

SCHOOL MATTERS

A publication of Fremont Public Schools * For more information visit www.fremont.net * Spring 2012

Local Economy Aided by High School Construction

The flow of dollars into the local economy continues to swell as construction of the new Fremont High School moves toward its planned completion this August.

To date, approximately \$2.7 million of the construction costs has returned to the community as wages and purchases of supplies and services.



Board member Rhoni Kaastra chats with Dean Schuiteman during a recent visit to the new high school. Some 70 members of the agricultural community toured the construction site in late February and heard about new directions for the agricultural sciences program from instructor Rebel Smith.

When the school board awarded bids for the project, they promised to award as many bids as possible to contractors with local connections.

Ten of the project's 22 contractors have employees with Fremont or Newaygo County addresses, are local contractors, use area suppliers, or purchase local services.

The final real dollar value here will continue to rise as construction moves through its final months.

(continued on page 14)

Middle School Students Invited to Mars

The Grand Rapids Public Museum received a grant from the Gerber Foundation to offer full scholarships for Newaygo County students to attend the Facing Mars exhibit.

Funding support includes some or all transportation, general admission, special exhibit admission, and free admission to the planetarium show *Our Bodies in Space*.

This traveling exhibition promotes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning through 27 different interactive learning stations.

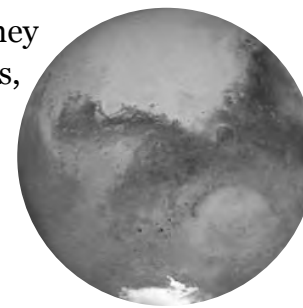
Visitors can defy gravity and "walk on Mars," build and launch rocket prototypes, perform surgery in space, and man the microphone in Mission Control, among other things.

Students will have fun while they learn about astronomy, physics, psychology, anatomy, biology, chemistry and mathematics.

The exhibit is open from February 11 through May 6.

Our thanks to the Gerber Foundation for providing this great opportunity for our middle school students. ■

(for more middle school articles, see page 7)



High School Parent Teacher Conferences for Third Trimester:
March 27 and 28, from 4:30 - 7 PM

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Fremont Public Schools Newsletter



Providing you with important information about your schools.

Address comments and suggestions to:

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Superintendent
450 E. Pine Street
Fremont, MI 49412
Phone: 231-924-2350

Board of Education

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Facilities

Administration: 231-924-2350
High School: 231-924-5300
Middle School: 231-924-0230
Daisy Brook Elementary: 231-924-4380
Pathfinder Elementary: 231-924-7230
Pine Street Primary Center: 231-924- 2350
Quest High School: 231-924-0470
Bus Garage: 231-924-4390
Maintenance Building: 231-924-8829

The Board of Education holds its regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Meeting dates are subject to change. Please check the school district webpage - www.fremont.net - for meeting locations and times.

Schools Seek Renewal of Sinking Fund



by Jim Hieftje, Superintendent

The Board of Education has decided to ask voters again to renew the sinking fund millage at a special election May 8.

Voters will be asked to extend the 1.75 annual mills for another 10 years.

The millage, first approved in 2001, pays only for safety, building and maintenance projects. State law limits the use of sinking fund dollars to these purposes.

The money cannot be used, for example, to operate the new high school or for any other operating purposes, such as wages and salaries.

The sinking fund has helped to replace boilers at three buildings and to replace or repair classroom floors, exterior doors, roofs, parking lots, and restrooms at the Pine Street athletic complex.

Funds also have been used to address compliance issues with the Americans with Disabilities Act for ramps and wheelchair lifts, and to improve security at all school buildings.

We still have many needs in our older buildings, and we can see needs that are emerging.

The greater concern right now is security and safety at all of our facilities.

The sinking fund millage is one of the few requests state law allows a school district to make of its citizens. It is the only way that local voters can help their schools provide "extra" programs and services.

The millage also helps to make up for declining state aid payments that have depleted the operating fund and led to numerous budget cuts over the past several years. There are simply not enough financial resources to cover all of the district's safety and security needs.

