. You will be coming to the high school during your language arts class. We hope this opportunity will give students a better idea of what to expect on their first day at the high school.

Sophomore Class

JVS Acceptance letters will be sent out the first week of April.

Junior Class

College-bound Juniors need to register to take the ACT this spring. You can register online at www.actstudent.org or pick up a registration packet in the guidance of- fice. The next test to sign up for will be on June 11th, and the registration deadline is May 6th.

Senior Class

College-bound Seniors who still have ques- tions regarding their financial aid package can meet with Ms. Korinko from the Cleve- land Scholarship Program. Ms. Korinko is available at FHS on Mondays. Please sign up in the Guidance office to set up an ap- pointment with her.

FIRELANDS ATHLETIC

BOOSTER CLUB UPDATE:

The Boosters will finish the year meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the FHS Library. It's not too late to join us! Come take part as we continue to support our athletes during the Winter Sport season and look to future projects to benefit All the coaches and Athletes.

TEEN CUISINE CLASSES!



Because of a generous grant from the Firelands Endowment Fund, Mrs. Niedzwicki's Teen Cui- sine classes are able to make desserts for Grace's Kitchen as one of their community projects for the semester. Monthly, the students prepare desserts for 100 guests for this very worthwhile cause of bringing people together in the commu- nity. Photographed is Breanna Hyster.

FCCLA Participates in Regional Competition



Firelands High School FCCLA, Family Career, Community Leaders of America participated in the Regional Competition March 5 at LCJVS. Participants included Savannah Paskvan and Sharareh Feizkiah. With the help of Daysha Owens and Mrs. Dodig's Personal Living class, the FCCLA members planned and implemented a project on Bullying with Firelands Elementary students in selected classrooms. Students created and acted out skits involving bullying. FCCLA students shared experiences with elementary students in small groups under the guidance of classroom teachers. Savannah and Sharareh followed competition guidelines to prepare a display and oral presentation for judging. The girls received a silver medal. This is the first year for Savannah, Sharareh and Daysha and they are already making

plans for next year. Classes they hope to take next year, in the Family Consumer Science Department are Child Development(K.I.D.S.), Family Life, and Teen Cuisine. Firelands Students participating in FCCLA programs at Lorain County Vocational School were successful also at regional competition. Congratulations also goes out to Kaula Smith and Taylor Keating for receiving silver medals, for their culinary projects. Kaula is a 4 year FCCLA member and competitor. We are also proud of Megan Kudela for qualifying, to compete, at the FCCLA State level in April, with her Illustrated Talk project. The Firelands High School Family Consumer Science Department teachers and FCCLA co-advisors, Mrs. Ruth Dodig and Mrs. Jean Neidzwicki are proud of all FCCLA students involved in various projects. Photograph #1: Savannah Paskvan and Sharareh Feizkiah. Photograph #2: Kaula Smith displaying her culinary project.



Firelands FFA Member Qualifies for State Public Speaking Contest
Four Firelands FFA members qualified at the sub-district contest for the district speaking contest on March 2nd. Emma Ranney, freshman, qualified in FFA Creed Speaking, Jessica Zurcher, sophomore, in Beginning Prepared, Courtney Klesta, sophomore, in Advanced Prepared, and Ashlynn Yost, senior, in Extemporaneous Speaking. Ranney was gold rated and won her speaking category. She will compete at the state contest on March 19th in Columbus, OH. Zurcher was silver rated. Klesta earned bronze. Yost earned gold rating and fourth in district. Ranney and Yost both received district plaques at the contest.



Musical Moments

PARENTS!

Please make time to attend out monthly booster meetings. As our band grows, our need for parent involvement does also.

—Calendar of Events—

April 5, 12, 19 & 26th:

Percussion Practice

April 10th: Pancake Breakfast 8-1 pm

April 11: Booster Meeting 7 pm

April 14th: Jazz Fest 6 pm FHS

The bands website can now be accessed through the schools website. Please visit it for all pertinent information such as calendar of events and booster updates. Our website address is www.mfmb.org
The Booster's email address is firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com

If you have a student in the 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade band, please email us with your students name, and mailing address. We would like to keep you all updated on important events as they approach. Mr. Wiley will be holding a meeting for Disney Information soon!



