

# The Firelands Express

NOVEMBER 23, 2015

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 77

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



As we enter the second quarter of the 2015-2016 school year, I am happy to share with you some of the many accomplishments and service projects our students took part in during the first quarter. The accolades listed below are a true testament of the work ethic and character of the students in our district.

### Academics:

- \* The 5<sup>th</sup> grade academic challenge team finished second at their competition through the North Point Educational Service Center.
- \* 24 students were recognized in September and October as “Finest Falcons” at the elementary school
- \* 69 students at the middle school were recognized as “Fabulous Falcons” at a breakfast held on November 10th
- \* The middle school’s academic challenge teams took third place in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and second place in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- \* 60 students were recognized with a luncheon at the high school for their achievements and growth during the first quarter
- \* College entrance exam scores surpassed the prior year and are well above the state average

### Co-curricular:

- \* Our FFA Chapter is ranked as one of the Top 10 Chapters in the nation and was recognized as the National Champion for Models of Innovation. In addition, the FFA Food for America Committee has collaborated with students from Wellington and the JVS to develop an agricultural literacy program connected to Ohio’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science Standards
- \* The Mighty Falcon Marching Band was named as a Grammy Signature Finalist (one of only three in the State of Ohio)
- \* 10 middle school students currently have their art work on display at the Educational Service Center in Elyria and 10 high school students had their art work displayed at the Lorain County High School Art Exhibition

### Athletics:

- \* The high school cross country teams advanced runners to the OHSAA Regional Meet
- \* Volleyball and boys’ soccer teams qualified to the district semi-finals

- \* Our football team qualified to the Division IV playoffs (only the second time in school history)
- \* The middle school girls cross country team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the boys finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the conference

### Service:

- \* 4th grade students welcomed 54 veterans for an appreciation program held on November 11th
- \* On November 9th, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student hosted “Setting the White Table” in honor of our veterans
- \* Over 20 students at SAMS are volunteering to make blankets for The Blessing House
- \* High school students held fundraisers in October for juvenile cancer and hunger
- \* 6<sup>th</sup> grade students collected donations to provide Thanksgiving baskets to over 20 families in our area
- \* FFA organized a food drive and is participating in Crocheting for a Cause, a service project to make blankets for families who recently gave birth to twins born with twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome

### Parent/Community Support:

I would also like to personally recognize our PTGs and booster clubs for their support. Through their time, talents and resources, our programs are enriched by their generosity. In addition, I would also like to thank our entire community for supporting our students at our events and contests this fall.

GO FALCONS!

Mike Von Gunten

Superintendent

FHS Class of 1995

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

@FLSDSuper

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.

# SPECIAL NOTICE

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL EMERGENCIES, CLOSURES, DELAYS AND EARLY DISMISSALS

As winter is quickly approaching, the need to close, delay, or release students early from school will be communicated via our "all-call" system, website, Twitter and local media outlets. In situations where information needs to be shared with parents quickly, it is critical that we have updated emergency contact information. Please contact your child's school with any changes.

## Facts Regarding Our Facilities at Firelands High School and South Amherst Middle School

In 2006 a facility study was conducted at **South Amherst Middle**. The results of this report from nine years ago identified the following items needed to be repaired/replaced:

Heating System  
Roofing  
Electrical Systems  
Plumbing and Fixtures  
Windows  
Walls and Chimneys  
General Finishes  
Interior Lighting  
Security Systems  
Handicapped Access  
Site Condition  
Sewage System  
Ventilation Systems  
Exterior Doors  
Hazardous Material (ie. asbestos)  
Life Safety  
Loose Furnishings  
Technology

To view both reports, visit the "About the District" tab on our website:  
[www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)

In 2014 a facility study was conducted at **Firelands High School**. The following items were identified as needing to be repaired/replaced:

Heating System  
Roofing  
Electrical Systems  
Plumbing and Fixtures  
Windows  
Walls and Chimneys  
General Finishes  
Interior Lighting  
Security Systems  
Emergency/Egress Lighting  
Handicapped Access  
Site Condition  
Ventilation Systems  
Exterior Doors  
Hazardous Material (ie. asbestos)  
Life Safety  
Loose Furnishings  
Technology

## "Stuff the Bus"

Firelands TLC and the Cheerleaders are putting on a "Stuff the Bus" campaign, Thursday December 17 at Firelands High School. The event will take place from 6-8 p.m. We are looking for non-perishable foods and NEW or gently used toys to donate this holiday season to local families in need.

## Firelands Youth Wrestling

Firelands Youth Wrestling is underway. Sign-ups were November 16<sup>th</sup> at South Amherst Middle School. If you are interested in entering your K-6 athlete in our program this winter please get in contact with Josh Malave, at [jmalave@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jmalave@firelandsschools.org). We have an "Advanced" and "Beginner" program to meet the needs of all of our athletes.

Firelands High School  
Parents for a Safe After Prom Environment  
(PSAPE) Class of 2016  
"Night at the Races"  
Saturday, February 27th, 2016  
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; Racing Commences at 7:00 p.m.  
New Russia Township Hall  
46300 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin



Name/Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

★ PURCHASE A TABLE \$200.00  
Includes 8 admission tickets, dinner, beverages & dessert, horse, advertisement in program & table advertisement

Name of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

★ PURCHASE A TICKET \$20.00: # \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Includes dinner, beverages & dessert

★ PURCHASE A HORSE \$20.00  
Includes a chance to win \$50 Name of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

★ PURCHASE AN AD IN PROGRAM \*\*\*Include a copy of your ad or business card!

Full Page \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Half Page \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Business Card \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

★ SPONSOR A RACE \$50.00  
Includes advertisement in program & recognition at the time of the race

Make Checks Payable to: PSAP  
C/O Debbie Brightbill  
2025 Claus Rd  
Vermilion, OH 44889

Questions? Contact:  
Linda Nickles (440) 258-9502 or Amy Spiegelburg (440) 315-1453

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## To the Firelands Community

The Mighty Falcon Marching Band would like to express their deepest appreciation for the generosity of the Amherst Eagles for the donation to assist with the Mighty Falcon Marching Bands trip to Orlando, Florida this year. Without the generous donation from the Amherst Eagles, and the generosity of other community donors, the trip would not have been possible for many of our students. The entire Mighty Falcon Marching Band family would like to give a heartfelt Thank You to the Firelands Community, the Amherst Eagles and all that helped make this trip a reality for our group!

Thank you! Dustin Wiley—Band Director- Mighty Falcon Marching Band





# Congratulations to our Buckeye State Winners



Congratulations to our Buckeye State winners, who attended seminars at Bowling Green (Boys) and Mount Union. They spent the week simulating and learning about the workings of state and local government. Representing FHS for the boys were Jerrod Horwedel, Mark Roberts, and David Vaughn. Representing FHS for the girls was Michaela Jeffers. Thank you for being outstanding representatives of Firelands High School.

## FHS NEWS

**Career Day '15**—Almost 200 Sophomores and Juniors took either the PSAT or Practice ACT to get ready for the ACT or SAT college entrance tests. The Freshman heard career speakers, and were also introduced to Family Connections, our new College and Career Readiness system. In the afternoon, students played kickball, decorated with chalk, or played corn hole to raise money to fight cancer, and collected food items to help the hungry this holiday season. It was another fantastic success, and hats off to Diane Zimmer, Kennie Searight, Katie Goss, Josh Malave, Laura Tawil, and Shanna Finnegan for making the day worthwhile and enjoyable for all. Data from these tests should be available by the second week of November.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** – FHS will host Parent-Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 7:30 pm. We encourage parents to engage with our teachers to discuss their children, so that our teachers, parents, and students can be on the same page on how they can best succeed in school.

**Fall Senior Night** – FHS paid tribute to Seniors who participated in athletics and/or band this past fall season. Members of the Class of 2016 in marching band, cross-country, volleyball, soccer, and football walked across the Falcon Stadium turf one last time to the applause and appreciation of the fans. Thank you to our Seniors, and to their parents for the countless hours of supporting your children participating for FHS. Thank you Class of 2016.