Frankly, I don't know what we would have done without the community's help with the sinking fund millage.

We've worked hard to stretch the dollars so we don't negatively impact the programs we offer or our academic standards. But we can see that we continue to need the community's help.

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Walk to School Will Be Easier, Safer

Walking or riding a bike to school in Fremont will get a little easier.

School and city officials have learned they will receive \$338,754 in federal funds to pay for sidewalk safety improvements and education programs.

The money comes from the Safe Routes to School program, administered in the state by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Fitness Foundation.

“We want students to have healthy lifestyles and be able to travel safely between home and school,” said Zach Lienau, Assistant Director at Fremont’s Quest High School and Director of Recreation for Fremont schools.

Lienau and Michele Ribant, Director of Neighborhood and Economic Development and Fremont Zoning Administrator, worked together to bring the federal grant dollars to Fremont.

The city will construct sidewalks in five locations, mainly where there are gaps or current sidewalks need repairs, Lienau said.

A multi-use path and bicycle lanes will be constructed in two other settings in the city. Wheelchair ramps and crosswalk markings will be included.

Bike trees and bike racks, pole-mounted radar speed displays, and crossing guard equipment also are on tap for the middle school and for Pathfinder and Daisy Brook elementaries.

City officials, responsible for the sidewalks and bike paths, would like work to be completed by September 2012, Ribant said.

The improvements will help children walk and bike to and from school by making routes safer and by easing traffic around school buildings.

“The partnership between the city and our schools has been very positive, and this is just one more example,” said Fremont Mayor Jim Rynberg.

“The city has annually been creating infrastructure that can support healthy lifestyles. We want to do our part, which is why we have been so involved in the development of this program,” he said.

Fremont Public Schools superintendent Jim Hieftje said the district will provide ongoing education about the benefits of exercise and the need for safety when walking or biking to school. ■

Former Fremont Superintendent Passes

Dr. John Kingsnorth, Fremont schools former superintendent, passed away on Friday, February 2, 2012, following a long battle with cancer.

Dr. Kingsnorth’s wife, Jackie, and his children, J.D. and Julie, were at his side.

“Dr. Kingsnorth’s spirit, enthusiasm, love for our profession and, particularly, love for our students will always be a part of the fabric of Fremont Public Schools,” said Superintendent Jim Hieftje.



The family has expressed a desire to establish a student scholarship fund in his name. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. John Kingsnorth Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Fremont Public Schools.

Dr. Kingsnorth began his career as a high school math teacher, coach, and principal. He later earned a master’s degree at Western Michigan University and a PhD at Michigan State University.

He served as superintendent of Fremont, Otsego, Romeo and Deerfield schools. He retired in 2009 but continued his love of teaching as an adjunct professor at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. He served 35 years in education, 26 as a superintendent.

Dr. Kingsnorth touched many lives by his kindness, generous spirit, and willingness to listen. He made a positive difference in so many lives. He was a devout Christian, and wanted nothing more than to help others accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. His love of God sustained him through his fight with cancer. ■

DK Children Learn About Neighbors

In November local visitors stopped by the Developmental Kindergarten class to tell us how they help our neighborhood.

Nurse Jenn shared how she helps people get better and showed us how to properly wash our hands to stay healthy. DML Construction showed us some of the tools they use to build and fix people's homes.

Mrs. Schmidt, one of DK friend's grandmas, shared her musical talents and told how she cares for, practices and plays her flute. We even made our own mini-neighborhood in our classroom, with homes and storefronts of some of these special guests.

"Community is important in our classroom and in our neighborhood," said Stephanie DeKuiper of the Developmental Kindergarten program. "It was lots of fun learning more about the people and places around us."

Changing Seasons

The winter season came, but the cold, snowy weather was slow. Yet that didn't stop DK from learning about and



Nurse Jenn showed developmental kindergarteners how to take a blood pressure.

enjoying this cooler season. We made our own, one-of-a-kind 6-point pasta snowflakes to hang from the ceiling of our classroom.