Stained Glass Window Mosaic Reception & Auction



The FHS Art 3 students are holding a reception and silent auction of their stained glass window mosaics. The students have been all winter at creating mosaics in stained glass onto salvaged windows that are ready to beautify homes across the district. The students began their project by researching the arts of mosaic and stained glass and presenting these findings to their classmates. They also conducted market research to determine subjects and colors that would be the most popular. The 22 students then learned how to cut the glass and adhere it to the salvaged window, grout the work and finish the frame. The project is largely funded through a grant from the Ohio Art Education Association and the generous donations of stained glass from the Kozlowski family and the Doris Bauer family, and windows from the Davison and Jones families.

All of the windows are on display in the high school library now. You are invited to a public reception Tues. Apr. 5 from 6:30-8pm to celebrate the completion of this dazzling work and to bid on the windows that are for auction. The auction benefits the art class field trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art in May and the selling artist. Come and meet the artists, learn how they created their windows, enjoy light refreshments and perhaps make a bid on an original work of locally made art. Photograph: Gianna Campana, Cody Northeim and Jayme Jones, junior Art 3 students, proudly display their finished windows.

C & T's Rental

Delivery Available or Pick-up

440/985-9334

Having a party?

Call Dennis Stock!

Chairs, Tables & Tents

for Every Occasion!

Lowest Prices Guaranteed!

CHAIRS: .50 cents a piece

TABLES: \$5 a each

TENTS: 20 x 20=\$50, 20 x 30=\$75, 20 x 40=\$100

PACKAGE: 20 x 20 Tent, 64 Chairs, 8 Tables

& 2 sides for Tent \$125

Tent Set Up Available \$35



JVS—COMPUTERS NETWORKING STUDENTS EARN A+ CERTIFICATION

Nine students in the Lorain County JVS Network Communications Technology Program received their CompTIA Aplus (A+) certification.

The A+ certification is the industry credential that validates the students' skill. Certification confirms a computer technician's ability to perform tasks such as installation, configuration, diagnosing, preventive maintenance and basic networking.

Back Row/From Left: Kyle Kovacs (N. Ridgeville), Seth Diewald (Elyria), Evan Mertz (Elyria), David Veach (Brookside), Nick Sprague (N. Ridgeville). Front Row/From Left: Michael Keressi (Firelands), Anthony Sanfilippo (N. Ridgeville), Nathan Bally (Midview), and Chris Morris (Elyria).



Lorain County JVS Collision Repair Students Showcase Their Skills at Airbrush Competition

Lorain County JVS Collision Repair students participated in the first SkillsUSA Air Brush Competition held recently at Ohio Technical College in Cleveland.

Pictured, from left are: Brandon Rundle (Wellington), Nicholas Flynn (Firelands), and Travis Smith (Keystone). Brandon Rundle placed 2nd in the event.

SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. The organization is a partnership of students, teachers and industry members working together to ensure a skilled workforce for America.



An Introduction to the Junior State of America

On high school campuses across the country, there are students concerned with what is happening around them — students who are interested in politics and government, foreign affairs, the law, and education. The Junior State of America (JSA) was created by and for these students. The idea was first conceived by Professor E.A. Rogers, headmaster of the Montezuma Mountain School for Boys in California's Santa Cruz Mountains in 1934. Prof. Rogers had long maintained that one of the primary needs of a democracy was to train its youth in the essentials of good government. He believed that without an informed populace, a democracy is worthless. Since its inception, more than 500,000 student members have become active, informed citizens through the Junior State. There are currently over 15,000 active members now.

The Firelands High School chapter of the JSA began in spring of 2009. Advised by Mr. Sean Silvasy, there were 8 charter members. The only requirement is that members are enrolled in high school and interested in political discourse. The chapter has doubled to 16 and is now lead by President Alyssa Alcorn. Junior Matt Witte serves as Vice-President, junior Chris Neal serves as Secretary, junior Jake Westfall serves as Treasurer, junior Jayme Jones serves as Historian, Senior Kara Alcorn serves as Event Coordinator, assisted by sophomore Thomas Biery. The Firelands chapter is joined by chapters in Amherst Steele, Avon and Avon Lake High Schools.

