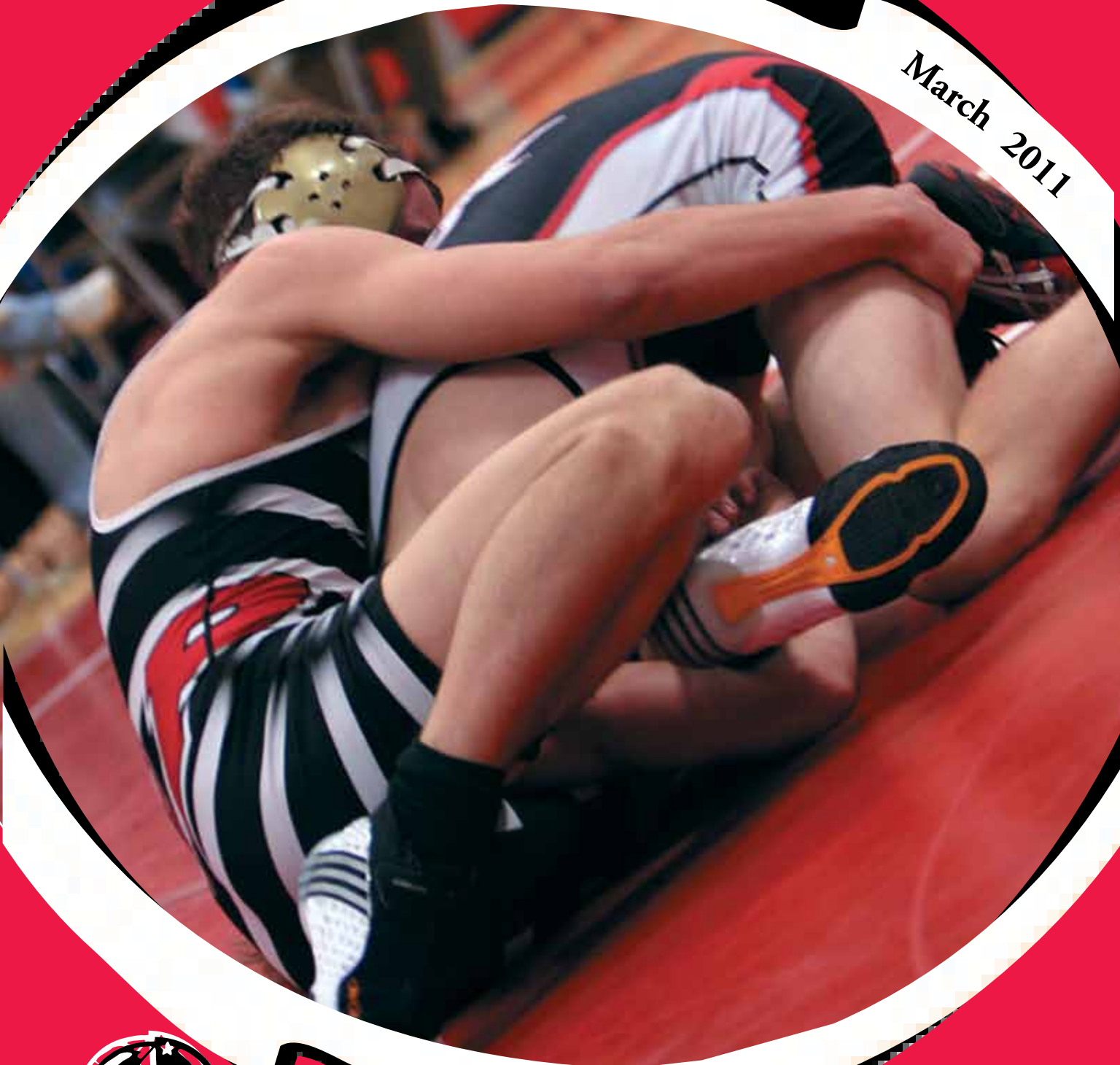


SchoolMatters

<http://www.fremont.net>

March 2011



A Publication of Fremont Public Schools

Administration



Governor's Proposed Budget Means Deep Cuts for Schools

This is difficult to write, but I want to honestly share some of my thoughts with you regarding Fremont Public Schools' finances following the

governor's proposed budget cuts.

In late February, the Governor proposed to the legislature his budget recommendations for the 2011-12 fiscal year. Included in these recommendations was a \$470/pupil cut, in addition to increased retirement expenses of \$239/pupil. Together, these proposed amounts would mean a \$709 reduction per pupil. The bottom line: our projected loss in revenue would be approximately \$1.6 million.

While many of us in public education anticipated decreases to our foundation allowance, in no way did I ever imagine such profound cutbacks. In my view, the governor just did a huge slam dunk on Fremont Public Schools and, in reality, all public schools. It should be no surprise that if the proposed budget is enacted, it will force us to eliminate programs, services and, ultimately, jobs.

Over the past eight years, we have reduced our operating budget by more than \$8.5 million. The cuts have been difficult. Our staff is working with larger class sizes, fewer supplies, increased work loads, and pay freezes. Everyone has accomplished these feats with few complaints while always keeping our students as the primary focus, and they have done this in an environment of expanding expectations for schools across our state and country. If I may say, they've done a pretty good job!

As in most times of crisis, the shock, fear, frustration and disillusionment must first run its course.

What is critical is that we then begin to arrange a productive plan of action. We also must be mindful that there will be a time of strategic lobbying and negotiating before we see a final budget. We will next hear from the governor in April during his message on education reform.

In the meantime, it is vitally important for all of us to contact our legislators and let them know not only our concerns but our ideas for funding alternatives. Our State Representative, Jon Bumstead, serves on the House K-12 Appropriations Committee, a key post in any budget conversations.

Right now, I do not have a well-defined plan of action that would address such a large shortfall in our budget. What I do have is an extraordinary sense of confidence in the people that comprise the Fremont Public Schools' community. We have faced financial tests before and, along the way, have earned a reputation for providing an excellent value for our educational dollar. We will have to dig deeper and find new reserves of creativity. Come what may from the State, though, we in Fremont will find a way to ensure our kids are not short-changed.

- Jim Hieftje, Superintendent

Fremont Gets Value for its Educational Dollar School district identified in national report as high-achieving, low-spending

The report "Return on Educational Investment: A district-by-district evaluation of U.S. educational productivity," was released in late January by the Center for American Progress (CAP).

The report compares the academic achievement of a school district with its spending, while controlling for factors like students living in poverty. The study used 2007-08 spending data and state reading and math test results.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization ranked school districts' "return on investment" on a scale of one to six. Fremont earned a Tier one ranking, the highest of the report's six-tier rating system.