We explored the importance of cold weather gear with a couple of 2-liter bottles filled with water. We placed them in the freezer for cooler temps and, after a couple of hours, our thermometers revealed what we predicted - the hats and mittens our parents tell us to wear in the cold are important!

We were curious to see how animals that don't have special clothes survive the winter. We learned that some, in fact, do have winter coats to keep them warm and camouflaged, some migrate south, while others hibernate and sleep the season away.

To celebrate a season of learning, we each brought in a bear and had a "beary" fun time measuring, sorting, playing games with, and eating snacks with our bear friends. ■

Third Grade Students Get Excited About Science

Third grade students at Pathfinder celebrated their study of how people have contributed to science and technology throughout history by participating in an Invention Fair.

The students worked to design, create and operate their own inventions. Using the scientific process, each child developed an invention to solve a real-world problem of their choice.

They tested their invention, adjusted it so that it worked and then connected its operation to a Newton Law of Motion.



A student with The Helper, an invention to accommodate people who have difficulty lifting.



A student and the glove dryer.

The excitement and enthusiasm reached unlimited heights as they shared with other Pathfinder students during the week of February 6-10. ■

Students Juggle Upstanding Skills

Mat Emerick, local entertainer, performer and educator, recently developed a bullying prevention and intervention seminar for Daisy Brook Elementary students.



Mat Emerick juggles at Daisy Brook.

Incorporating humor, insight and personal experience, Mat spent the day working with groups of fourth and fifth grade students to hone their juggling and relationship skills.

Using many of the same Character Counts strategies already familiar to the students as part of the Fremont curriculum, Mat illustrated the similarities of juggling to catch objects tossed into the air with reacting to bullying behavior.

Mat's message of positive empowerment, where people become involved "upstanders," rather than uninvolved bystanders, in bullying situations was enthusiastically received.

For more information about the Six Pillars of Character, go to www.charactercounts.org. ■

November was Native American Month

This year Rachel Jaunese shared her knowledge of the Three Fires Council tribes Odawa/ Ottawa, Potawatomie, and Ojibewe/Chippewa.

Students learned about the tribes' culture. Mrs. Jaunese shared many artifacts, including stone tools, clay pots, arrows, and fish hooks. Did you know the tribes used brains to tan hides to make moccasins and clothing?

Megwitch, Mrs. Jaunese - that's thank you in Ojibway! ■



Rachel Jaunese demonstrates the fine art of starting a fire.

They Ran Out of Words

When Daisy Brook held the 32nd Annual Fifth Grade Spelling Bee in early January, something happened that had never happened before - the pronouncer ran out of words!

The event began with 38 students earning the right to participate in the Bee by correctly spelling all of the words in the qualifying test.

As Mr. Huissen gave contestants their words to spell, audience members were amazed at the ability of these students to spell difficult words and the confidence they displayed on stage.

By round 12, the judges were becoming concerned and audience members began to whisper. It was down to three students, Maya Hudson, Aubrie Kibart, and Anna Heger. They spelled *pugilist*, *tutelage*, and *dramaturgy* with no hesitation.



Fremont's Spelling Bee winners.

The judges conferred. The students had used up all the words through the 9th grade list prepared by the Scripps Howard National Bee organization.

A difficult word finally caught Maya, earning her runner-up honors. Anna and Aubrie continued for several more rounds, spelling words like *anthropology* and *astrophysicist*. Finally, out of words, the judges declared a tie.

Aubrie is the daughter of Holly and James Kibart and a 5th grader in Mrs. Hanna's class. Anna is the daughter of Teresa and Erich Heger and a student in Mr. Henry's class. Maya is the daughter of Chris and Denise Hudson and a student in Mrs. Hanna's class.

Aubrie and Anna went on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee at NCRESA on February 15.