**Fantastic Fall**—Congratulations to our fall athletes, who have returned in a tremendous fall season for the Falcons. The boys soccer team qualified to the District Semi-Final match at Bay last Wednesday, falling to the Rockets 7-1. The volleyball team played at Holy Name last Tuesday in the District Semi-Finals, dropping their match to the Green Wave 3 sets to 0. The football team defeated Keystone last Friday night and finished at 8-2, which was good enough to qualify for the OHSAA Division IV Playoffs. Finally, the boys' cross-country

team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the District meet, qualifying for the Regionals at Tiffin. Also, Tori Hritsko qualified as an individual into the Regional Meet. The boys team and Tori ran at Tiffin last Saturday, and made a fantastic showing among some of the most elite XC runners in Ohio.

**Choir and Band Concerts**—The choir put on a fantastic show last Monday, and the band played "One Last Time" last Thursday to celebrate our music department's fall concert season.

**FFA to Nationals** —The Firelands FFA students traveled to Louisville, KY last weekend to participate in the FFA National Convention. Senior Alex Sabine and graduate Demi Dovin were competing in National competitions, as well as other FHS students participating in important sessions, as they continue to shine nationally with the FFA Chapter being rated Gold, a top -10 Chapter in the United States. Good luck to FFA.

**FFA Working to Help Feed the County** —The Food for America Committee has been working in conjunction with students from Wellington & the JVS for the past year, to develop the countywide Food for America agricultural literacy program that will be presented to 300 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from several Lorain County schools. This program was designed to teach elementary age students where their food comes from and our FFA students have worked hard to connect it and teach it according to Ohio 3<sup>rd</sup> grade science standards. Congratulations to our FFA students and Mrs. Finnegan on this initiative, which showed Lorain County's third graders where their food comes from.

**OGT Retakes** – Juniors and Seniors who have yet to pass all five parts of the OGT participated in testing last week, as they are the last two classes to be under the OGT requirements from ODE.

Submitted by Bob Maver, FHS Principal

# GUIDANCE CORNER

## SENIORS

Seniors need to go onto [FAFSA.gov](http://FAFSA.gov) to create their FSA ID prior to January 1, 2016.

College Goal Sunday- Sunday February 14, 2016 at Lorain County Community College. More information available at [www.StudentAid.gov](http://www.StudentAid.gov)

Just a reminder that the CFLC Scholarship Program goes live on December 15<sup>th</sup> [www.peoplewhocare.org](http://www.peoplewhocare.org). Please feel free to contact **Angela Lee, Lorain County Community Foundation Scholarship Coordinator** at 440.984.7390 with any questions.

Continue to check our Guidance Web Page for update scholarship opportunities and updates.

CCP Seniors, please contact our office to set up a senior interview for assistance with the college admission process. If you could provide us with your email address, we can forward information to help you with the college application process.

## JUNIORS

Ms. Goss introduced the **Naviance** program to the junior classes in mid- November. The students were given the opportunity to complete career inventories and set post-secondary goals. Please continue to plan for the future by registering for **ACT/SAT** and visiting different college campuses this spring.

## SOPHOMORES

Mrs. Zimmer will be in the sophomore classes during the week of **December 7-11th** reviewing the college and career readiness resource called **Naviance**. The students will be completing career interest inventories, exploring post-secondary plans and meeting with a JVS representative.

## FRESHMEN

Late November and early December the SOS program was presented for all freshmen students. The **Signs of Suicide and Depression program** was designed to open up a discussion on mental health concerns and how to address the topic. The students were provided with the opportunity on how to identify symptoms, brainstorm coping skills and know whom to turn to for help. We encourage you to continue the conversation with your child and offer support along the way. Please reach out to the guidance department for any additional resources.

## COLLEGE PREP INFORMATION

ACT and SAT registration information and test dates are on their websites: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Information packets are available in the guidance office with dates of testing and how to register online.

## COLLEGE VISIT FORMS

Seniors are allowed 3 college visits to view colleges of their choice and ask questions of the college admission staff. A form is available in the guidance office. This form must be given to the main office **before the student can visit the college**. It counts as a day of attendance, but missed school work must be made up. Juniors are allowed 2 college visits.

## COLLEGENOW RESOURCE

College Now Representative, Jacquie Anderle, will be at Firelands High School every Tuesday for the 2015-2016 school year in Room 223A (by the science rooms) to meet with college-bound students. College Now can assist students with multiple parts of the college application process and in exploring financial aid resources. She can also be reached through email at [janderle@collegenowgc.org](mailto:janderle@collegenowgc.org).



## FHS Art Students Publish a Firelands Coloring Book

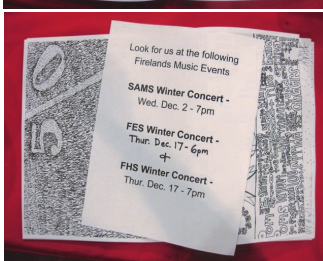
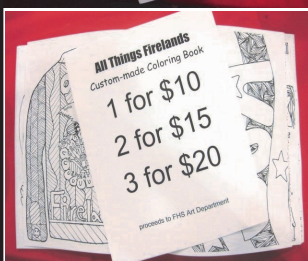
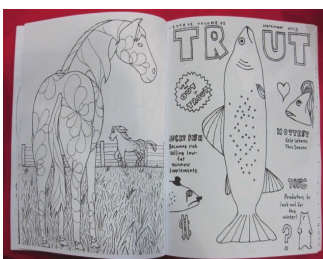
“All Things Firelands”

You can't find this coloring book anywhere else on earth!

Collaboratively created by 68 Firelands High School first through fourth year studio students, this book aims to depict images unique and exclusive to the Firelands district. Students brainstormed subjects that are distinctive to our beautiful school and district. Each artist selected one image to develop into a visually rich page using a variety of rich patterns and line weights.

The act of coloring has been re-discovered by older students and adults as both focusing and meditative and also satisfying and rewarding. In 1922 Winston Churchill expounded on the value of “painting as a pastime” to rest over-worked areas of the brain through art-making. More recently Johanna Basford, a Scottish textile artist single-handedly re-invented the coloring book with her 2013 publication “The Secret Garden”. Today highly detailed coloring books that require fine motor skills and an adult's patience have created a social movement and taken the market by storm. Coloring books are great gifts and a great way to de-stress from a busy holiday season. Use this coloring book to rest and reward your brain and to celebrate all things Firelands!

Coloring books are available from Mrs. Tawil, FHS Art Teacher and at the K-12 winter music events as follows; SAMS winter choir concert Dec. 2 at 7pm and Thur. Dec. 17 at both the 6pm FES winter music program and 7pm FHS winter music extravaganza. The books are \$10 each, 2 for \$15 or 3 for \$20. There is a coloring book on display in the showcase between FHS rooms 204 (health) and 206 (French). Proceeds from this coloring book will supplement the visual art budget for field trips and art supplies.



## Firelands Students Exhibit in the 2015 Lorain County High School Art Exhibition



back row- Ian Valerius, Isaac Sultzer, Alex Brill;  
front row- Andrea DiAsio, Victoria Krejci, Victoria Barnett and Lynn Born. (Not pictured - Ian Crawford, Jerrod Horwedel and Julia Ohle)

This year Firelands High School is represented by a group of 10 students from grades 9-12. Freshmen **Alex Brill** and **Isaac Sultzer** are displaying pen and colored pencil zentangle mandala designs. Additionally freshmen **Victoria Barnett** and **Lynn Born** are displaying box drawings. Sophomore **Ian Valerius** displays a contour study of a hydrangea. Watercolor botanical studies of hydrangea were completed from life and are displayed by juniors **Ian Crawford**, **Andrea DiAsio**, and seniors **Jerrod Horwedel**, **Victoria Krejci**, and **Julia Ohle**. Victoria Krejci earned “Best in Show” for Firelands and Alex Brill, Andrea DiAsio and Julia Ohle each earned “Excellence” awards.