Fremont Public Schools and Comstock Park Schools in Kent County were the only districts in West Michigan to earn the study's highest ranking. Just 33 of Michigan's 502 school districts earned top marks.

"In the business world, the notion of productivity describes the benefit received in exchange for effort or money expended," the study's authors noted.

By productivity, "we mean how much learning a district produces for every dollar spent, after controlling for factors such as cost of living and students in poverty," noted lead author Ulrich Boser.

The study noted that it is important for schools to "keep their eyes on the prize – student achievement," and see that their dollars produce results. The study produced detailed reports on revenues, spending patterns, and student achievement.

Fremont received \$9,321 in federal, state and local funding per pupil, among the lowest in West Michigan. Yet, it spent nearly 70 percent of its revenues on instruction, just 10.3 percent on administration.

Only two school districts in the state spent a larger percentage of its revenues on instruction.

Fremont's students had an "achievement index" of 77, a number based on the average percentage of fourth-graders, eighth-graders and high school students who passed state assessments in reading and math in 2007-08.

"I believe it is a real credit to our staff and our Board of Education that we have been able to keep student achievement our top priority, especially in these times of unstable and inadequate school funding," said Fremont Superintendent Jim Hieftje.

Two of the study's key findings...

- Highly productive districts are focused on improving student outcomes. Districts that performed well shared a number of values and practices, including strong community support and a willingness to make tough choices.

= The nation's least-productive districts spend more on administration. The most inefficient districts devote an extra three percentage points of their budgets on average to administration, operations, and other non-instructional expenditures.

Student-Centered Learning-Focused
World-Ready

On the Cover...

FHS wrestling celebrated an exceptional season.

Johnny Wiggers was crowned Regional Wrestling Champion and two more wrestlers – Luke Spots and Theron Black – earned the right to compete in the State tournament.



District Contacts

Administration	(231)	924-2350
Pine Street Primary	(231)	924-3530
Pathfinder	(231)	924-7230
Daisy Brook	(231)	924-4380
FMS	(231)	924-0230
FHS	(231)	924-5300
Quest High School	(231)	924-0470
Packers' Pride Childcare & Preschool	(231)	924-7435
Recreation Department	(231)	924-3750
Maintenance	(231)	924-8829
Transportation	(231)	924-4390
Food Services	(231)	924-8160
Technology	(231)	924-8190

School Closings & Delays

To inquire about school closings, delays, or other school emergency situations, please call (231) 924-7317.

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School Officials, State Agree on Road Access Plan

Fremont Public Schools' and city officials will be working together to provide a second access road to the school district's new high school. School planners have been consulting with city officials and police to assess the best path for the road, which is required by the state's department of transportation.

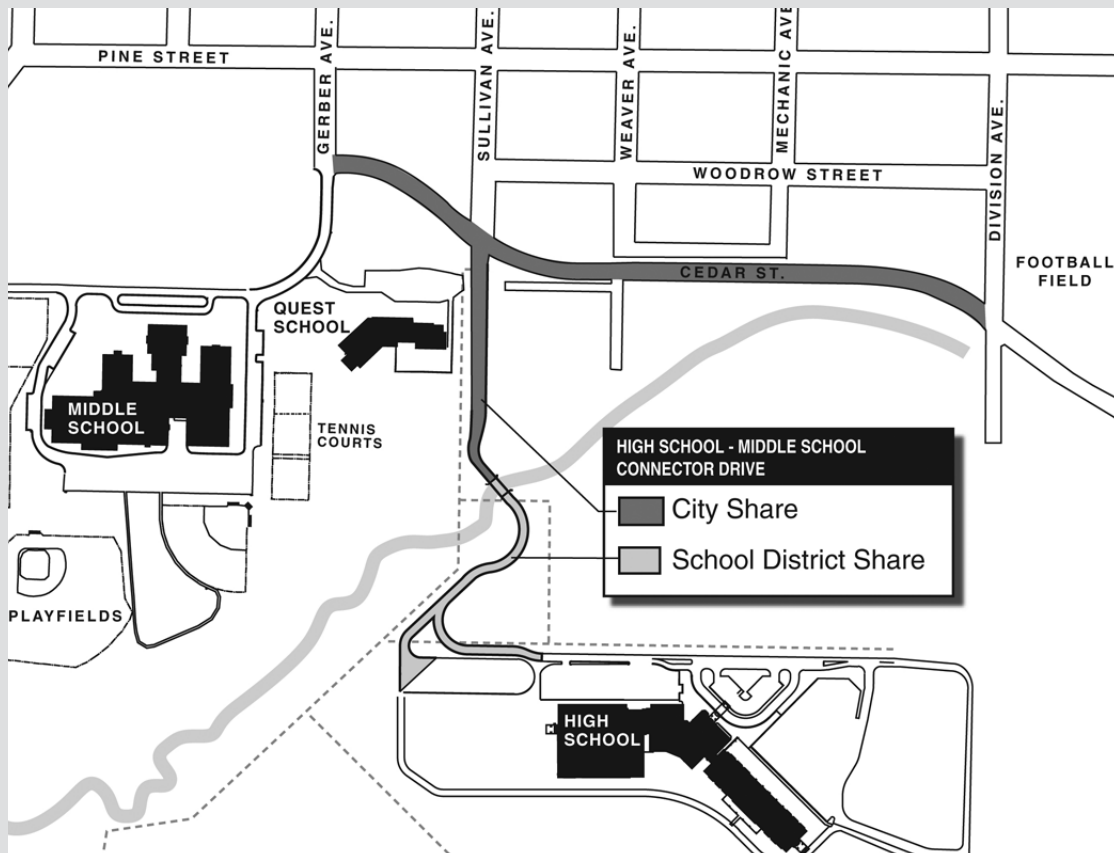
On February 14, the Fremont Board of Education approved a plan to construct the road at the west end of the new high school property, linking up with Sullivan Avenue. Fremont Public Schools Superintendent Jim Hieftje was directed to continue conversations with city officials to work out route details, including costs and access across city-owned property.

The main road entry into the new high school property lies to the east, off Stewart Avenue. The new access road would require a 100-foot bridge across the bottom of a ravine so the road can connect with Sullivan Avenue. The school district would construct the road to the ravine and build the bridge. The city would extend Cedar Street between Division and Gerber Avenues. MDOT officials have given their approval for the road's location.

According to Hieftje, the choice was one of five options reviewed by school officials and offers safety advantages. School bus traffic between the high school and middle school would be kept off main roads and away from nearby neighborhoods.