Special thanks to Fremont Lanes & Summer Breeze, McDonalds, Little Caesars, and Craig's Cruisers for prizes they donated and to those who helped with the spelling bee: Mrs. Heft, Mr. Huissen, Mrs. Hughes, Ms. DeLuca, and Mrs. Matthews. ■

Lewis & Clark Adventurers Blaze New Trail

Fifth grade students experienced history “live” as they encamped with Virginia-born explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

The intrepid explorers detoured their “Corps of Discovery Expedition” through the Daisy Brook gymnasium.

Commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, the first transcontinental expedition to the Pacific Coast by the United States from 1804 to 1806 was both scientific and commercial in nature.

Students got their hands on early 19th Century tools and weapons.



Native American drummers added an air of authenticity to the history voyage.

Guided by local re-enactors, and accompanied by authentic Native American drummers, students handled many early 19th Century tools and weapons, even striking flint to make fire.

Local teacher Walter Ewing, as Meriwether Lewis, and several Quest High School students, as members of the Corps of Discovery, illustrated the importance of the area’s plants, animal life and geography for people living on the frontier of the territory known as the Louisiana Purchase. ■

Fires and Bangs and Bubbles, Oh My!

High school science students from Miss Cook’s and Miss Jones’ physics and chemistry classes went to Daisy Brook Elementary in January to help fill imaginations with ideas for Daisy Brook’s annual Science Fair.

They made an impression with experiments filled with loud pops, bright flames, and gooey substances!



It was hard to tell who was having more fun when physics and chemistry students visited Daisy Brook.

Their enthusiasm bubbled over as they traveled from classroom to classroom, performing their experiments. The elementary students amazed their visitors with their inquisitive natures and many bright questions.

Experiments included Rainbow of Fire, Dry Ice Bubbles, Hero’s Engine, Dragon’s Breath, the Flaming Vapor Ramp, and many others. ■

Tasting Tuesdays

FPS food service staff will be offering a “Tasting Tuesday” experience for students.

Each Tuesday, a different school will try a different fruit, vegetable, or menu item. A display will be set up showing the food’s origin, how it is processed, prepped, cooked, nutritional value, and health benefits.

Staff will be available to answer questions and tally the students’ vote as to whether they would select the item if it was offered as part of the lunch or breakfast program.

The current schedule will be the Middle School the second Tuesday of the month; Daisybrook, the third; and Pathfinder, the fourth.

We hope the children will be excited to try some different food items. ■

Rainforest Trek Inches Closer

The rainforest group has been very busy preparing for their journey to the Peruvian Amazon this June.

Their trek began last summer with car washes, pop can drives, and bake sales. Since September students have sponsored several middle school dances and movie days. This winter they are working at basketball tournaments.

But wait! Fremont Rainforest is not just about working to earn money for the trip.

Students have been learning about Peru, its environmental impact, ecology - and a little Spanish.

They have been helping their community by working with food distribution sites, raised money to buy a llama for a Peruvian village, and have service projects planned at camp.



The rainforest group travels to Peru in June.

Students will be going on field trips to Camp Pinewood and Camp Newaygo, and traveling to Chicago to the Shedd Aquarium and Brookfield Zoo, all before they head off to Peru.

A fun side trip on their return from the Amazon will be to the Georgia Aquarium, the world's largest and home to four whale sharks, the world's largest fish.

We want to extend our thanks to the Fremont Area Community Foundation for their continued support to help make this dream come true. The adventure continues..... ■

Green Team Rises at Middle School

The middle school has a new environmental club. The "Green Team" is open to seventh and eighth graders and meets every other Wednesday.

The students focus on environmental issues and help to maintain the school's recycling program. They also work on projects that will help earn the middle school the Michigan Green School award.



Middle school Green Team members take the classroom outdoors.

This winter the club has been focusing on birds. For their holiday project, they built bird feeders from reclaimed wood.

They also are participating in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Celebrate Urban Birds" program. This involves hiking to the nature center and completing a 10-minute bird watch. Results are shared with Cornell University. This is a great program that gets the students outside and interested in citizen science.

The Green Team, along with Mr. Breuker's class, also will be participating in Cornell's Great Backyard Bird Count. Students will spend a morning at Camp Newaygo hiking and bird-watching.