**2015 Lorain County High School Art Exhibition**  
Elyria Public Library – West River Branch  
1194 West River Rd.  
Elyria, OH

Mon. Nov. 2 through Fri. Nov. 20 (until 3pm)

Exhibition open during library hours  
10am-8pm Monday through Thursday  
10am – 5pm Friday and Saturday  
Closed Sunday

## Firelands Featured in Exclusive ESC Exhibition

The Educational Service Center for Lorain County schools in Elyria features one school district each month through a K-12 art exhibition. November 2015 is Firelands' turn. With 30 works representing FES, SAMS and FHS, Firelands exhibition is exceptional this year.

Firelands Elementary Students honored with exhibition are Natalie Smith (Kindergarten), Addison Smath and Andrew Pawlak (1st Grade), Lyla Fontaine and Michael Janosik (2nd Grade), Telaysia Kraus (3rd Grade), William Frederick and Grace Tansey (4th Grade), Grace Stanley and Vincenzo Hicks (5th Grade).

South Amherst Middle School is represented by sixth grader Michael Smith, seventh graders Cole Wotton, Liberty Gonia, Brianna Bonomolo, Megan Sutton, Hattie Born, Kristin Dewitt and Josh Gallo and eighth graders Savannah Murray and Logan Elkin.

High School students featured this year are freshmen Riley Bayus, Talia Gonzalez, Genalda Finley, Devon McGinnis and Anna Denes with colored pencil and pen zentangled mandalas. Freshman Lynn Born, juniors Patrick Brightbill and Andrea DiAsio and seniors Victoria Krejci and Julia Ohle all display their line drawings from our coloring book project.

The exhibition is located at the ESC building at 1885 Lake Avenue in Elyria and is open during their business hours. The exhibition concludes Nov. 30.



FHS artists with some of the exhibited work Genalda Finley, Devon McGinnis, Anna Denes and Riley Bayus (grade 9).



FABULOUS FALCON NOVEMBER 2015

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
Abigail Aslaksen	Caden Boetticher	Alaina Becker
Christopher Berthold	Heidi Cowling	Warren Bolyard
Kaleb Blainey	Eduardo Diaz	Caleb Caruthers
Ian Borton	Julia Douzos	Ryvers Cogar
Isabelle Davis	Liberty Gonia	Justo Delgado
Noah Galloway	Frank Janezic	Sierra Frazier
Gavin Gifford	Casey Kelley	Stephen Gurchik
Mason Hickman	Dylan Nelson Koba	Brian Harvey
Teah Hildebrandt	Nathaniel Lester	Steven Iwanek
Rylie Hutsenpiller	Emilia Lewis	Taylor Kenska
Carter Janicek	Amaris Bush-Madding	Nathaniel Kraus
Abraham Mastellone	Logan Mayer	Amber Michalski
Kathleen Nimrichter	Delaney Overstreet	Joselyn Moquete
Alexander Pennington	Grace Sherban	Vicent Morales
Jadeyn Ramsey	Michael Sorrell	Luke Oliver
Matthew Ramsey	Dylan Taylor	Sean Perry
Lyza Riccardi	Ethan Tester	Jenna Selent
Larren Rounds	Olivia Triplett	Arianna Seymore
Leah Schmittle	Aaron Urban	Jordon Vaughn
Mason Stanley		Kaylee Wells
Blake Stinson		
Gillan Striker		
Aidan VonG unten		
Autumn Wiley		

# SAMS CROSS COUNTRY



The SAMS Girls Cross Country Team placed second at the PAC Conference Meet. First team all conference athletes were Alessandra Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Lexi Alston 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Jordan Janosik 11<sup>th</sup>, Gracie Yonts 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Alyssa Danicki 25<sup>th</sup>. The girls team place in the top half of all the races this season. Congratulations on a very good season.

The SAMS Boys Cross Country Team placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the PAC Conference Meet. Nicholas Wells was

all conference by placing 7<sup>th</sup>. Chayce Baldwin, Josh Gallo, Nathaniel Boucher, Logan Rush, Jordon Vaughn, Ryan Walker, Robert Harasty, and Luke Dempsey all improved during the season. All the athletes ran a PR at the end of the season. Good job boys for a very fine season.

## “America’s White Table”

Firelands Local Schools is known for a lot of positive community actions including numerous graduates who go on to serve our country through one of the armed forces. Several years ago one of our former students stopped by for lunch with his sixth grade teachers at South Amherst Middle School. As our lunch came to an end we, the sixth grade team, promised that young man that we would never forget his faithful service nor our students who had given all. Thus our “Setting of America’s White Table” was birthed at South Amherst Middle School.

The history behind “America’s White Table” appears to have originated during the Vietnam War as a reminder of those fallen soldiers and the soldiers missing in action. The table is small because the soldiers are alone away from their families and friends. The white table cloth is then used to cover the table because white symbolizes purity, anyone who has seen a soldier sworn in knows they are joining the military with a pure heart. A lemon and salt are placed on the plate to symbolize the bitter tears that are shed by their families, friends and teachers who are left behind. Then an empty chair is pushed under the table to symbolize their empty seat at the dinner table. This is followed by a black napkin and an overturned glass for the soldiers who are being denied a meal due to being held in captivity for our freedom. Finally, a white candle and a red rose are placed on the table for the hope that all of our soldiers will return safely to their home of loved ones.

This year on Monday, November 9, 2015 the sixth grade students of South Amherst Middle School will once again invite local veterans to an assemble where they will set “America’s White Table”. This is done for two purposes, first to thank the local veterans for their service to our country and secondly to never forget our former and future students who will continue to serve this great country.



SAMS FABULOUS FALCONS

## FALL SEASON SUMMARIES SUBMITTED BY COACHES.

### Golf

The golf team had its largest participation numbers in many years. The team finished conference matches on the year at 3-5 but made a strong push at the end of the season finishing 4<sup>th</sup> at the Patriot Athletic Conference Championship. Congrats to our lone senior Brandon Palmer on his 4 year career.

### MS CC

The MS teams had a great year this fall. After many strong showings throughout the season the teams finished strong at the PAC Meet. The boys were led by Nick Wells 7<sup>th</sup> place finish overall and a 4<sup>th</sup> place team finish. The girls were led by Allesandra Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lexi Alston 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with the team capturing 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The future is very bright for Firelands Cross Country.

### HS CC

The HS teams had a great year as well. The boys team graduated many strong seniors last year but this year's team put in a lot of hard work in the summer to ensure they would achieve great things. The boys finished the year at the PAC Championship finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. They were led by sophomore Ian Valerius' 7<sup>th</sup> place finish. The boys continued their strong showing by qualifying for Regionals at Tiffin as an entire team. Representing the team at Regionals were Matthew Brightbill, Pablo Barranco, Charlie Yonts, Ian Valerius, Ian Crawford, Zach Baldwin, and Nick Squires. The girls team had a really strong showing at the PAC Championship as well. The girls finished 4<sup>th</sup> as a team and were led by Joy Vaughn's 5<sup>th</sup> place and Tori Hritsko 10<sup>th</sup> place finishes. Tori Hritsko continued her season at Regionals with a personal record by 2 minutes. Great job to all of the boys and girls runners.

### Girls Soccer

The girls soccer team finished up the 2015 season with a 9-4-4 record. After giving up a loss in their home opener, the Lady Falcons made it a point to defend their turf and went undefeated at home for the remainder of the season. The Falcons proved that they could play with the best in the PAC when they shutout the Fairview Warriors for a 0-0 tie in the regular season. The Lady Falcons combined for 47 goals this season (only two teams were able to shut them out). Thirteen different players contributed to scoring efforts through goals and assists. Lexi McCrary scored the most goals by a freshman (17) since college standout Jess Zurcher's freshman season. The Lady Falcons will graduate five talented seniors this year: Brylee Jones-Center Mid, Emily Rich-Forward/Midfield, Kayla Unger-Midfield, Steph-

anie Wells-Center Defender, and Alex Willis-Goalkeeper. The team will miss their senior leaders and has big shoes to fill down the middle of the field next year!