The Junior Statesmen mission is to strengthen American democracy by educating and preparing high school students for life-long involvement and responsible leadership in a democratic society. In the student-run Junior State participants learn statesmanship as they engage in political discourse. They cultivate democratic leadership skills, challenge one another to think critically, advocate their own opinions, develop respect for opposing views, and learn to rise above self-interest to promote the public good. JSA allows for an exchange of ideas through stimulating student debates, thought talks, problem solving, and a variety of simulations. By participating in these activities each member gains a more intelligent and informed viewpoint. JSA also provides a wonderful chance to meet and make friends with scores of other bright, involved students who have similar interests. For more information link to www.jsa.org

Photograph: Some of the FHS Junior State of America students at a recent meeting. Standing: Kara Alcorn, Matt Witte, Jake Westfall, Thomas Biery, Alyssa Alcorn, Brianna Bunt, Chris Neal, Jayme Jones Seated: Brian O'Dell

WASHINGTON



FHS JSA Delegation Attends 2011 Winter Congress

A delegation of five students from Firelands High School's Junior State of America chapter attended the annual Winter Congress in our nation's capital February 17-20, 2011. Juniors Alyssa Alcorn, Daniel Kinsley, Jake Westfall, Matt Witte and sophomore Thomas Biery were assigned the roles of Senators and Representatives in this congressional simulation conference. Over 600 students from 12 states gathered at the DoubleTree Hotel in Arlington, VA to present and debate 71 bills.

Our conference began with two days of touring Washington D.C. that included a capital tour complete with viewing our Senate in action from the gallery. The students saw our Sen. Sherrod Brown defend decreased spending against an argument from Sen. John McCain-R Arizona. The students toured the Library of Congress, studied displays in the Smithsonian museums with great interest in art, natural history and the botanical garden, all of the major monuments, a performance in the Kennedy Center and enjoyed crabcakes in the Eastern Market and dinner in Chinatown.

Inspired by the sites of our nation's capital, the students were ready to dive into their Congressional duties. The conference began with a keynote speech by the U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios, followed by student political party caucuses. This conference gave the students the complete House and Senate committee process experience. The students learned how a bill becomes a law, including practice in writing and presenting bills, debates and amendments in their committee hearings. The Firelands chapter prepared and presented a bill to keep rent rates affordable. Although the bill failed in both the House and the Senate, it did earn a recognizable amount of support. Alyssa and Matt presented the rent control bill to their House and Senate committees and all students participated through speaking in pro and con debate, time-keepers and runners. Through eight and a half hours of debate, the 600 students worked through 71 bills in one day. Full House and Senate convened on Sunday before our departure as the full Congress to present the results of the Winter Congress.



Firelands Local Schools Earns a \$30,500 Grant from The Nord Family Foundation!

South Amherst Middle School has received a \$30,500 Grant! This grant will allow SAMS to offer an exploratory course call Gateway to Technology. This course is part of the Project Lead the Way organization and gives the students a hands-on experience in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This will enhance their experience and their learning in all subject areas. Former Walmart Teacher of the Year, Chuck Latto, will teach the class. The grant will completely pay for his training (Two weeks of training in Dayton in June). The grant will also pay for supplies, materials, and new computers! The computers will be available to all teachers and students, not just those in the Gateway to Technology class. Thank you to Chris Pelphrey and Chuck Latto who helped Dave Brand write the grant! SAMS Principal and Firelands Curriculum Director Dave Brand said, "The Nord Family Foundation is a wonderful philanthropic organization and I am proud to be apart of forging a partnership with them and the Firelands Local Schools. This grant allows Firelands Local Schools to offer a wonderful program that will challenge and engage our students with a rigorous and fun curriculum at no financial cost to its community."