Students share what they learn through the Green Team bulletin board. They post tips and ideas on green living and share photos of their adventures. Rachel Jaunese is the Green Team adviser. ■

Half Graduation Ceremony Held for 6th Grade

Sixth graders celebrated their half graduation on Friday, January 20, at the end of the first semester.

Half graduation means the students have completed half of their kindergarten through high school education.

As Principal Ken Haggart read half of each student's name, the kids proceeded across the stage and received half of a high school diploma. Sixth grade teachers greeted each student with a "high two and a half."

Each half graduate received half a donut, served on half a plate, and half a glass of milk. Half of the tables were



Mrs. Blamer discusses setting goals.

Middle school students celebrate their half graduation.



decorated, and the teachers wore half a graduation gown. The ceremony took half an hour to complete.

At the end of the celebration, Mrs. Blamer discussed the importance of setting goals as the students embark on the remaining six and a half years of their public education. ■

Jacob Thomas Wins Geographic Bee, Advances to State Finals

Jacob Thomas, an eighth grade student at Fremont Middle School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee in January and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship.

The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 24th annual National Geographic Bee, sponsored by Google.

Other contestants in the preliminary round were runner-up **James O'Banion**, and **Cody Willea**, **Sam Kaastra**, **Rachel Ward**, **William Wright**, **Jodie Behler**, **Micah Whittle**, **Reece Peacock** and **Travis Wyant**.

The kickoff for this year's Bee was in November, with thousands of schools around the country participating. The school winners, including Jacob, then took a written test to qualify as one of the 100 the top scorers in the state who will be eligible to compete in Michigan's state Bee on March 30.

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 22-24.

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.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on May 24. The program will air on television. Check local listings for dates and times. ■

Reading Adventure

This year Mrs. Derks and Mr. Edwards are heading up the 7th and 8th grade book club, and boy, do they have some exciting things planned!

The book club has started reading their first book for the year, with a survival theme. In March the club will go to Camp Newaygo for an overnight adventure and a chance to work on their survival skills.

We can't wait to share our experiences with you! ■

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Packer Leos Share Food at Rescue Mission

Fremont Packer Leo Club is in full winter “cooking mode,” sharing meals at the Muskegon Rescue Mission for Women and Children.

The Leos and their parents donate 100% of the meal’s items so those in need can have a hot meal. Menus are set a month in advance and the Rescue Mission notified so it will not be duplicated by their cook.

January’s fare: hard and soft shell homemade tacos with all the trimmings, refried beans, and Mexican rice. Dessert was decadent double-chocolate cake with cream cheese frosting and golden feather cake with whipped strawberry frosting (a hit with all the ladies).

The Rescue Mission does not allow minors to use sharp knives or do any cooking. The tomatoes, lettuce and onions were pre-cut and Leo Adviser Laurene Homsher manned the stove to cook the rice and heat the beans on-site. To save time, she pre-cooked 15 lbs. of ground round burger and kept it hot all day in an oversized crock pot.



Packer Leos prepare January’s menu.

The Leos organized an assembly line to efficiently serve Rescue Mission clients and staff. Leos cleaned up after, including washing/drying utensils and pans that were used and sweeping the dining room floor.

Additional meals were taken to the Mission on February 22 and will be taken on March 28.

The Leos find this experience one of the “outstanding highlights” of their year. The true thankfulness of the clients is shared by their hugs, their compliments, and their hearty appetites. ■

Taste of Nations

The first annual Taste of Nations was held in November at Fremont Middle School.



Fashions from around the world

More than 500 community members joined the celebration of food, music and dancing from over 35 countries.



Irish dancers

The middle school choir, band and orchestra performed, as well as several student groups.



The drumming group

A 7th grade student drumming group, led by Brenda Huckins Bonter, brought the rhythms of Africa echoing to life. Fashions from around the world also were featured.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the evening took place in the cafeteria, where students and staff put together dishes to sample from all over the world.