"Anytime we can separate school buses from other vehicles is a good thing," said Hieftje.

Fremont City Manager Bryan Gruesbeck agreed. "City and school officials have shared a great deal of discussion on how to accommodate the state's requirement for a second access to the new high school campus," said Gruesbeck. "We wanted the best flow of traffic that would not encumber the neighborhood streets around the middle school and still accomplish the state's requirement for a second access to the new high school campus. This plan will minimize school traffic in these residential areas."



Fremont Orchestra Making Travel Plans for Hawaii

In the middle of a typical Michigan winter, what can be better than to make summer travel plans - especially if your destination is Honolulu, Hawaii?

That's where 20 members of Fremont High Schools' Orchestra will spend their next July 4 holiday and where they will perform on the deck of the battleship USS Missouri to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Their performance will be part of *A Salute to Valor* music festival, which will feature concerts at the outdoor amphitheater, The Waikiki Shell, and culminate on July 4 with a concert and fireworks on the deck of the World War II battleship.

The 20 students had to play their way onto the *Salute to Valor* Orchestra. Tryouts were held before judges Dan Meyers, Director of the West Michigan Youth Symphony, and Melissa Meyers, Orchestra Director at Grand Haven Public Schools. Fremont students selected include:

1st Violin: Allison Rusco, Nick Voyt, Emilie Yonker, Abby Wosinski, Kaitlyn VanBoven and Megan Dickinson
2nd Violin: Arielle Gustman, Kera Howell, Olivia Crandell, Samantha Berens, Nicole Zerfas and Kyle Flannery
Viola: Claire Schaar, Ethan Brummel, Emily Eglinton and Hailey Lensky
Cello: Sarah Paris, JonPaul Hills and Sarah Bauer
Bass: Glenn Klahre

The festival will run from June 30 – July 5, 2011 and will honor Americans who served in World War II through concerts featuring patriotic and American-composed music.

Our orchestra was invited to participate after a lengthy review by program organizers. This included phone interviews, an MSBOA recommendation, review of orchestra recordings, and orchestra members' invitations to perform with Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's international program.

The school and orchestra are conducting a variety of fund raising activities during the remainder of the school year to cover trip expenses. The trip will be largely funded by donations. The families of the selected students are paying a \$500 fee.

The orchestra is planning two local concerts prior to their departure. A dinner performance will be held at The Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts on May 21. A free community concert will be held June 24 at the Veteran's Memorial Park.

If you can help defray the costs of the trip, please contact the superintendent's office at: Salute to Valor, c/o Jim Hieftje, Superintendent, 220 West Pine Street, Fremont, MI 49412. Contributions should be made payable to Fremont Public Schools.

Fremont Public Schools believes this trip will be beneficial to our orchestra members and to our overall music program. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many of the orchestra members, and it is always important to honor those who sacrificed for our nation during World War II.

Packer Pride Day 2011 For All You Do...Let Us Help You

Who: The students and staff of Fremont High School
What: Fremont High School is planning an Earth Day, a community-wide day of service
Where: Throughout the City of Fremont
When: April 21, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
(Rain Date: April 22)

Our goal is to provide community service and to teach the students of Fremont High School the importance of giving back to their community and to society in general.

As a school, we would like to take a day and help clean-up, fix-up, and give back to the community of Fremont. Students and staff members will come to your home or business to lend a helping hand. Jobs we can do include, but are not limited to: raking yards, planting flowers/trees, painting, cleaning up outside areas, breaking down boxes, sorting materials, helping around the farm, etc.

If you, someone you know, or your company/business are interested in being a part of Packer Pride Day, or if you would like more information, please contact Tressa Wenk at twenk@fremont.net or at (231) 924-7309 as soon as possible. The sooner you show interest in being involved, the quicker we can guarantee service!

We look forward to serving you!

Pine Street Primary Center

Pine Street Paleontologists

Mrs. DeKuiper's Developmental Kindergarten classroom has been up to some BIG fun! During February, students put on Paleontology badges and began learning about dinosaurs from millions of years ago! The class began its investigation when a box arrived from the "Dino Lab." The box was filled with some paleontology tools, posters and even some dinosaur eggs! When the students cracked into the fossilized eggs, they discovered tiny dinosaurs. The class then used books from the library to discover which dinosaurs they had uncovered.

There is a lot to learn about these "terrible lizards," so the students spent the rest of the month discovering just how big and how small they were. They studied the many interesting characteristics of dinosaurs, including their teeth, footprints, fossils and how many animals today have similar traits for survival.

The students were curious to know how large dinosaurs could fly, so they created paper Pteradons to simulate how these large dinosaurs glided through the air. At the end of the unit, the students voted for their favorite dinosaur and everyone agreed they loved learning about dinosaurs!



Upcoming Pine Street Events...

- March 16 – Spring Picture Day
- March 18 – Elementary Spring Carnival
- April 1 – No School
- April 4–8 – No School - SPRING BREAK
- April 22 – Half-Day of School
(11:15 a.m. dismissal)

Pine Street Receives VIP Visitors

Every month is a great month to be a student at Pine Street Primary Center! During the month of January, 'Community Helpers' are studied. "Very Important Persons" from the Fremont Fire Department, the Newaygo County Sheriff's Department, and from the medical and dental professions share information about their occupations. Students also took a field trip to the Fremont Post Office and mailed postcards to their homes to see how the mail system worked. The students will visit the Fremont City Offices soon to tour the various departments there.

Pine Street Primary Center students and staff would like to say a special "Thank You" to our VIP presenters and to our hosts at the post office and city offices.



Parent/Teacher Conferences and Book Fair

Pine Street Primary Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held Monday, April 25 through Thursday, April 28. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be open during this week. You and your child will be able to purchase bestsellers, award winners, picture books and other great items. We also invite you to support the "Give the Gift of Reading" program at the book fair. Teachers will identify books they would love to have for their classroom libraries. Parents may choose to purchase these books at the fair as gifts for their teachers.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences and our book fair!

Pathfinder

Purple Pod Pajama Day

Purple pod students were dressed and ready for a nap after all of the fun they had during pajama day. Activities included a bedtime story, winter movie, and a scientific exploration of ice cream bars!

The purple pod has a pod activity each month where students from all three grades – first, second, and third - can work and have fun together.



New To Pathfinder

We have been able to welcome several new teachers to the Pathfinder family this year. If you have yet to meet them, we encourage you to give them a warm Fremont welcome and take the time to get to know the newest additions to our family...