CHOIR STUDENTS ATTEND ENSEMBLE COMPETITION



Congratulations to the 59 choir students who attended the Lorain County Solo and Ensemble Competition at Clearview High School on Saturday, February 12. Out of the 23 groups that prepared solos, duets, and ensemble; 15 received a Superior Rating, 7 received an Excellent Rating, and 1 received a Good Rating. Then the students attended the OMEA State Competition at Tri-C in Middleburg Heights on Saturday, February 19 and out of 19 prepared solos and ensembles; 11 received a Superior Rating, 6 received an Excellent Rating, and 2 received a Good Rating. The students prepared these songs over a couple months and then performed them in front of a judge. A huge thank you goes to our incredible accompanist who worked many hours with the students and accompanied them at both Saturday competitions - Thank you so much Mrs. Lynn Fannin!! We so appreciate you!! Pictured are just a few of the many choir students who attended the competitions.

Winter Formal at SAMS

On Saturday February 26th the South Amherst Middle School Student Council hosted their annual Winter Formal Dinner Dance. The dance was a huge success! Over 200 7th and 8th grade students enjoyed a pasta dinner, dancing to music provided by Trainer Joe, a Wii entertainment



room, a snack shack provided by the SAMS PTG, and endless visits to the photo booth provided by Shutter Clutter. The turnout was amazing and the students all put on their best outfits and best behavior. All of the staff and parent chaperones were very pleased by the event. The SAMS administration and Student Council advisors would like to extend a well deserved thank you to the 10+ parents who attended the event and assisted with set-up, student supervision, and clean up. Their help was so appreciated! The evening also include some fun dance awards presented. The winners in no particular order are pictured. Best Dancers Justin Welch & Jessica Beran; Best Hair Marissa Colby and Adrian Rios; Best Dressed Jonathan Reynolds and Erica Wasem; Most Fun Ty Wilson and Carrie Kubicki; 7th grade Prince and Princess Nathan Phillips and Kayla Unger; 8th grade King and Queen Cole Lewis and Katie Fath.

Youth Art Month Exhibit



SAMS art students Brandy Forster, Matthew Brightbill, and Samantha Hribal have artwork selected for display in the Ohio Art Education Association sponsored Case Western Reserve University art show. Keely Hall and Patrick Stewart have the distinct honor to exhibit artwork in Columbus at the Youth Art Month Exhibition and the Young People's Art Exhibit. Congratulations to all on your imaginative and inventive efforts!



Third and Fourth Grade Spelling Bee

March 4th the top two spellers from each third and fourth grade class came together to compete in the Firelands Elementary Annual Spelling Bee. The twenty contestants were judged by Mrs. Hignett, Mrs. Fee, Mrs. Bennett and Mr. Palmer. The pronouncer this year was Miss Jackson.

After a very difficult competition, the five finalists were chosen. They are as follows:

- First Place – Alexys Coggins (3rd Grader)
- Second Place – Ashley Strauss (3rd Grader)
- Third Place – Nathan Thompson (3rd Grader)
- Fourth Place – Vincent Morales (4th Grader)
- Fifth Place – Maribeth Petrey (3rd Grader)

The five finalists will go on to compete at the Lorain County Spelling Bee in May. We know that they will do a wonderful job of representing Firelands Elementary! Good Luck to our finalists!

SAMS Update

SAMS Power of the Pen Team Earns Multiple Honors!

Congratulations to the 7th grade Power of the Pen writing team for placing third at the District tournament on Saturday February 12. Michaela Jeffers contributed to the team's success by placing 10th out of 140 students. Other team members include Lilly Romond, Ryan Alcorn, Katy Tuggle, Emily Lipscomb, Victoria Krejci, and Alexis Lowe. Congratulations also goes out to the 8th grade Power of the Pen team for placing 4th at the district tournament. Nina Young had an outstanding day by placing 3rd and was awarded best of round honors. This honor recognizes the best story written in a given round out of all the participants. Other team members include Hannah Hicks, Marrissa McKinney, Abby Petrey, Emily Poherence, Taylor Odom, and Carrie Kubicki. Good Luck to both teams when they compete at the Regional Tournament on March 19.

Choir Distance Learning

A group of 7th and 8th grade choir members had an amazing opportunity to participate in a distance learning program provided by Playhouse Sqaure and WVIZ/PBS. They met a panel of crew and performing members from the hit musical, Shrek! Through the panel interview and question/answer session, students gained an understanding of the skills and competencies related to specific career fields in the performing arts. They were introduced to the musical director, assistant stage manager, the company manger and an actress who played the Sugar Plum Fairy/Fiona understudy. Each school involved asked the members of the panel two questions. The choir members enjoyed the experience very much and left knowing, first hand, the joy and the challenges of many careers available in the performing arts.