### Boys Soccer

The boys soccer team graduated 9 starters off of last year's dominating team. The season started slow for the young falcons as they worked their way to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the PAC Stars Division, but as the season progressed the experience gained really led to great improvements. The team defeated arch rival Vermilion which helped propel them into the OHSAA Tournament. The team then went on to defeat PAC Co-Champions Buckeye and Brookside in consecutive games to earn them a sectional championship. The team ultimately fell to state ranked Bay Village in the District Semi-finals but it was a great season for a team that has no seniors. Junior Patrick Brightbill led the team this season in scoring and was honored 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All State as well as Co-Lorain County DII Player of the Year. The team is looking forward to big things for the future.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Volleyball

Our season starts in August with tryouts. You could feel the excitement in the gym. The girls came into the gym everyday full of energy, and willing to show what they had for a chance to be on the team. This year we had 12 girls, each one had a different level of skills. But what they all had was determination to make this the best season. We won the PAC Tournament. A perfect end to our perfect season. All the girls did their part on the court, whether it was setting, passing, or hitting. Serving was also a strong part of our game. Congratulations to the following girls for a great season: Gwyneth Conibear, Ashlee McGuire, Allsion Lake, Shawny Hess, Julia Douzos, Bridget Rutkoski, Grace Sherban, Paiton Widener, Madalyn Van Cooney, Kristin DeWitt, Sam Simko, and Jasmin Schuler. Way to go girls!! Congrats to the 2015 PAC Champs!

### 8<sup>th</sup> Volleyball

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball team completed a perfect 15-0 season in Patriot Athletic Conference play. The team demonstrated great team spirit and determination. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders entered the PAC Tournament as the #1 seed but ultimately fell in a close semi-final game to Sheffield. The team bounced back with a resounding victory to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the conference tournament. Members of the team are: Gracie Ransom, Ryvers Cogar, Brooklyn Ollis, Joselyn Moquete, Mackenzie Mack, Holly Eberhardt, Lauren Warner, Ashley Straus, Lauren Widener, Taylor Kenska, Emily Stewart, Samantha Walcott, & Mika Pina.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Volleyball

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team did a great

job of gaining experience and growing. The team showed tremendous growth in their skills. They are looking to the off-season to continue to improve to compete for JV positions next season. Members of the team are Juliette Scheufler, Saige Szivan, Emily Squires, Bellea Cogar, Liz DeWitt, Alina Delgado, & Elizabeth Dempsey.

### JV Volleyball

The Firelands JV Volleyball team had an overall record of 9-10 this season, and 8-8 in the PAC. Great determination and hard work paid off for the team as they finished the season with a powerful win over Brookside, winning in 3 games and the 3rd game ending 28-26! Another memorable win for the girls took place at Clearview, when the team battled back and forth in the 3rd game and ended up victorious 25-23, never giving up! Through injuries and illnesses, the girls were always supportive of each other and fought through their ups and downs. They worked extremely well together and learned a lot from one another. Congratulations girls! Team members include: Briana Bowyer, Hope Caruso, Olivia Novak, Liz DeWitt, Emily Squires, Alaina Kempf, Bellea Cogar, Maddy Lyons, Ava Mastellone, Samantha Ives, & Bianca Inman.

### Varsity Volleyball

The Varsity Volleyball team ended their season with a 13-11 overall record and were 8-8 in the PAC!! The girls participated in a tournament at Northwestern this year, after beating Bay, TCC, and Northwestern they were the tournament champions!! The team also upset Buckeye, the PAC champions, in Sectional Finals, and then ended their season with a tough loss to Holy Name in District semi-finals. The girls fought hard in every match this year, never giving up, and always pushing to the end of the match no matter what!! Senior Katie Michener reached her 1,000 career dig this year in our match against Wellington on September 17. Congratulations to all the members of the Varsity team; Keely Hall, Katie Michener, Dalaney Rogala, Allison Vilagi, Erica Wasem, Tori Grasso, Olivia Harris, Madison Palmer, Hannah Reynolds, Faith Rico, McKenna Turton.

### MS Football

The MS Football team finished with a record of 3-4-1. It was very impressive to see how the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students came together as one team. They really demonstrated sportsmanship and care for one another. The 8th grade schedule presented the team with some very steep competition, but the boys never backed down and showed great growth to move forward to next year. Members of the team were:

Alexander Angle  
Trevor Bauer  
Caden Boetticher  
Caden Bomback  
Payton Burgdorf  
Chance Coultrip  
Donald Crawford  
Dominic Critelli  
Nathan Damron  
Jacob Farley  
Fabian Gonzalez  
Kevin Guillemot  
Elijah Haas  
Edwin Hicks  
Jared Ives  
Casey Kelley  
Sean Perry

Nathaniel Pignitella  
Grant Price  
Lorenzo Reyna  
Ethan Ritchie  
Seth Robinette  
Jacob Schmitz  
Austin Schuler  
Konnor Sirow  
Jeremy Skodney  
Samuel Solowiej  
Michael Sorrell  
Colin Stark  
Ethan Tester  
Jack Valerius  
Garrett Vardell  
Brayden Willbond  
Cole Wotton

### HS Football

The Varsity Football Team completed its regular season going 8-2 and qualifying for the OHSAA State Playoffs for the second time in 5 years. All 16 seniors did a great job of leading the team to a successful season. Key wins on the year were beating arch rival Vermilion 27-0 and beating Keystone on Senior night 29-25 to qualify for the playoffs. The high octane offense averaged over 400 yards a game and the defense recorded 4 straight shutouts which was the first time in Lorain County since 1992 when Avon Lake recorded 4 straight shutouts. The future is also bright as the JV Team completed its season going 8-2. Thank you to our 16 seniors:

Kaleb Abfall	Kyle Slack
Tyler Allomong	Aaron Stevanus
Victor Bauer	Paxton Sweet
Robert Becker	Bradley Thrasher
Israel Bowen	Lucas Wells
Cole Ference	Lucas Whitacre
Jacob Grasso	Ty Wilson
Aaron Miller	Timothy Yost



## NEWS FROM SAMS

Mrs. Neal and Mrs. Budweg along with 21 students made approximately 40 blankets for The Blessing House.

The "Blanket Making Club" met several times after school and will be meeting one more time in December to present the blankets to The Blessing House.

The students on the Student Advisory Committee are working hard to bring SAMS some positive energy. They have started the idea of the "SAMS Good Guy Day". This will reward students who do the right thing and maintain A's, B's and C's for the second grading period. This group is working very hard to make sure that there are positive events and activities for students. We are also working on our school mission statement. We will share that mission statement next month. This group is also working with the Firelands High School Teen Leadership Corps in learning leadership skills. This partnership has proven very beneficial to the SAMS students.

Darla Baumbick and John Carlock wrote a grant and have received funding through the Nordson Grant Foundation in the amount of **\$1,000.00** for the project - "Living History Museum" this year!





The Under 10 Firelands United Force girls have completed their season at 8-0 and are the American Amateur Soccer League "C" division champions.

TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Zoey Corfman	Merin Hettel	Makenzie Rivera
Maria Dee	Reagan Hutsenpiller	Elise Swinehagen
Alison Durban	Cara Mitchell	Karly Swinehagen
Bobbie Harrison	Lauren Phillips	Mia Sutorius

They were coached by Mike Durbin, Wendie Sprenger Hutsenpiller, and Sean Harrison.

**GREAT JOB LADIES!**

Sean – Firelands United Soccer President



Front row - Lydia Dougan, Joe Formholtz, James Yorke, Maddie Byrd Back row - Julianna Deremer, Ethan Boggs, Jacob Halliwell

**Congratulations  
to the 5th grade  
Academic  
Challenge  
Team for taking  
second place in the  
Erie County  
Competition!**

**U.S. BASEBALL  
ACADEMY**



THE NATION'S LARGEST  
TRAINING PROGRAM

Coming To

**Firelands High School**

**Sun: Jan. 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21**

Advance registration required. See web site for deadline.

*U.S. Baseball Academy's Spring Training 2016* is a unique concept that provides young players with advanced hitting, pitching, fielding/baserunning, catching training programs and instruction by some of the area's best coaches.