Art Teacher Lisa Kraley



I grew up in Hesperia and attended Hesperia High School, graduating in 1997. I attended Muskegon Community College and then transferred to Grand Valley State University, graduating in December of 2008. I worked full-time (primarily at Pine Medical Group here in Fremont) while

attending college part-time.

I enjoy reading, sewing, scrap booking, traveling (when I have the opportunity), being outdoors, and spending time with my friends and family. I really enjoy spending time with my two young nephews. I like to try new things and feel that I have a sense of adventure. I have really enjoyed working for Fremont Public Schools, working with the after school program. I am enjoying teaching here at Pathfinder Elementary!

Special Education Teacher Becky Stroven



I moved to Fremont when I was four-years-old. My family had a small hobby farm where we raised beef cattle. I also raised hogs to show and sell at the Newaygo County Fair each summer.

I attended Fremont Public Schools for my entire school career. During my middle school and high school years, I was a member of

many sports teams, 4-H, FFA, Student Council and National Honors Society. I also volunteered in many elementary classes where I was able to work one-on-one with younger students.

After I graduated in 1999, I attended Hope College where I received my Bachelors Degree in Learning Disabilities with a minor in elementary education. I have spent the last eight years working in Big Rapids where I have been teaching in a sixth-grade resource room.

My husband and I still reside in Fremont, along with our five-year-old chocolate lab named Buddy, and are very excited to be able to work in Fremont and join the Pathfinder teaching staff.

First-Grade Teacher Annie Nestle



Hi! My name is Annie Nestle, and I am the new first-grade teacher as of November 1. I am from Fremont and taught in Heather Wills' T1 class and Ryan Ransom's third-grade class as a student teacher. I've taught kindergarten at Otsego Christian School in Gaylord, Michigan, and second grade at Osage Beach Elementary in Lake Ozark, Missouri.

Since the beginning of this school year, I have been Pathfinder's art teacher. It was great getting to know the students through our art time! The opportunity of teaching and encouraging these first graders to reach their fullest potential is very exciting!

Third-Grade Teacher Ryan Wright



I am pleased to join the Pathfinder instructional staff as the newest third-grade teacher! After attending Ravenna High School and then graduating from Grand Valley State University, I worked extensively - in a variety of assignments - for the Ravenna, Montague, and Whitehall school districts.

As a football coach for Montague Middle School this past season, I helped lead the Wildcat linemen and special teams units to an undefeated season. I have also been privileged to coach Little League players in the Ravenna summer baseball programs for the past seven years.

In addition to teaching and coaching, I enjoy officiating high school softball and basketball games as an M.H.S.A.A. official. I also enjoy spending time with my three girls and my wife Jennifer. We have another little one of the way and are expecting to move to Fremont in the near future.

Wearing Red - Supporting Others

On February 4, Mrs. Kallenbach's class at Pathfinder Elementary showed support for National Wear Red Day, which is held in honor of congenital heart defect patients. One student's little sister has had some heart issues in the past and is now doing well. The school wanted to show support for her, as well as for everyone else who has struggled with these problems. A majority of the students and staff, including the Principal Cassiday, showed their support - wearing red for the day.



Pathfinder Hosts Holiday Concerts

Christmas joy shone in the faces of many Pathfinder students as they sang in their holiday music programs at Pathfinder Elementary.

Students from all three grades, under the direction of Music Teacher Mrs. Helen Mellema, sang traditional tunes, as well as newer arrangements. Accompanied by third-graders playing xylophones (purchased through generous grants), the bell section and dancers enhanced the three performances for a rapt audience of parents and family members.



Daisy Brook Elementary

Fifth-Grade Choir Presents Rats

The Daisy Brook Fifth-Grade Choir held its annual program on February 10 for family and friends. The students presented Rats! – a program with the message of keeping promises.

In all, 48 students participated and put together a magnificent presentation!



DB Spring Book Fair a Success

Thank you for your support of our book fair. We will be able to add additional books from the book fair to our library collection! We also had a surprise visit from Geronimo Stilton, a character from a very popular series the students enjoy reading at Daisy Brook Elementary.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to this result!



Carnival Time!

Pine Street, Pathfinder and Daisy Brook Schools' Elementary Parent Group Presents....

Spring Carnival 2011

Friday, March 18

5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pathfinder Elementary School

Middle School

A Day for Service

Every student in Mrs. Thomas' classes worked to create Valentine bouquets and cards for residents at Transitional Health Services in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to service. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the MLK holiday designated by Congress as a national day of service – “a day on, not a day off.”

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., volunteers across the country donate their time to make a difference on this day. Students are hoping their bright bouquets of red and pink will warm the hearts of residents and let them know someone cares for them.



FMS Student Earns Spelling Honors

The Fremont Middle School Spelling Bee was held on January 17. The school-wide winner was Mason McDowell and the runner-up was Jonathan Herioux. Both students competed as equals at the County Spelling Bee held at NCRESA on Tuesday, February 22.

Mason McDowell went on to win the Regional Spelling Bee and will now go on to the Greater Grand Rapids Spelling Bee to be held at the Gerald R. Ford Museum Auditorium on March 22. The winner of this bee will then be invited to participate in the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC in May.

The students competing in the Fremont Middle School Spelling Bee, along with the winners, were: Maddie Dodsens-Garrett, Jessica Springstead, Nic Delong, Ian Klahre, Dakota Counselor, Katie Ferris, James O'Banion, Andrew Goodspeed, Meg Westenfelder, and Christian Eglinton. Congratulations to all who participated! Special congratulations to Mason!

Exercise Your Brain

In addition to the FMS Play 60, Fremont Middle School students in all grades are participating in a reading program called E.Y.B., which stands for Exercising Your Brain.

This program began on Monday, December 6 and will conclude on Thursday, March 31. Students record minutes read daily on charts in their homeroom classes. Students will be recognized for their time spent reading. Books and prizes will also be awarded during the third-marking period recognition assembly.

Let the Adventures Begin

Several international opportunities are right around the corner for our Fremont students. Informational meetings will be held later this month, so explore your opportunities today...

Fremont Rainforest – June 2012

Parent Informational Meetings

Tuesday, March 22

6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Fremont Middle School Media Center

This opportunity is open to seventh- and eighth-grade students. At least one parent should attend this meeting with the student. Fremont Rainforest programs are year-long commitments to education, fund raising, service, and travel. Applications will be available at the meeting and should be turned in before spring break.

Highlights... Experience the Amazon rainforest from over 100 feet above the forest floor on one of the longest canopy walkways on the planet. Explore the jungle with field scientists and local guides. Search for pink river dolphins, monkeys, boas and three-toed sloths. Fish for piranha and go mudding like you never have before! Be a part of a service project that will make a difference in a local community and just may change your life forever!