Come one, Come all to the 18th annual South Amherst Musical!

The 8th grade choir members will be presenting for the first time on the SAMS stage, Willy Wonka Junior. All the same characters and many of the familiar songs will be performed at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23. Tickets are on sale now during school hours. Reserved floor seats are \$5.00 and General bleacher seats are \$3.00. You may also purchase tickets on the nights of the performances. Come support the arts!!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Spring Conferences will be March 24th from 2:45-7:45PM in the Large Gym in an Arena Style. No appointments are necessary. Please come and discuss your child's progress with their teachers. This is a great opportunity for both the parents and the teachers to communicate, to work towards even more success for our students. Please stay current with your child's classes by signing onto ProgressBook. If you cannot attend on the 24th or if you have any questions please call SAMS or email the teacher.

David Brand, Principal

HONORABLE



Congratulations! Alex Yoby 8th grade art student earned an Honorable Mention for her written critical inquiry on the work of artist Grant Wood. The Ohio Art Education Association's Jerry Tollifson Art Criticism Open provides a forum whereby students can be recognized for their ability to articulate and write their critical responses to a piece of artwork. The goal of this process is for students to feel a greater sense of control and confidence in approaching art, empowering them to reach a stronger understanding of the artwork's meaning, value, and significance.



FIRELANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	SOUTH AMHERST MIDDLE SCHOOL	FIRELANDS HIGH SCHOOL
Regular Lunch \$2.00 (Milk included with all meals) Milk only .50¢	Regular Lunch \$2.25 (Milk included with all meals) Milk only .50¢	Regular Lunch \$2.40 (Milk included with all meals) Milk only .50¢
<p><u>MARCH 21ST—MARCH 25TH</u> MONDAY: Hot dog w/ bun, Baked beans, Pears TUESDAY: Domino’s pepperoni pizza or School pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie WEDNESDAY: Baked chicken nuggets, Tator-Tots, Applesauce, Whole grain roll THURSDAY: Soft taco w/ meat, Lettuce & cheese, Peaches, Pudding FRIDAY: NON-INSTUCTIONAL DAY “NO SCHOOL”</p> <p><u>MARCH 28TH—ARPIl 1ST</u> MONDAY: Hamburger w/bun or Sloppy Joe w/ bun, Baked Fries, Pears TUESDAY: Domino’s pepperoni pizza or School pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie WEDNESDAY: Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti w/ sauce, Tossed Salad w/carrots, Peaches THURSDAY: General Tso’s chicken, Stir fry vegetables, Pineapple, Seasoned rice, Fortune cookie FRIDAY: Toasted cheese sandwich, Tomato soup w/crackers, Peas, Applesauce cup</p> <p><u>APRIL 4TH—APRIL 8TH</u> MONDAY: Whole grain corn dog, Baked beans, Pears TUESDAY: Dominoes pizza or school pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie WEDNESDAY: Chicken fries, Hashbrown patty, Fresh Apple, Seasoned Rice THURSDAY: Taco salad w/meat, Lettuce & Cheese, Diced peaches, Tortilla chips, Breadstick FRIDAY: Cheese stuffed breadsticks, California blend veggie, Mandarin oranges</p> <p><u>APRIL 11TH—APRIL 15TH</u> MONDAY: Fish trout treasures, Baked fries, Applesauce, Muffin TUESDAY: Dominoes pizza or school pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie WEDNESDAY: Chicken patty sandwich, Broccoli w/cheese, Red grapes THURSDAY: Spaghetti w/meatballs, Tossed salad w/carrots, Mandarin oranges, Bread & Butter FRIDAY: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, Baby carrots w/dip, Diced pears, Goldfish cinnamon grahams</p>	<p><u>MARCH 21ST—MARCH 25TH</u> MONDAY: Mashed potato bowl..potatoes..corn... popcornchicken..gravy..cheese, Pears, Whole grain roll TUESDAY: Dominoes pepperoni pizza or Stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cake