Special thanks to the Fremont Community Area Foundation for helping to fund our drumming group. ■

Art Students Earn Top Prizes

Art students **JH** and **HC** won Gold Key Awards at the Scholastic Art Awards ceremony in Grand Rapids in February.

The annual competition accepts high school and middle school art work from throughout West Michigan. Winning art pieces were displayed for the public at Kendall College through mid-February.

JH entered two winning photographs. One was shot using infrared film, then developed and printed in the high school darkroom. The second was produced digitally.

HC's Gold Key piece was a self-portrait with values shaded in ink by using text from her native Chinese language.



*HC
and her
self-portrait.*



*JH
won two Gold
Key awards.*

It is a great honor to be awarded Gold Keys in this competition. Their winning art will be judged in a national competition in New York City this spring.

Congratulations JH and HC for work so well done! ■

Seniors on Fast Track to Graduation

Spring is just around the corner, which means we are entering "Graduation Season" at Fremont High School.

Students are busy checking with counselors on scholarships, recommendations, and university applications.

As we continue our march to graduation, important events will come rapidly.

Dates to Remember:

- ✦ May 5 - Prom - Fruitport Country Club - 8 PM
- ✦ May 15 - Honors Night at the Dogwood
- ✦ May 23 - Magna Cum Laude Breakfast
- ✦ May 23 - Honors Assembly
- ✦ May 25 - Seniors' Last Day
- ✦ May 31 - Mandatory Grad. Practice - 11:30 AM
- ✦ May 31 - Baccalaureate
- ✦ June 3 - Graduation - 2 PM

For parents of ninth through eleventh graders, it is never too early to begin conversations with students on graduation and post-graduation. The end of each trimester is a great time to look at report cards and make counseling appointments if the student is off-track for graduation or wants to pursue dual enrollment for college credit.

Post-graduation talks also are important. Adults know that college and career choice are two of the biggest decisions a person can make. Yet teens often struggle to understand how those decisions impact the rest of their lives.

Having those discussions early and often sets parental expectations and gives the child direction. If your student needs help sorting out these major decisions, please contact the counseling office. ■

Students to Compete at Showcase

Several students have been selected to represent Fremont High School at West Michigan Showcase March 14 and 15 at Muskegon's Frauenthal Theatre.

- ✦ Academics: **Palmer Walters**
- ✦ Athletics (female): **MacKenzie Supernaw**
- ✦ Athletics (male): **Jesse Reichle**
- ✦ Literary Arts: **Marissa Waybill**
- ✦ Performing Arts, solo: **Kennedy Bolles** and **Meghan Hawker** (two in this category)
- ✦ Performing Arts, group: **Ethan Brummel, Tory Cheney, Allison Rusco, Claire Schaar, Nick Voyt**
- ✦ Visual Arts: **Kellie White**

Prize money for the top three places in Literary, Performing and Visual Arts is \$1,000, \$500 and \$300.

Entry tickets are available through the Frauenthal Theatre.

Fremont has been honored to have winners the past few years, so let's keep the momentum going forward! ■

Mid-Winter Festival Royalty Selected



TR, KS, AD, AS

High school students enjoyed Mid-Winter festivities in late February.

AS and AD were chosen King and Queen. TR and KS were selected Prince and Princess. ■

A New World of Photography

For three days in February, the high school Advanced Photo class dove into a new world of photography: underwater.

Jeffrey and Lisa Blanzly from Treasured Images by Jeffrey met with photo students in the pool and gave them a chance to shoot pictures under water.



Photographer Jeffrey Blanzly shows Dominick Mangin how to use the underwater camera.

Students were responsible for bringing their own props and setting up individual photo shoots. Some of the pictures turned out very surprising and funny, while others gave a new look at a familiar subject.

In the end, the students got a taste of the challenges a professional photographer faces and the good sport you have to be to get the best shot.

Special thanks to Treasured Images and their willingness to share their ideas, equipment and time with our high school photographers. The experience, lessons and captured memories were amazing. ■

Conservation Club Enjoys Winter Events

It was 5:30 a.m. in early December, rather early for some, but not for members of the Fremont Conservation Club.