Africa 2013

Parent Informational Meetings

Tuesday, March 22

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Fremont Middle School Media Center

This opportunity is for students from middle school through high school and beyond. Although this is a new program for Fremont, it is a well-established program with Global Explorers, who we have worked with for many years. At least one parent should attend the meeting with the student. Applications will be available and due before spring break.

Highlights... Search for lions, cheetahs, giraffes, wildebeest, leopards, elephants and more as we camp under the stars on multi-day safaris in the savanna. Experience life as a tribal Maasai villager, cook a traditional Tanzanian meal and learn Swahili alongside local students with our partner youth organization, Roots & Shoots.

Work side-by-side with students from the Moshi area on a meaningful service project that will support the community.



Klahre Wins FMS Geographic Bee

Ian Klahre, an eighth-grade student at Fremont Middle School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on December 21 and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level bee, where students answered oral geography questions, was the first round in the 23rd Annual National Geographic Bee. The bee is sponsored by Google (visit www.google.com/educators.geo).

Other contestants in the preliminary round were runner-up Jonathon Heriou, along with Makayla Morbach, Emily Nestle, Collin Howell, Nate Hoffman, and Jacob Stever.

The kickoff for this year's bee was the week of November 15, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Ian, then took a written test to qualify as one of the top 100 scorers in the state who will be eligible to compete in Michigan's State Geographic Bee on April 1.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the National Geographic Bee National Championship on May 24 and 25. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands, courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic (visit www.expeditions.com).

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 25. The program will air on television. Check local listings for dates and times.

Anyone can brush up on geography with the new and exciting GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee, which poses ten new questions a day, or by downloading the GeoBee Challenge app for iPhones, iPods, and iPads.

The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. For more information, visit nationalgeographic.com.

Lewis and Clark

Eighth-grade students were recently treated to presentations celebrating the journey of Lewis and Clark by Wally Ewing and friends. Mr. Ewing captivated his audience with stories, music, dancing, food, fire and fun. Quest students researched topics, helped in presentations, and even prepared some unique dishes for FMS students to sample.



Fremont Public Schools





Namaste Hello from India!

Students in Mrs. Thomas' seventh-grade social studies classes enjoyed a taste of India - butter chicken, mango shakes, Nan, and Indian cookies and candies. Along with tasty treats, students also experienced Indian culture through meditation, yoga, and henna tattoos. A big thank-you goes out to Rachel who assisted Mrs. Thomas with the India experience.



High School

Spring is in the Air

"Spring is in the air!" That may be the greatest saying in the world for those of us who do not appreciate winter. I know there are a lot of people who really like the cold and snow, but I am just not one of them.

Winter is our big "club" season. The chess, quiz bowl, robotics, FFA, theater, and the conservation clubs are most active during the cold months. All of the clubs and organizations had very successful seasons and involved over 250 of our students. While athletics always takes the front page of the paper, we have a very successful group of students who quietly excel in less-publicized activities. They do not play for glory, they do not design a theater set to win awards, and they do not put an opponent in check mate for recognition. They simply do it because it is a challenge.

Winter is also our time of scheduling for next year. Our counselors are making the rounds in all the classes and at the middle school. After we receive over 20,000 class requests, we put them in the computer, along with teacher schedules, and we end up with a rough schedule. From there, we adjust teacher and student schedules to offer as many classes as we can while protecting our core requirements.

As spring arrives, our thoughts will turn to Prom and Graduation. Prom will be held on April 30. The school is already filled with talk of dresses and flowers. After Prom, we look to graduation, which will be held on June 5 (mandatory graduation practice for seniors on June 2). We hope to see you there!

-Scott Sherman, Principal

FFA Students Advance to State Competition

Wednesday, February 16, the Fremont FFA made its way to Lowell for the Regional FFA Leadership Contests.

Twenty-six FFA members advanced through the District Contests held one week earlier in Cedar Springs to this, the stepping stone for the State Finals. The Fremont group represented 10 different teams/individuals competing in eight different contests ranging from Parliamentary Procedure to Public Speaking.

Two Fremont FFA Members were recognized as Regional Champions in their contests. Max continued the strong tradition that Fremont has established in the Job Interview Contest. Max is the sixth member in as many years to qualify for the State Finals. Included in this group are two previous State Champions and a State Runner-Up.

Jocelyn experienced success in a brand new contest for the Fremont FFA. Jocelyn is the first middle school FFA member to qualify for the State Finals, doing so in the Junior High Public Speaking contest with her speech on Draft Horses.

Both Max and Jocelyn will compete in the State Finals during the State FFA Convention this month on the campus of Michigan State University.



Michigan Merit Examination (MME)

The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) High School Test beginning in spring 2007. The MME is administered to 11th-grade students and is based on the ACT plus writing college entrance exam, WorkKeys – an ACT work skills assessment, plus several Michigan components developed to assess Michigan curriculum not assessed by the ACT and WorkKeys assessments. The MME is composed of assessment items in the areas of English language arts (reading and writing), mathematics, science and social studies. The assessment items are aligned to the Michigan Curriculum Framework.

WorkKeys is a national assessment that measures work readiness skills in the areas of reading for information and applied mathematics. Scores can provide a snapshot of the skills for a particular job. More information on WorkKeys may be found at <http://www.act.org/workkeys/>.

Scores for the ACT and WorkKeys portions of the MME are calculated separately. In determining the MME score, the individual items from both ACT and WorkKeys (not the scores) are combined with the balance of the Michigan items to determine the MME score. Students may have one free retake if they do not have a performance level of 1 or 2 in MME reading, writing, mathematics and/or science. Students eligible to retake the test may do so in the spring of their senior year.

This year, the MME was administered on Tuesday, March 1, Wednesday, March 2, and Thursday, March 3. Only juniors and eligible seniors attended school on March 1. All other students had the day off. Teachers attended Professional Development opportunities.

FHS Students Shine at District Festival

The following events performed at the High School District Festival at Grant Middle School on January 19. Every event earned a rating of 1 – the highest rating possible!

Claire Schaar, Viola Solo
Grace Briggs, Violin Solo
Julia Breza, Clarinet Solo
Claire Schaar & Ethan Brummel, Viola Duet
Allison Rusco, Piano Solo

Ryan Morbach also performed a trumpet solo for judges' comments only (no rating).

All of these students, having received a rating of 1, are eligible to compete at the State level this month.

Magazines Needed!