WEDNESDAY: BBQ shredded pork w/bun or Cook’s Choice, Broccoli w/cheese, Mandarin oranges THURSDAY: Pasta Bar w/meatballs, Tossed Salad w/carrots, Peaches, Whole grain roll FRIDAY: NON-INSTUCTIONAL DAY “NO SCHOOL”</p> <p><u>MARCH 28TH—ARPIl 1ST</u> MONDAY: Chicken Alfredo..grilled chicken, alfredo sauce, & pasta or Grilled chicken w/bun, Glazed carrots, Applesauce TUESDAY: Dominoes pepperoni pizza or Stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Dessert WEDNESDAY: Salisbury steak or Breaded pork chop, Seasoned corn, Whipped potatoes & gravy, Pineapple, Whole grain roll THURSDAY: Beef & cheese nachos or Taco fries w/ cheese, Tossed salad w/carrots, Whole grain roll FRIDAY:Macaroni & cheese or Cook’s choice, California blend, vegetable, Applesauce, Garlic toast</p> <p><u>APRIL 4TH—APRIL 8TH</u> MONDAY: Steak-um sandwich or Whole grain corn dog, California blend, vegetables TUESDAY: Dominoes pizza or Stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Dessert WEDNESDAY: Chicken parmesan or Chicken patty w/bun, Spaghetti w/sauce, Tossed salad w/ carrots, Fresh apple THURSDAY: Hot ham & cheese w/bun, Chicken noodle soup, Green Beans & carrots, Fresh apple FRIDAY: Cheese quesadilla or Cheeseburger w/ bun, Broccoli & Cheese, Pears</p> <p><u>APRIL 11TH—APRIL 15TH</u> MONDAY: Hot dog w/bun or Kielbasa w/bun, Baked Beans, Peaches TUESDAY: Dominoes pizza or Stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie WEDNESDAY: General Tso’s chicken Stir fry, vegetable blend, Mandarin oranges, Seasoned rice, Whole grain roll THURSDAY: Falcon double burger w/bun, cheese, lettuce, ranch dressing, Baked fries, Pears FRIDAY: Italian grilled cheese, Tomato soup w/ crackers, Seasoned Peas, Peaches</p>	<p><u>MARCH 21ST—MARCH 25TH</u> MONDAY: Chicken parmesan w/whole grain roll or Chicken patty w/bun, Spaghetti w/sauce, Green beans TUESDAY: Dominoes pepperoni pizza or stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Dessert WEDNESDAY: Salisbury steak w/gravy or Breaded pork chop, Whipped potatoes w/gravy, Peaches, Whole grain roll THURSDAY: Italian Burger w/bun (sauce & mozz cheese) or Chicken strips w/roll, Parsley potatoes, Peaches FRIDAY: Macaroni & cheese or Chicken nuggets, Seasoned peas, Applesauce, Whole grain roll</p> <p><u>MARCH 28TH—ARPIl 1ST</u> MONDAY: General Tso’s chicken or Chicken patty w/bun, Stir fry vegetables, Seasoned rice, Mandarin oranges TUESDAY: Dominoes pepperoni pizza or stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie WEDNESDAY: Taco salad w/meat or soft taco, Lettuce & cheese, Corn, Tortilla chips, banana THURSDAY: BBQ shredded pork w/bun or Chicken quesadilla, Baby carrots w/dip, Applesauce FRIDAY: Grilled cheese sandwich or rib a que w/bun w/tomato soup/crackers, Seasoned Peas, Pears</p> <p><u>APRIL 4TH—APRIL 8TH</u> MONDAY: Asian Teriyaki chicken or Chicken nuggets, Seasoned rice, Mandarin oranges, Whole grain roll TUESDAY: Dominoes pizza or Stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Dessert WEDNESDAY: Chipotle Day-build it!!! Chicken or Beef /tortilla, Choices of shredded lettuce, cheese, black beans, salsa, guacamole, sour cream, Apple THURSDAY: Pepperoni & cheese breadsticks or Steak-um w/cheese, Baby carrots w/dip, Applesauce FRIDAY: Falcon double burger w/cheese, ranch, lettuce or Cheese quesadilla, Baked beans, Peaches</p> <p><u>APRIL 11TH—APRIL 15TH</u> MONDAY: Chicken Alfredo..grilled chicken, alfredo sauce/over pasta or Grilled chicken breast w/bun, Glazed carrots, Pears, Whole grain roll TUESDAY: Dominoes pizza or Stuffed crust pizza, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookie WEDNESDAY: Beef & cheese nachos or taco fries w/ cheese, Steamed Broccoli, Red Grapes, Breadstick THURSDAY: Whole grain corn dog or Southwest pizza, Celery sticks w/peanut butter, Mandarin oranges FRIDAY: Cheese stuffed breadsticks or Rib a que w/ bun, California blend veggie, Mixed fruit</p>