- ★ **Sessions for grades 1 through 12** include six weeks of instruction for as low as \$99.
- ★ **A national baseball training program** operated locally by Site Director Dan Ransom, Head Coach, Firelands HS.
- ★ **With a player-coach ratio of 6 to 1**, each player gets plenty of individual attention in a small-group atmosphere. In addition to unbeatable instruction by the area's best coaches, players get a preseason tune-up that helps them enter team practice in mid-season form. With numerous age-specific sessions, instruction is specially tailored for each ability level.
- ★ **Register now, pay later.** What better way to get a jump on the upcoming season than a six-week Spring Training experience, featuring instruction from some of the area's best coaches?



For a complete description of the program and registration forms, visit

**www.USBaseballAcademy.com**

You can also call our office at 866-622-4487 to register by phone.

**BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR!**



Each year, the Lorain County ESC Coordinates the Lorain County School Bus Driver's Appreciation Banquet. On October 15, Firelands driver, Jean Bates was the driver we recognized this year. Jean has been driving School Bus for Firelands Schools for 16 yrs. Jean is married to Kevin Bates, together they have four adult children and three grandchildren. They own and operate Bates auto and truck repair in Birmingham, as well as operate their family farm. She is an active member of the Kipton Community Church, where she serves as the treasurer. Her husband says she likes her flower gardens, sewing and he likes her cooking!

Thanks Jean for your years of dedicated service, she has had perfect attendance several different years.

Milt Saylor-Firelands Local Schools-Fleet Manager

**Softball**  
Shutterstock - 102718724

**It's Time!!!**

**Baseball, Softball  
and T-ball signups!**

**South Amherst/Firelands Hot  
Stove, OGSO**

**Signups have begun and will  
continue until MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>**

The website to download and print your registration forms is: <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=firelands>

The forms that you need are on the left hand side. Sign up soon!



**FIRELANDS ELEMENTARY**

Regular Lunch \$2.50—Ice Cold Milk served with all meals

**NOVEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 30**

Monday - Roasted hot dog/ bun, Bbq baked beans, Match stick carrots, Chilled pears

Tuesday - Dominos pizza, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned peas, Celery sticks, Chilled fruit or 100% fruit smoothie

**Wednesday – Friday NO SCHOOL  
THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Monday - Sausage links, French toast sticks, Hash-brown potatoes, Celery sticks, Orange juice cup, Syrup cup

**DECEMBER 1—DECEMBER 4**

Tuesday-Pizza Hut pizza, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned broccoli, Baby carrots, Chilled fruit, Chocolate chip cookie

Wednesday-Baked chicken fries, Seasoned french fries, Bbq baked beans, Chilled pears, Dipping sauce

Thursday-Pepperoni Calzone, Seasoned green beans, Sliced cucumbers, Fresh fruit

Friday-Toasted cheese, Tomato soup, Saltines, Seasoned peas, Chilled peaches

**DECEMBER 7—DECEMBER 11**

Monday- Baked chicken nuggets, Sweet tots, Celery sticks, Chilled applesauce, Whole grain roll, Dipping sauce

Tuesday- Dominos pizza, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned Corn, Baby carrots, Chilled fruit or 100% fruit smoothie

Wednesday- Beef teriyaki dippers, Seasoned rice, Green beans, Sliced cucumbers, Chilled pineapple

Thursday- Taco salad, Lettuce &amp; cheese, Seasoned re-fried beans, Fresh fruit, Salsa, Tortilla chips

Friday- Bosco sticks, Romaine garden salad, Grape tomatoes, Chilled mandarin oranges, Marinara sauce, Mini rice krispie treat

**DECEMBER 14—DECEMBER 18**

Monday- Popcorn chicken, Hashbrown patty, Bbq baked beans, Chilled peaches

Tuesday- Pizza Hut pizza, Or school peppro pizza, Seasoned mixed vegetables, Sliced red peppers, Chilled fruit

Wednesday- Chicken strips, Seasoned broccoli, Baby carrots w/dip, Chilled pineapple, Chez it crackers

Thursday- Hamburger w/bun, Smiley fries, Coleslaw, Chilled pears, Sliced pickles

Friday- Pizza Day, Seasoned corn, Sliced cucumbers, Chilled applesauce

**DECEMBER 21—JANUARY 1****WINTER BREAK—NO SCHOOL****SOUTH AMHERST MIDDLE**

Regular Lunch \$2.85—Ice Cold Milk served with all meals

**NOVEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 30**

Monday - Chicken parm w/wg roll, or chicken patty/ bun, Spaghetti / sauce, Seasoned Green beans, Chilled applesauce

Tuesday -Vendor pizza or stuffed crust peppro, Romaine salad, Grape tomatoes, Chilled Fruit

**Wednesday – Friday - NO SCHOOL  
THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Monday - BBQ pulled pork wg bun, Whole grain corn dog, Baked beans, Celery sticks, Chilled peaches

**DECEMBER 1—DECEMBER 4**

Tuesday- Pizza Hut, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli, Baby carrots w/dip, Chilled Fruit, Mini rice krispie

Wednesday- Cheeseburger / bun, Or Hamburger / bun, Oven baked fries, Romaine salad, Chilled mandarin oranges

Thursday- General Tso's chicken, Stir fry vegetable, Seasoned rice, Fresh fruit, Fortune Cookie

Friday- Egg &amp; cheese on wg roll, or pancake &amp; sausage stick, Hashbrown potato, Sweet potatoes, Orange juice cup, Chilled mixed fruit

**DECEMBER 7—DECEMBER 11**

Monday- Salisbury steak, or breaded pork chop, Whipped potatoes, Seasoned corn, Chilled peaches, Whole grain roll

Tuesday- Dominos Pizza, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli, Celery sticks w/dip, Chilled Fruit, Strawberry short-cake cookie

Wednesday- Chipotle day, Fajita chicken or steak beef, Shredded iceberg, Seasoned pinto beans, Seasoned rice, Chilled mandarin orange

Thursday- Cheese quesadilla, Or Chicken nuggets w/roll, Baby carrots, Seasoned Green beans, Fresh fruit

Friday- 2 Gilardi cheese breadsticks, or Spaghetti w/ meat &amp; roll, Romaine salad, Grape tomatoes, Chilled pineapple

**DECEMBER 14—DECEMBER 18**

Monday- Roasted hot dog w/ bun, Or Philly steak &amp; cheese w/roasted peppers &amp; onions, BBQ baked beans, Celery sticks w/pb, Chilled peaches

Tuesday-Pizza Hut, or stuffed crust pizza, Seasoned Broccoli, Grape tomatoes, Chilled Fruit or, 100% fruit smoothie-

Wednesday- Taco salad, or soft taco wrap, cheese, Shredded iceberg lettuce, Seasoned refried beans, Chilled applesauce, Tortilla chips, Salsa / sour cream

Thursday- Spicy chicken patty/bun, or chicken patty w/bun, Parsley potatoes, Fresh fruit, Mini rice krispie

Friday- Macaroni &amp; cheese /breadstick, or Rib a cue w/bun, Baby carrots, Seasoned green beans, Chilled pears

**DECEMBER 21—JANUARY 1****WINTER BREAK—NO SCHOOL****FIRELANDS HIGH**

Regular Lunch \$2.85—Ice Cold Milk served with all meals

**NOVEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 30**

Monday - Chicken parm w/wg roll, or Chicken patty/ bun, Spaghetti / sauce, Italian green beans, Chilled peaches

Tuesday - Dominos, or stuffed crust peppro, Baby carrots, Grape tomatoes, Chilled pears

**Wednesday – Friday - NO SCHOOL  
THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Monday—BBq pulled pork wg bun, Or Philly steak &amp; cheese w/roasted peppers &amp; onions, BBQ baked beans, Seasoned cauliflower, Chilled peaches

**DECEMBER 1—DECEMBER 4**

Tuesday- Pizza Hut, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli, Baby carrots, Chilled pears, 100% fruit smoothie

Wednesday- Pasta Bar/marinara, alfredo or cheese sauce, Or meatball sub, Romaine salad, Cucumber slices, Chilled applesauce

Thursday- General Tso's chicken, Stir fry vegetable, Seasoned rice, Fresh fruit, Fortune Cookie