Are you done reading that magazine? The FHS Art Department is in need of women's magazines for the Housing and Interior Design class...

Better Homes & Garden
Family Circle
Interior Magazines
Etc.

Donations may be brought to the FHS office or the FHS art room. All donations are greatly appreciated!



FPS Athletics

Winter 2011

With the winter sports season nearing an end, I am proud to say that the community of Fremont has the best school spirit in the Lakes 8 Conference! Week in and week out, we are blessed to have a spirited crowd rooting for the student athletes of Fremont Public Schools. As the fight song is played, it is great to see everyone in Packer Red and White stand tall and cheer for the athletes of Fremont.

At Fremont, it has been a very successful winter sports season. The wrestling team won the Lakes 8 with a 7-0 conference record. Currently, the boy's basketball team is in first place with a one game lead, with only two conference games left against OV and Fruitport. Both boys' and girls' bowling are battling for a first- or second-place finish in the Lakes 8. The hard work our athletes have put in during the off season is paying off.

Spring Sports

Below is a list of spring sports that Fremont High School offers. The first official practice date for spring sports was March 14. Please keep in mind, if you have a spring athlete, they need to have a physical on file prior to practice. In addition to this, their pay to participate and code of conduct forms must be signed and turned into the athletic office.

Baseball, Boys' Golf, Girls' Soccer, Softball, Girls' Tennis & Coed Track and Field

Football News & Notes

With the New Year upon us, it is time to start preparing for another season of Friday night football. The football program is spending the winter months in the weight room and at zero hour working on getting bigger, faster, and stronger. The football program is looking forward to the challenges of returning to the state playoffs and competing for a Lakes 8 Championship. Below are a few important dates in the near future...

WEIGHTLIFTING Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

LIFT-A-THON March 23 – 6:30 p.m. @ FHS weight room

Lifters of the Month

The football program would also like to congratulate the lifters of the month for November, December and January. Congratulations to our Lifters of the Month. Lifters of the Month are individuals who go above and beyond the expectations set forth by the football staff in regards to performance, commitment, and dedication in the weight room.

November: Jesse Reichle and Zach Bradley

December: Riley Bradley and Jake Duer

January: Kavan Russell and Cody McCombs

Conservation Club Ice Fishing Derby 2011

By: Fremont Conservation Club Secretary
Nick

It was a frigid, windy morning on January 22, 2011 as the Fremont Conservation Club took to the ice for its second annual ice fishing derby. The venue was Kimball Lake and, thanks to the Roossien family, the fishermen had a warm garage to aid in blocking the elements whenever the fishing was slow.

Some of the fishermen included club officers - Nick (secretary), Alex (vice president), Alex (reporter) and Max (president) - as well as 17 other high school students. Many of these members also brought with them friends and family. The club operator and leader, Mark Wyn, also attended the derby and provided the attendees with poles and tackle.

At the end of the day, the fish count was three perch that were all just barely six inches long and one undersized pike. Regardless of the slow fishing, it still made for a great day with friends and family!





West Michigan Showcase

Congratulations to the following Fremont High School students for being selected as the nominees for West Michigan Showcase. Students are in the running for cash prizes, including...

First Place - \$1,000

Second Place - \$500

Third Place - \$300

Academic - Sam

Athlete (female) - Kaylee

Athlete (male) - Tyler

Literary Arts - Christina

Performing Arts (solo) - Marissa

Performing Arts (group) - Tory, Allison, Nicholas

Visual Arts - Josh

Goose Hunt

By: Fremont Conservation Club President Max

The morning of December 4 came early for many members and guests of the Fremont Conservation Club, as they gathered at Fremont High School at 5:30 in the morning for a fun-filled day of hunting geese in the local Fremont area. Over seventeen students came together to enjoy this popular event of the Fremont Conservation Club.

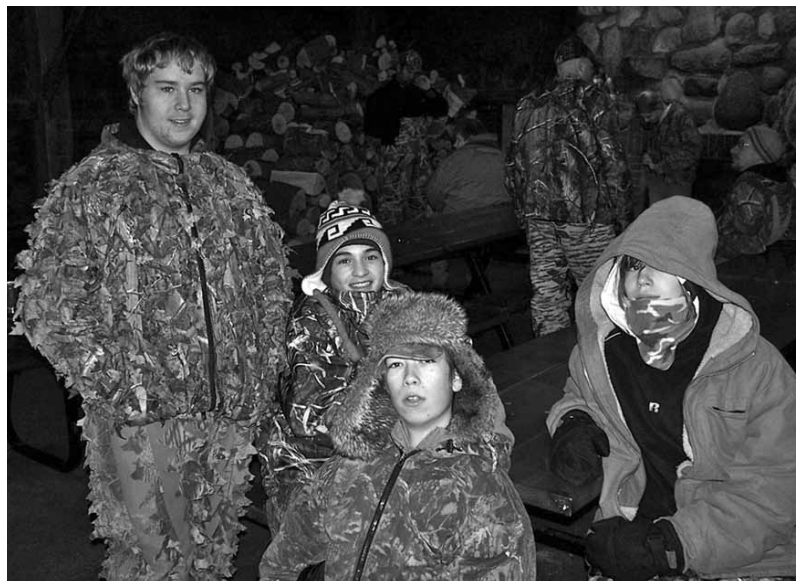
The students began by breaking off into four different groups where they then headed to separate hunting grounds with their guides. After each group arrived at their designated hunting location, the groups then spent time setting up geese decoys in formations that would encourage a successful hunt. The students and their guides then hunted geese until noon. The Conservation Club saw many geese and was able to bring one goose back from the hunt.

After the groups packed their gear, the entire club met at the Branstrom Barn for some delicious chili made by Mrs. Zappletal, as well as a goose cleaning demonstration given by Matt and a goose calling demonstration given by Troy. While each of the students enjoyed their meal and these demonstrations, prizes were given away to the students that participated in the goose hunt.

This year, the Conservation Club had the privilege to have Joe Smalligan of Rock Solid Outdoor Ministry serve as a cameraman for the event. The video footage taken was then submitted to "Michigan Out-of-Doors" television program where it was one of the six videos selected and shown on public television.

The Fremont Conservation Club would like to give a special thanks to Matt Melema, Chad Walcott, Greg Wagenmaker, Dr. Mike Deweerd, Troy Tank from Honker Hangers, and FPS Teachers Mr. Wyn and Mr. Tank for both the use of equipment and their donated time that was offered to guide the Goose Hunt. We would also like to thank Mrs. Zappletal for the delicious chili, as well as Joe Smalligan from Rock Solid Outdoor Ministry for capturing the event on video.