COMMUNITY⁶ CALENDAR

— MARCH —

- 21 Band Boosters Meeting at FHS, 7:00 p.m.**
21 Varsity Baseball Game @ Olmsted Falls, 4:30 p.m.
21 JV Baseball Game @ Olmsted Falls, 4:30 p.m.
21 – 24 Kindergarten Registration Week, at FES, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
22 & 23 8th Grade Musical at SAMS, 7:00 p.m.
24 Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences, K-12, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.
25 Varsity Baseball Game @ Elyria High, 4:30 p.m.
25 JV Baseball Game @ Elyria High, 4:30 p.m.
28 End of Third Grading Period
28 Market Day Pickup at FES, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
28 Varsity Baseball Game (Home) vs Amherst-Steele, 4:30 p.m.
28 Coed Varsity Track (Home) vs Rocky River, 4:15 p.m.
28 JV Baseball Game @ Amherst-Steele, 4:30 p.m.
29 Varsity Softball @ Clearview, 4:30 p.m.
29 JV Softball (Home) vs Clearview, 4:30 p.m.
30 Coed Varsity Track (Home) vs Midview, 4:15 p.m.
31 Spring Pictures Taken at SAMS
31 Varsity Baseball Game @ Open Door, 4:30 p.m.
31 JV Baseball Game (Home) vs Open Door, 4:30 p.m.

— APRIL —

- Nelson Howe Invitational Track meet at Firelands, 4:15 p.m.**
1 Varsity Baseball Game (Home) vs Benedictine High, 4:30 p.m.
1 JV Baseball Game @ Benedictine, 4:30 p.m.
2 Varsity Baseball Game @ Tiffin Columbian, 11:00 a.m.
2 Varsity Baseball Game @ Toledo start at Tiffin Columbian, 1:00 p.m.
3 SAMS PTG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
4 Varsity Baseball Game (Home) vs Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
4 Varsity Softball Game @ Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
4 JV Softball Game @ Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
4 JV Baseball Game (Home) vs Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
5 FES PTG Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Teacher Lunchroom
5 Varsity Baseball Game @ Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
5 Varsity Softball Game @ Avon Lake, 4:30 p.m.
5 JV Softball Game @ Avon Lake, 4:30 p.m.
5 JV Baseball Game @ Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
6 Spring Pictures at FES