Friday- Ham &amp; Cheese calzone, Or Fish fillet sandwich w/ shredded lettuce, Seasoned cauliflower / cheese, Red pepper strips, Chilled mandarin oranges

**DECEMBER 7—DECEMBER 11**

Monday- Salisbury steak, or breaded pork chop, Seasoned corn, Whipped potatoes, Chilled peaches, Whole grain roll

Tuesday- Dominos pizza, or stuffed crust peppro, Seasoned broccoli, Celery sticks, Fruit, Mini rice krispie treat

Wednesday- Tangerine Chicken, Seasoned rice, Shredded iceberg lettuce, Seasoned refried beans, Mandarin oranges, Or Steak wrap /cheese

Thursday-Wg Cheese quesadilla, Or Chicken nuggets w/roll, Baby Carrots, Grape tomatoes, Fresh fruit

Friday- Deli sub bar w/ combo or turkey, cheese, lettuce, tomato, peppers, banana pepper, black olives, Chilled pineapple

**DECEMBER 14—DECEMBER 18**

Monday- Philly steak &amp; cheese w/roasted peppers &amp; onions, Or Roasted hot dog w/ bun, BBQ baked beans, Celery sticks, Chilled peaches

Tuesday- Pizza Hut, or stuffed crust peppro, Baby carrots, Grape tomatoes, Chilled pears, Strawberry shortcake cookie

Wednesday- Taco salad, meat /cheese, chips, or soft taco wrap w/cheese, iceberg lettuce, Salsa cup, Seasoned corn, Chilled applesauce, Whole grain roll, sour cream

Thursday- Chicken strips w/roll, Chicken patty w/bun, Baked fries, California blend veggie, Fresh fruit, Jello w/topping

Friday- Macaroni &amp; cheese &amp; roll, or Rib a cue w/bun, Seasoned broccoli, Cucumber slices, Mandarin oranges