Overall, the goose hunt was a great success and looks to be a progressing event for the Fremont Conservation Club.

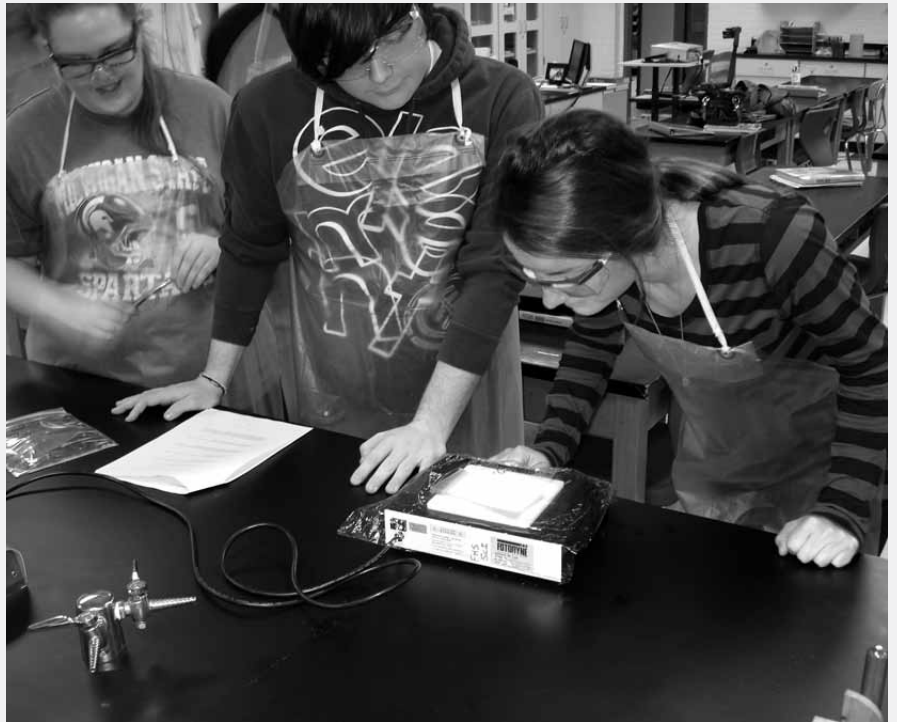




FHS Students Investigate Forensic Biology

Fremont High Schools students continue to enjoy exploring science – especially when it comes to forensic science. Shown here, students explore forensic biology through hands-on lab investigations.





FHS Dates to Remember

March 28 & 30	Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
April 1-8	Spring Break – No School
April 22	Half Day of School
April 30	Junior/Senior Prom - Fruitport Golf Club
May 16	Honors Evening – Dogwood (6:00 p.m.)
May 25	FHS Honors Assembly/Senior Dress Up Day (8:20 am.)
May 25, 26 & 27	Senior Exams
May 27	Last Day - Seniors
May 30	No School
June 2	Mandatory Graduation Practice – FHS (11:30)
June 5	Graduation - Pine Street Athletic Field
June 7 & 8	Half Days of School
June 8	Last Day of School



Exchanging Experiences for Life

Fremont High School has been participating in a Foreign Exchange Program over the past several years. Working collaboratively with the Council For Educational Travel – United States (CETUSA), students from all over the world have made their presence known in the classrooms - exchanging their cultures, as well as taking in “the American Experience.”

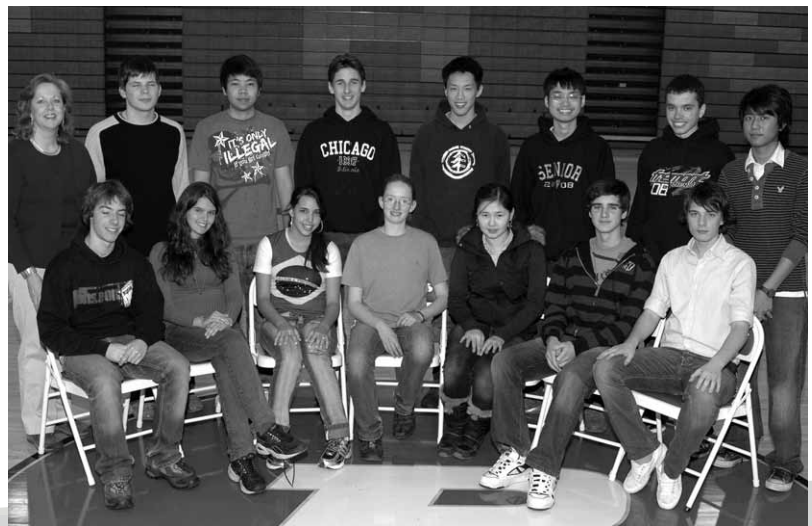
This year, students representing eleven countries have sat within our classrooms, played on our

sports teams, and joined in our student section at basketball games. They have blended in with our FHS students and have become a part of our community - sharing their lives with us.

The majority of the students are here on a ten-month program, arriving last August and returning to their home country shortly after the last day of school. Those who come to us as seniors get to participate in our graduation ceremony, receiving an honorary diploma. For most of those students, this is an experience they do not get in their home country and can be a highlight of their stay in America. Graduation is truly a foreign experience to them and one that highlights their time here. Regardless of what class they are in, they return to their home country a different person, having established lifetime relationships and having extended their family to include “an American home.”

Recently, a group of students from both CETUSA and FHS took advantage of the long weekend over Mid-Winter Break and took a day trip up to Crystal Mountain. Some of the European students have skied before, but for the majority, this was a first! Julia Furdek, a sophomore from Germany, gave snowboarding a try. It was a rough start, but by the end of the day, she was able to take on the hills without falling (more than three times)! Ju San from South Korea also tried snowboarding and with his aggressive approach to the sport, took on the hills with determination. All the students - representing eight countries - had a great time and look forward to a return trip.

If you are interested in learning more about the exchange program or about opening your home and heart to a student, please contact Mrs. Pamela Mull or stop by the counseling office at the high school.



Athletic Participation Fees Reduced

Fremont Public Schools' athletic participation fees recently underwent some revisions. At a recent Fremont Public Schools Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education voted to reduce the current pay-to-participate fee.

Effective for the Spring 2011 season, we will be adapting a \$75/athlete/year fee. Prior to this revision, the pay-to-participate fee at the high school was \$75 for the first sport, \$50 for the second sport, and \$25 for the third sport. Thus, if an athlete has already participated in a sport this school year, they will not have an additional fee this spring. This will also be the policy for the 2011-2012 school year. However, the current middle school fee of \$50/athlete/year will remain in place.