Fabulous Falcon Breakfast

- 6 Coed Varsity Track @ Bay Village, 4:15 p.m.
- 6 Varsity Baseball Game (Home) vs Midview, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 Varsity Softball Game @ Midview, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 JV Softball Game @ Midview, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 JV Baseball Game (Home) vs Midview, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Varsity Baseball Game @ Bay Village, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Varsity Softball Game (SAMS) vs Bay Village, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 JV Softball Game (Home) vs Bay Village, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 JV Baseball Game @ Bay Village, 4:30 p.m.
- 8 Varsity Softball Game (SAMS) vs Lake Ridge, 4:30 p.m.
- 9 Varsity Softball Game @ Columbia (Double Header), TBA
- 11 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Open Enrollment Application will be available at Firelands Board Office
- 11 Band Boosters Meeting @ FHS, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Varsity Baseball Game @ Fairview High, 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Varsity Softball Game (SAMS) vs Fairview, 4:30 p.m.
- 11 JV Softball Game (Home) vs Fairview, 4:30 p.m.
- 11 JV Baseball Game @ Fairview, 4:30 p.m.
- 12 Varsity Softball Game (SAMS) vs Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
- 12 JV Softball Game (Home) vs Rocky River, 4:30 p.m.
- 13 Coed Varsity Track @ Fairview, 4:15 p.m.
- 13 Varsity Baseball Game (Home) vs North Ridgeville, 4:00 p.m.
- 13 Varsity Softball Game @ North Ridgeville, 4:30 p.m.
- 13 JV Softball Game @ North Ridgeville, 4:30 p.m.
- 13 JV Baseball Game (Home) vs North Ridgeville, 4:30 p.m.
- 14 Varsity Baseball Game (Home) vs Avon, 4:30 p.m.
- 14 Varsity Softball Game @ Avon High, 4:30 p.m.
- 14 JV Softball Game @ Avon High, 4:30 p.m.
- 14 JV Baseball Game (Home) vs Avon High, 4:30 p.m.
- 15 Coed Varsity Track @ Lorain County Invite, TBA
- 15 Varsity Softball Game @ Akron Racers Spring Showcase, TBA
- 16 Varsity Baseball @ Columbia High, 11:00 a.m. (DH) 1:00 2nd game
- 16 Varsity Softball Game @ Akron Racers Spring Showcase, TBA
- 16 JV Baseball Game (Home) vs Columbia High, 4:30 p.m.
- 16 – 24 High School French Trip

Attention Families and Friends of Firelands Community Day School!

Firelands Community Day School has been providing daycare and pre-school services by Krystal Scott within the Firelands School District since 1982. Due to the condition of the building this is shared with the Board of Education office, relocation is necessary. We are asking that you keep your eyes and ears open and help us to search for a new home. We are all looking at this challenge as a positive and exciting step towards our future! We are dedicated to remaining open and we would like to thank you in advance for your thoughts, support, prayers, and any service that you think will help us in our endeavor! If you have any questions or ideas please feel free to call and talk to us!! 440/965-7677.

Miss Michelle, Miss Susan & Miss Pam

Brownhelm Historical Meeting!

On Wednesday, April 6th the Brownhelm Historical Association will present a program 'Sharing Our Brownhelm History' at 7 p.m. at the Carriage Barn in the Mill Hollow Metro Park. The public is welcome to attend and learn some of the history about Brownhelm Township since its beginning in 1816. This is a great way to learn about our great history especially if you are new to the area. Old historical calendars will be available to share more history about some of our historic homes, the names of the roads in Brownhelm and a lot about Brownhelm's Community Christmas! So, mark the date and join us for a fun evening and learn about your neighbors from the past. Refreshments will be served so plan to stay and socialize after the program.

PITCHFORK PALS UPDATE!

The club held their second meeting of the year on February 13th at the Henrietta Township Hall. First the Cloverbuds made valentines for someone special in their lives. After that they played bingo. The Health and Safety Officer, Cora Born, discussed snow and ice safety. The demonstrations of the meeting were done by John Knoble, Dillian Osborne and Zach Songer. John did a demonstration on how he and his family make maple syrup. Dillian did his on hunting and guns. Zach's was on his bobble head collection. The club is seeking volunteers for several community service projects including packing food on March 9th for the Second Harvest Food Bank and bringing in supplies to make center pieces for the Lorain County 4-H Endowment dinner on April 2nd. Club members also turned in baby bottles filled with change for Cornerstone Among Women. The club is also collecting items to donate to the following charities: Eyeglasses for the Lion's Club, cell phones for the Battered Women's Agency, soda pop tabs from the Toledo Hospital and children's items for the Blessing House. Everyone decorated a small box with stickers and glitter and/or did the same with heart shaped valentine cards. The next meeting will be on March 13th at the Henrietta Township Hall. News Reporter Elizabeth Schofield



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Ages: 18 months – 12 years
Pre-School: 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
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Monday thru Friday

The Communities we serve: Amherst, Amherst Township, Birmingham,
Brownhelm Township, Camden Township, Florence Township, Henrietta
Township, Kipton Village, New Russia Township, South Amherst Village,

You may view this issue on line at:
www.firelandsschools.org