**DECEMBER 21—JANUARY 1****WINTER BREAK—NO SCHOOL**



# HONOR ROLL 1ST QUARTER MERIT ROLL

<p><b>SENIORS</b>            Ryan Alcorn*            Taylor Aslaksen            Jacob Bailey            Brittany Brlas*            Dennis Browning            Kyler Cogar            Raymond Conry            Lyndsey Cornwell*            Devin Dumke            Allison Ennes            Caitlin Gallagher*            Cara Gould            Molly Hales            Keely Hall            Paige Haynes            Haley Herrera            Dylan Hickman            Jared Holowenko            Jerrod Horwedel            Katie Iwanek            Michaela Jeffers            Cassidy Johannsen*            Brylee Jones            Jesse Jones*            Eric Kasper            Victoria Krejci            Brianna Krieg*            Hailey Mack            Kaitlyn Michener            Aaron Miller            Rachael Minek*            Blake Morris            Katalin Mullins            Anthony Myer            Adriana Nigro*            Emily Novak*            Julia Ohle*            Brandon Palmer            Christopher Reinhart            Emily Rich            Brooke Robey            Johnathon Rovere            Vitoria Russo            Alexandra Sabine*            Ashlee Saylor            Phillip Saylor            Shelly Shupe*            Jeremy Simonovich            Jarett Solnick            Madison Stanley            Noah Stevens            Alyse Taddeo*            Bradley Thrasher*            Kathleen Tuggle            Kayla Unger            Allison Vilagi            Claire Vilagi            Erica Wasem            Stephanie Wells            Rylee Wheaton            Wesley Yonts  <b>JUNIORS</b>            Aaron Alston            Steven Bacsi            Kayla Bailey            Max Bailey            Pablo Barranco*            Hailey Blankenship            Grace Boucher</p>	<p>Matthew Brightbill*            Patrick Brightbill            Matthew Browning*            Karli Bukovac            Douglas Childers            Rachel Coggins            Samuel Dempsey            Andrea DiAsio            Maley Foster            Brennan Frankish            John Gall*            Sarah Gallo            Abigail Gifford            Victoria Grasso            Millie Harris            Olivia Harris            Maxwell Hertensteiner            Chloe Hewlett            Kyle Hieb            Daniel Hribal            Dominic Januzzi            Hailey Koster            Randy LaMar            Benjamin Laughrey            Elizabeth Lewis            Clayton Lucki            Benjamin Markovich*            Nicholas McCrary            Hailey Mezurek            Elizabeth Miller*            Emma Mowry*            Loren Myer            Colin Myers            Demetria Nicolaou            Sydney Novak            Jordyn Phelps            Jenna Pleban            Grace Pohorence            Sophia Pohorence            Connor Price            Ashley Riggs            Kyle Riggs            Aerin Rizzuti            Zoe Simmons            Madison Sims            Elizabeth Skolnik            Sarah Slack*            Joseph Socha            Bradley Soltis            Nicholas Squires            Carol Lynn Stevens            Megan Vaughn            Emily Wagner*            Meagan Weller            Michael Whitacre  <b>SOPHOMORES</b>            Michael Banske            Adam Bechtler            Claire Bechtler            John Bechtler            Briana Bowyer            Megan Brandich-Stamm            Averi Cleary*            Owen Cogar            Michael Douzos            Morgan Edwards            Trevor Edwards            Kaitlyn Frazier            Grace Habeck            Ethan Hayes            Mason Hildebrandt            Abigail Hill</p>	<p>Serena Hoffman            Emily Holcomb*            Anthony Houdeshell*            Bianca Inman            Samantha Ives            Rachel Jackson*            Corey Jones            Samantha Jones            Alaina Kempf            Evan Lacey            Ariel Langer            Madalyn Lyons            Ryan Martin            Aleesia McKinney            Noah Metzger            Tyler Miller            Jacob Montgomery*            Aaron Myers            Morgan Nance            David Nary            Olivia Novak            Justin Ollis            Madison Palmer            Abrianna Perry            Olivia Peterson            Colin Ransom            Hannah Reynolds            Faith Rico*            Angelina Rivera            Mason Rogozinski            Grace Schlessman            Jacob Selent            Caleb Singleton            Brian Smith            Julia Smith            Tate Smith            Cassidy Stevens*            Sarah Stitchick            Logan Strader            Calvin Stull            Autumn Swiers            Aaron Turnbull            McKenna Turton            Ian Valerius            Joy Vaughn            Nathaniel Weitzel            Jordan Wilson            Alyssa Yorko            Alexandria Zenda  <b>FRESHMEN</b>            Mackenzie Allsop            Elizabeth Balas            Zachary Baldwin*            Victoria Barnett            Alexander Bauer            Grace Bayus            Riley Bayus            Sawyer Bayus            Logan Bishop            Cora Born*            Zachary Born            Sean Bowsher            Alexander Brill*            Macey Butchko*            Micheal Carty            Allison Crawford            Trinity Craycraft            Elizabeth Dempsey            Sarah Drury*            Michael Durdak*</p>	<p>Kaylyn Eary            Genalda Finley            Madison Flanagan            Dylan Fullgrave            Henry Grame            Beau Grude            Nathan Hammond            Dylan Hawley            Nichole Hembree            Caleb Hewlett            Chad Hieb            Joshua Kelly            Nicole Kraus*            Halli Kromer*            Adam Lacey            Jacob Martin            Ava Mastellone*            Devon McGinnis            John Mullins            Michael Nicolaou            Tyler Patchin            Tyler Rado            Chace Riley            Juliette Scheufler            Emma Sherban            Isabel Solowiej*            Emily Squires            Nicholas Street*            Timothy Street*            Isaac Sultzer*            Rachel Taddeo            Nathan Thompson*            Trevor Weller            Logan Willis            Carlie Wotton  <b>8TH</b>            Alexis Alston*            Alaina Becker*            Claire Boucher            Michael Campbell*            Kaleb Carver            Ryvers Cogar            Alexys Coggins*            Chance Coultrip*            Alyssa Danicki*            Alessandra Davis*            Mackenzie Denney            Holly Eberhardt*            Samuel Formholz            Daniel Giacopelli*            Rebecca Hopkins            Logan Howington            Sadie Huttenpiller*            Steven Iwanek*            Christopher Jackson            Jordan Janosik            Sierra Johnson            Cole Kaminski*            Taylor Kenska            Nathaniel Kraus            Lillian Laughrey*            Kaya Loyd*            Mackenzie Mack            Rylee Maggard*            Emmaleah McDevitt*            Amber Michalski            Thaddeus Miller            Joselyn Moquete            Anna Myers            Luke Oliver</p>	<p>Brooklyn Ollis*            Sean Perry            Maribeth Petrey            Nathaniel Pignitella            Grant Price            Sophia Prideaux            Gracie Ransom            Lorenzo Reyna            Chad Rich*            Amy Rister            Robert Rose*            Austin Schuler            Jenna Selent            Arianna Seymore            Chloe Simko            Emily Stewart*            Ashley Strauss*            Autumn Szakal            Alyssa Thompson            Brianna Toledo            Jordon Vaughn            Samantha Walcott*            Ryan Walker*            Lauren Warner*            Kaylee Wells            Nicholas Wells*            Christine Whitacre            Lauren Widener*            Abigail Winnen*            Allison Winnen*            Justin Wossilek*            Vincent Yoby  <b>7TH</b>            Zachary Ambroz            Alexander Angle            Amelia Bacsi            Chayce Baldwin*            Anne Bartish            Trevor Bauer            Keegan Bibb*            Brianna Bonomolo            Hattie Born            Zachary Brill            Emily Campbell            Renee Clippingher*            Gwyneth Conibear*            Sarah Conn*            Heidi Cowling*            Ashley Crawford            Sidney Deidrick            Spencer Deremer*            Kristin DeWitt            Eduardo Diaz*            Julia Douzos            Grace Edwards*            Jacob Farley            Joshua Gallo*            Kelsey Hardwick            Shawny Hess            Jared Ives            Frank Janezic*            Gabriella Keith*            Casey Kelley*            Dylan Koba-Nelson            Julia Krynak*            Allison Lake            Abigail Landreth            Emilia Lewis*            Alyssa Lilak            William Lockhart</p>	<p>Audrey Lyons*            Amaris Madding-Bush*            Rachel Metzger            Madison New            Joshua Norwood            Samantha Novak*            Delaney Overstreet*            Seth Robinette            Logan Rush            Jasmin Schuler            Rebekah Selent            Grace Sherban*            Samantha Simko            Samuel Solowiej*            Colin Stark*            James Steindl            Madison Sutton            Megan Sutton            Dylan Taylor            Alexandra Trendle*            Aaron Urban            Paiton Widener            Madison Witter            Gracie Yonts  <b>6TH</b>            Devan Adkins            Abigail Aslaksen*            Kaleb Blainey            Alexandria Boetticher            Ian Borton            Victoria Coggins            Isabelle Davis*            Caden Domin            Caitlin Eckman            Margaret Edwards*            Noah Galloway            Harrison George            Gavin Gifford            Brock Grude            Jayden Gurchik            Gemma Hager*            Brandon Herrera            Teah Hildebrandt*            Rylie Huttenpiller            Timothy Jaskiewicz            Randi Johannsen*            Hunter Johnson            Dylan Katitus            Alexander Kyer            Abraham Mastellone*            Nathan McDonald            Ella Meszaros*            Kathleen Nimrichter            Daniel Ohle*            Alexander Pennington*            Connor Pleban            Audria Polovich*            Veronica Prideaux            Jadeyn Ramsey*            Matthew Ramsey            Michael Ranney            Rachael Rennie            Lyza Riccardi            Layne Riley            Noah Robinette            Larren Rounds*            Leah Schmittle*            Michael Smith*            Mason Stanley            Blake Stinson            Gillian Striker</p>	<p>Brooklyn Thomas            Kendall Thompson            Gavin Vardnell            Aidan Von Gunten            Autumn Wiley            Logan Wright            William Zimmerman</p> <p>* denotes            all "A's"</p>	<p><b>SENIORS</b>            Kaleb Abfall            Michael Anadell            Robert Becker            Jennifer Beckett            Dylan Davis            Summer Deichler            Dakota Dembek            Taylor Emery            Cole Ference            Mikaela Geyer            Jacob Grasso II            Jillian Hajostek            Olivia Harasty            Samantha Hribal            Victoria Hritsko            Michael Jones            Emily Lipscomb            Bradley McGinnis            Lindsey New            Hannah Nibert            Jack O'Keefe            Ethan Pugh            Mark Roberts            Lauren Salkiewicz            Aaron Stevanus            David Vaughn III            Jacob Vaughn            Patrick Ward            Justin Welch            Lucas Whitacre            Ty Wilson  <b>JUNIORS</b>            Alexandria Adkins            Halle Borer            Jacob Bradley            Stephanie Brady            Hope Caruso            Cheyenne Clark            Ian Crawford            Roxanne Curry            Aaron Dunn            Adeline Grame            Alexis Herrera            Jeremy Halcomb            Lexie Holowenko            Hollie Lindsey            Mikayla Mains            Miguel Morell            Tyran Ostrander            Zachary Ridenour            Hailey Riggs            Lynn Schmittle            Andrew Schworer            Jace Smalley            Mackenzie Smith            Trevor Stefanski            Christopher Stocking            Gianna Suglia            Larry Verhovec            Elizabeth Ward            Louis Ward            Andrew Williams  <b>SOPHOMORES</b>            Alexander Ayala            Isabella Barnes            Zachary Bennett            Benjamin Bickel            Kerigan Borton            Brittany Denney</p>	<p>Nicholas Denney            Riley Denney            Samuel Dennis            Connor Eckman            Kyle Freeman            Alexis Harasty            Ryan Hoffman            Emily Holland            Miriam Hughey            Casey Koopp            Matthew Lake            Lanna Lalonde            Bethany Leon            Ariana McClung            Lodge McKay            Sean Miller            Tyler Popa            Sydney Sexton            Jacob Shaffer            Cory Simmerman            Melanie Stapleton            Nicolette Stefanski            Spencer Street  <b>FRESHMEN</b>            Madison Alvarez            Max Bellman            Daniel Bender            Abigail Berry            Jade Bowen            Estelle Bowling            Marley Buckner            Emily Cody            Isabellea Cogar            Joseph Elswick            D'Aviagh Gonzalez            Carter Grude            Ky'ra Hall            Hope Harker            Rachael Henry            Siera Hess            Matthew Kovach            Brandon Mele            Dylan Minek            Jasmyn Munoz            Jacob Newman            Lauren Omler Beal            Ryan Ortner            Adam Pluta            Joseph Rehm            Kayla Reisinger            Cayla Riggs            Danielle Rivera            Nicholas Salva            Madison Sheets            Austin Urban            Star Vaughn            Sydney Wright            Elijah Yoder            Charlie Yonts  <b>8TH</b>            Mason Baker            Victoria Balog            Hailie Bates            Kaylee Boggs            Warren Bolyard            Giovanni Cerino            Shelby Clark            Sydney Clark            Logan Davis            Alexandra Deaton</p>	<p>Luke Dempsey            William Folley            Sierra Frazier            Fabian Gonzalez            Colton Griffith            Daniel Hager            Logan Hall            Brian Harvey            Aramia Kuncel            Isabel Massie            Vincent Morales            Jacob Mullins            Emily Pluta            Mackenzie Roby            Konnor Sirow            Christopher Snider            Hannah Spiegelberg            Kaitlyn Townsend            Elizabeth Unger            Lauren Willbond  <b>7TH</b>            Caden Boetticher            Lauren Boose            Nathaniel Boucher            Chandler Brotko            Christian Brotko            Donald Crawford            Dominic Critelli            Logan Galloway            Olivia Galloway            Liberty Gonia            Kevin Guillemot            Leah Harris            Alona Hinkle            Steven Jessel            Michael Kelley            Andria Mains            Ashlee McGuire            Bridget Rutkowski            Gage Sauer            Garrick Sebolt            Alexander Smith            Michael Sorrell            Jackson Talbott            Ethan Taster            Jack Valerius            Madalyn VanCooney  <b>6TH</b>            Christopher Berthold            Zachary Brant            Austin Copen            Aurora Davis            Mary Dempsey            Madison Detamore            Parker Figueroa            Jackson Hartung            Mason Hickman            Carter Jancek            Carley Jones            Shauna Kalassay            Madison Lewis            Jordan Mitchell            Tyler Mullins            Corey Newark            Natalie Novak            Jasmine Smith            William Suglia            Caitlin Thomas            Jaileena Trimble</p>
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# Academic Challenge Teams 2015-2016 Advisors Mrs. Copley & Mrs. Muth