The 19 students and their seven adult guides were gathered for the club's fourth annual Goose Hunt.

After dispersing gear and decoys, club members headed to local fields for a morning hunt. A number of birds were in the air and, by the end of the morning, six geese and two ducks were harvested.

The group later gathered at Mr. Tank's barn for a lunch of venison chili, prize give-a-ways, and a demonstration on goose-cleaning. Goose jerky was enjoyed by all a few days later at lunch!

The club would like to give a special thanks to adult guides Mike DeWeerd, Joe Smalligan, Gregg Wagenmaker and Matt Mellema, and teachers Mark Wyn and Rick Tank for sharing their time and equipment to make the hunt a success.

Poor winter weather led to canceling the snowshoeing and ice fishing events this year.

Snowboarding made up for some cancelled events.



The December goose hunt was a success!

Instead, 16 members made an impromptu trip up to Caberfae ski resort in early February for an evening of snowboarding and skiing. The camaraderie was great - and the fries were awesome, too. Our thanks to Scott Lensky and Bill Drake for being our parent drivers.

The Conservation Club's next event, "Wild Game Night," is schedule for March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Call Mr. Wyn at the high school if you would like more information. ■

FHS Packer Pride Day

The students and staff of Fremont High School are planning an Earth Day Community wide day of service throughout the City of Fremont on April 26.

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

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 and

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 would like more information please contact Tressa Wenk at twenk@fremont.net or 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! ■

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YANA Takes Stand against Bullying, Suicide

YANA is a student initiated movement that stands for **You are Not Alone.**

YANA developed as a result of students at FHS concerned about a fellow student who had considered suicide as a result of bullying and feeling alone.

The group has already participated in many activities and set goals, which include:

- ✦ YANA suggestion box, which allows students give suggestions to the group as well as report students who are bullying and/or hurting.
- ✦ YANA Bulletin Board, which posts pictures of students who have committed to taking a stand against bullying.
- ✦ Psyche-Ache, which is a referral process for students who are hurting to get support and also stop those who are causing the hurt.



The YANA group.

- ✦ Participation in a countywide conference and working together with students from all over the county on ways we can stop bullying and prevent suicide.
- ✦ Spent Valentine lunch hour at the middle school and Quest High School talking about YANA and doing random acts of kindness.

YANA Thursday is the group's next goal. This will be the day they market their cause through announcements, morning music, and wearing YANA shirts. ■

Packers' Pride Childcare Loves Outside

Winter may seem like the longest season of the year. Actually, it is the shortest. There's barely enough time to pack in many fun activities and adventures.

At Packers' Pride Childcare Center, you will find us outside every day. Not only is it a licensing rule, but the children are healthier when they go outdoors.

Plus, fun and learning is behind every tree, under the climbers, and on top of every snow heap.

Recently, the Pre-schoolers bundled up and walked in the beautiful sunshine to The Tasty Cakery. We looked at valentine treats, saw where they make gift baskets, and where they melt chocolate to make their own special candies. The best part was taking a chocolate-dipped marshmallow back to school.

As winter fades into spring, Packers' Pride will be busy preparing for a harvest celebration. We are planning to plant a "soup and salad garden."

Gardening and nutritious foods books have been set aside. A box of tools and pots are waiting on the shelf. A clear container, perfect for watching root systems, is ready to be filled. And, a room full of eager learners are raring to try their hand at gardening.

Projects like this are important to all areas of developmental growth - cognitive, social, physical and emotional. Something as simple as filling up a flower pot with dirt, or sorting seeds, will teach math, science and reading, improve vocabulary, foster teamwork, and improve coordination.

Good nutrition is one of the most important factors of our center. During March we will be learning about the food groups, sampling a variety of foods, and then planting the food we eat.

Summer and fall childcare enrollment will be coming soon! Stay tuned! Questions may be directed to Allison Alderton at aalderton@fremont.net or by calling 924-8108. ■

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P Packer Athletics

WINTER 2011

It has been a very successful winter sports season.