A great deal of research went into this policy change; and we feel this is a revision that is in the best interest of our athletes, parents and community members. We want to assure every student in Fremont High School has the opportunity to participate in athletics.

To help offset the cost of reducing pay-to-participate fees, we will be limiting our weekend transportation to some events. As we prepare for the 2011-2012 school year, FHS will be providing minimal transportation to weekend events unless it is a Lakes 8 or MHSAA sponsored event.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the athletic department.

- Rob Pouch, Athletic Director

Quest

Spreading Christmas Cheer

The Quest Environmental Science Class enjoyed making memories with the Packer Pride Preschoolers just before the holiday break. The high school students prepared and conducted a series of nature-related activities based on the book "The Night Tree."

The preschoolers first listened to the reading of story books, including the popular "The Night Tree" book (in which a family heads out to their favorite tree in the woods, decorates the tree with edible "ornaments" for the wildlife, and participates in some family fun).

Quest students somewhat mirrored this experience by not only reading, but also by helping the little ones make bird feeder pine cones and reindeer ornaments to take home. The students also served snacks and hot cocoa to complete the day.

Once again, Quest students experienced ways to apply their knowledge and spread some positive spirit. The "big kids" ended up feeling pretty confident and "warm" about hosting such a memorable event.



Packers' Pride Childcare – Gearing Up

Winter at Packers' Pride Childcare Center is an amazing time of year! During circle time, the pre-school students huddle together and read exciting stories about polar bears and penguins and how they survive in such cold climates. The students discuss what is needed to keep warm in cold weather.

The students then practice putting on "all" the gear needed (no easy feat with tots) and head outside to check out ice crystals with magnifying glasses, write in the snow with colored water and - most fun of all - climb 'Mount Packers' Pride!' Here, on the 'mountain,' the children become great explorers, ice princesses and power rangers! The climbing, jumping and sliding build strong muscles, while the fresh air wards off inside germs.

Even though winter is a lot of fun, the children look forward to warmer weather for biking, swinging and digging in the sand box. In the meantime, students will take a look at healthy eating during National Nutrition Month (March). The classes will cook a variety of food and taste the creations. They will also host visitors and visit the grocery store.

Packers' Pride began open enrollment for childcare and pre-school for the 2011-2012 school year this month. An open house will be held in April. Please contact Allison Alderton at (231) 924-7435 or e-mail her at aalderton@Fremont.net for more information.



On the Back...

The Fremont Conservation Club recently took to the ice for its second annual ice fishing derby. For more on this day of ice, snow, and fish, check out the full article on page 22.



FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECREATION DEPARTMENT

204 E. Main St., Ste 3, Fremont, MI 49412 – 231-924-3750
Now located in the South end of Fremont High School
Website: <https://communityed.fremont.net>
On-line sign-up available with credit card.

50+ CLASSES

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
4001	Water Exercise	M/W/F	4/11-6/3	8:30-9:15am	\$35
4002	Water Exercise	T/TH	4/12-6/2	8:30-9:15am	\$30
5001	Senior Aerobics	M/W/F	4/11-6/3	9-10:00am	\$35

TUMBLING CLASS

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
700A	Pre-K (age 3 & 4)	Tues.	4/12-5/31	4-4:45pm	\$30
700B	Pre-K (age 3 & 4)	Thurs.	4/14-6/2	5-5:45pm	\$30
701	Beginner (age 5+)	Tues.	4/12-5/31	4:45-5:45pm	\$35
702	Tumble I	Thurs.	4/14-6/2	4-5:00pm	\$35
703	Tumble II/Cheer	Thurs.	4/14-6/2	5:45-6:45pm	\$35
704	Tumble III	Tues.	4/12-5/31	5:45-6:45pm	\$35

KARATE

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
8006	Kid's Karate	M/TH	4/11-5/26	6-6:45pm	\$20
8007	Adult Karate	M/TH	4/11-5/26	6:30-8:30pm	\$35

LIFEGUARD TRAINING CLASS

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
9801	Lifeguard Training	F/S/Sun	3/11-28	varies	\$200

RECREATION K-6 SOCCER

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
8011	K-1 Soccer	Sat.	4/23-5/21	mornings	\$35/\$40
8012	2-3 Soccer	Sat.	4/23-5/21	mornings	\$35/\$40
8013	4-6 Soccer	Sat.	4/23-5/21	mornings	\$35/\$40

Practice begins after Spring Break. Games on Saturday mornings. Coaches needed! Call 924-3750 for more details.

SUMMER SWIM LESSONS

Watch for flyers in April. Will be posted on our website. Call 924-3750 for more information.

POOL SCHEDULE

Open Swim on Friday evenings 7-9pm. Cost \$2.00. Call 924-7318 for pool schedule 24 hrs a day. AM Swim is held M/W/F mornings 5:30-6:30am. Lane swimming. Adults only. Cost \$2.00.

School Matters District Newsletter

Administration

Jim Hieftje, Superintendent	(231) 924-2350
Bing Hanson, Director of Financial Services.....	(231) 924-2350
Rob Pouch, Dir. of Athletics/Recreation Enrichment	(231) 924-7373
Jan Kandler-Kartes, Athletic Director's Secretary.....	(231)924-7329
Nancy Sparks, Pine Street Primary Principal.....	(231)924-3530
Bob Cassidy, Pathfinder Principal	(231) 924-7230
Nancy Sparks, Daisy Brook Principal	(231) 924-4380
Ken Haggart, Middle School Principal.....	(231)924-0230
Scott Sherman, High School Principal.....	(231)924-7332
Debra Wightman, High School Assistant Principal.....	(231)924-7347
Tracy Sanchez, Dir. Quest Educational Programs	(231) 924-0470
Ryan Ergang, Director of Operations.....	(231)924-8825
Don Vincent, Director of Transportation.....	(231)924-4390
Denise McDaniel, Director of Food Services.....	(231)924-8160
Dianna Dakin, Technology Coordinator.....	(231)924-8190

Board of Education

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Ed Wosinski	Vice President
Jim Featherstone.....	Secretary
Phil Harmon.....	Treasurer
Linda Blais.....	Trustee
Matt Hendrie.....	Trustee
Rhoni Kaastra.....	Trustee

Regular School Board meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the administration building. Please call (231) 924-2350 or check the district website at www.fremont.net for more information. The public is invited to attend.

School Matters is published four times each year.
Amber Hogancamp, Editor – Printed by Hi-Lites Graphics Inc.

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, it is the policy of Fremont Public Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in employment, programs or activities.

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School Matters

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