6th Grade—Caden Domin, Maggie Edwards, Gemma Hager, Dylan Katitus, Nathan McDonald, Ella Meszaros, Daniel Ohle, Rachael Rennie



7th Grade—Chayce Baldwin, Renee Clippinger, Spencer Deremer, Emilia Lewis, Liam Lockhardt, Amaris Madding-Bush, Sam Soloweij, James Steindl



8th Grade- Megan Bowling, Sam Formholtz, Danny Hager, Steven Iwanek, Robert Rose, Emily Stewart, Sam Walcott, Justin Wossilek

Congratulations to the Academic Challenge team for the 2015-2016 school year. Our 7th grade team this year took third place and our 8th grade team took second place in the Erie County Academic Challenge meet held in October. Our teams competed against other Erie County schools and represented the Firelands Falcons victoriously! Thank you for a great season!

## FOODS FOR FIRELANDS' FAMILIES FROM FIRELANDS' FAMILIES



From 1621 to 2015 the United States of America has set aside a day of thanksgiving with a hearty meal and a grateful heart. The 6th grade students at South Amherst Middle School have been organizing Thanksgiving Baskets under the direction of their teachers for several years now. However, never in the past has there been such an outpouring of community support as we have witnessed this year. Some say it is because of the turmoil that is going on in the world,

others say it is because we as a community want our students to learn to give back, still others agree with Billy Sunday when he said, "But by the grace of God that could be me".

The community has truly come together much like the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag did back on that first day of feasting and thanksgiving. They brought what they had to share with those who had not. Retired teachers as well as the staff in all three buildings and our board office so generously provided turkeys for the baskets. Our local PTG donated money for rolls and pies, our Florence Fire Department donated money for gravy and cranberry sauce. First United Methodist of South Amherst brought numerous canned goods as well as stuffing to fill the baskets. Local families donated apples for the 6th graders to make applesauce for the baskets. Harker Farms donated local honey for each basket. The Fraternal Order of Eagles so generously donated money to complete the baskets. South Amherst Fire Department Association donated the right amount to complete the necessary elements of the dinners. Each basket contained a turkey with a turkey bag and directions as to how to make a turkey, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, rolls, dessert, applesauce and honey. All the fixings that a family will need to make a wonderful Thanksgiving meal and more importantly a family memory!

All of these Thanksgiving Baskets went to families' right here in our community. Research states that one in four of our children that embark through our doors on a daily basis are coming to school hungry. John F Kennedy said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Thank you to each and every one who lived by those words this year and blessed a Firelands' Family. The sixth grade students and teachers are truly Firelands Proud!



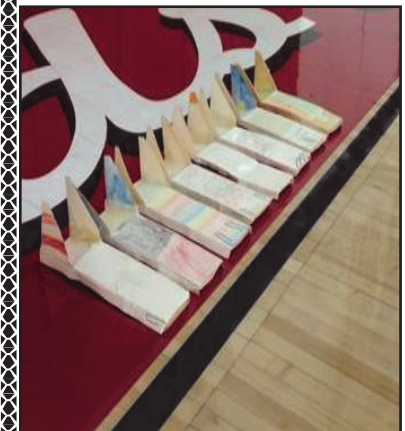
SAMS RED RIBBON WEEK—SUPER HERO DAY



SAMS RED RIBBON WEEK-COUNTRY WESTERN DAY

## SKIMMER PROJECT

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade STEM class at SAMS learned about measuring with precision and accuracy during the completion of their Skimmer project. Students used blueprints to measure, draw, and cut out parts for their skimmers. Skimmers are vehicles made out of heavyweight, cardstock paper that is launched across the floor through a motion similar to throwing a bowling ball. The bottom of the skimmer is designed to make it ride on top of a cushion of air reducing frictional forces and allowing it to travel over 40 feet. Performance is based on accuracy of measurement, cutting, assembly, and workmanship. After building their stock skimmers, students use the engineering design process to create their own skimmer with the goal of improving performance.





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Contact the Firelands Board Office at 440.965.5821.

Please submit all articles and photos to:  
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# CURRICULUM NEWS

As we enter the winter season and routines have settled, our teachers continue working hard to prepare students for college and career success related to Ohio's Academic Content Standards while still holding true to the local curriculum decisions that makes Firelands, Firelands! I appreciate everything they do to help support our students as they meet grade level expectations.

Preliminary state achievement data from the 2014-2015 testing administration has been released. The majority of our students did meet state achievement goals in many of our reported areas, but we did not meet proficiency in many cases on the Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO) due to the large number of students who did not test last year. AMOs measure the academic performance of specific groups of students in comparison to the collective performance of all students in Ohio; this score is what determines school funding and participation in the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) a process that determines what local control staffs have in determining direction for their students and the district as a whole.

As the ODE website reports, "If a subgroup's participation rate drops below 95 percent, the school's or district's AMO letter grade is reduced by one level (e.g. if a school would have earned an "A" based on the students' test scores and the percentage of students who graduated, that grade

would drop to a "B")." In addition, as "ODE does not assign an artificial score of zero to non-participants, but no points are earned for tests not taken, a large number of untested students will reduce a school's or district's performance index score, resulting in a letter grade reduction."

Parent reports will be available shortly and will be mailed to the address on file in PowerSchool. Each report contains an analysis of your child's performance in relationship to grade level indicators as well as provides some helpful tips to help support them deepen their knowledge in relationship to topics that they may be struggling with.

From a teaching and learning standpoint in relationship to this data, we are focused on determining what is working well for our students in relationship to the instructional shifts that are part of new standards. This is also tying into our instructional focus that you may read about in previous columns: differentiated instruction (DI). Differentiated instruction is a process whereby teachers make instructional adjustments in terms of the way students learn material or how they demonstrate understanding of material based on personal characteristics of students. Administrators are participating in a book study and we will be working with staff to help support utilizing DI techniques within their classrooms.

In other news, come January and February, a science mapping

team will also be assembled amongst our staff to update the science curriculum as well as look at the various resources that we can purchase for student and teacher use. Our 3-5 language arts team is also working to update their maps to align instruction to the most recent version of the Ohio Model Curriculum. In addition, the district is also collaborating with several other districts in Lorain County and the ESC for a straight A grant related to a product called STMath. More information, if we are awarded the grant, will follow shortly.



As a reminder, Third Grade Reading testing is scheduled for December 2. More information will be sent to parents and guardians of our third graders. Please ensure that your student is well-rested and has had breakfast before testing. Students are well-prepared for this assessment and we expect great results from our students. If you see one of our third graders during that week, please wish them well on this important test! Please continue to monitor our website for information related to testing, curriculum, and instruction. As information changes, the site is updated to reflect our districts' understanding of state mandates and expectations.

Finally, as we enter the holiday season, I wish you two gifts: the gift of time to spend with love ones during the hustle and bustle and the gift of relaxation. Have a pleasant holiday season.

Dr. Bryan Drost,  
 Director of Educational Services

**"BREATH OF HEAVEN"**

**LIVE NATIVITY PRESENTATION**  
 at GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 310 WEST LORAIN STREET - OBERLIN  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>  
 & SUNDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>  
**4:00pm through 8:00pm**  
 Walk-through presentations approx. every 15 minutes.

**Please join our members and members of Bethany Lutheran Church as we share our 18th presentation of "Breath of Heaven."**

It is our honor to share a portrayal of that Holy Night when Jesus was born. The presentation is free to the public.

**Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated**  
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Jane Bradford-Battig, D.V.M.  
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# SPECIAL NOTICE

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