The wrestling team won its second straight Lakes 8 title. Over the past two years, the wrestling program is 14-0 in league play.

Currently the boys' basketball team is in 1st place with a one-game lead. Both boys' and girls' bowling are battling for a 1st or 2nd place finish in the Lakes 8. Girls basketball and boys swimming are gearing up for the MHSAA tournament. The hard work our athletes have put in during the off-season is paying off.

It was also a busy winter of hosting MHSAA tournaments. Fremont hosted the district team wrestling tournament and also the girls' basketball district.

This basketball tournament will be the last games played at the current high school, as we prepare for a new dawn of athletics in the new high school.

Spring Sports

Below is a list of spring sports that Fremont High School offers. The first official practice date for spring sports is March 12.

Please keep in mind, if you have a spring athlete they need to have a physical on file prior to practice. In addition, their pay-to-participate and code of conduct forms must be signed and turned into the athletic office.

Spring Sports: **Baseball, Boys Golf, Girls Soccer, Softball, Girls Tennis, and Coed Track and Field.**

Football News and Quotes

It's 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. Here are a few important dates for the near future:

★ Weightlifting - Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 3:15-4:15 PM

★ Lift-A-Thon - March 21, 6:30 PM, High School

Lifters of the Month

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

★ November: **Riley Bradley and Jake Deur**

★ December: **Grant Clark and Justin Mongor**

★ January: **Christian Wade and Collin Grabill** ■

(HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, continued from cover)

The Board of Education asked every bidder if they hired local employees and whether they would use local subcontractors.

Those whom the board felt could return the most benefit to the local community and maintain high standards of construction integrity were awarded contracts.

In all cases, the board followed accepted processes when awarding bids - pre-bid meetings, advertising for quotes, and thoroughly examining the bidder's qualifications and abilities.

The board knew, obviously, that it wanted to build a first-class high school for the community. But board members also felt the project could deliver additional value to the local economy.

Come August, when the high school opens, the school district will have accomplished the board's objectives - to buy locally whenever we honorably could, to balance costs, and to maintain high quality. ■

State Installs New Curriculum Standards

Each year, public school students in grades 3 through 9 take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test. Eleventh graders take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

Both tests assess students in English Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Math, Science, and Social Studies.

The Michigan State Board of Education recently approved new MEAP and MME scoring for these tests, separating students into four categories - advanced, proficient, partially proficient, and not proficient.

The state also prepared a side-by-side comparison of the old MEAP and MME test scores to their new scoring expectations.

As could be expected, some areas, such as math and science, took dramatic falls at the state average level.

Previous scoring deemed students' proficient when they got 1 of 3 test questions correct, which was acceptable in an industrial-based economy.

The higher standards reflect the state's desire to raise student proficiency for the new economy. This economy

wants students to be career and college-ready, and able to answer 2 of 3 test questions correctly.

The state's new scores go into effect with this school year's MEAP and MME tests. In this first round, we anticipate the number of students reported proficient will go down.

If your student is reported as not proficient on this year's assessment, it does not mean your student isn't gaining academic skills or is falling behind. It means that on the day of the test, your student was not yet proficient on the material being tested.

It should be noted that Fremont schools use several other measures throughout the year to ensure that students are making progress. Staff continually looks at student achievement data to examine the district's curriculum, and the district is well underway to adopting the national Common Core Curriculum.

Michigan is one of the majority of states to adopt a national core curriculum.

Fremont also regularly evaluates instructional techniques and resources. These areas evolve as students' needs and skills change.

Continuing to increase Fremont students' proficiency is a never-ending goal of the school district. ■

Capturing Kids' Hearts Fremont Strives for Academic Achievement by Way of the Heart

Fremont schools are learning about the Capturing Kids' Hearts and Teen Leadership certification programs.

Capturing Kids' Hearts is about building positive relationships with teachers, students, and others. Teen Leadership focuses on personal and professional leadership training for high school-age students.

Fremont High School will offer a Teen Leadership course based on the Capturing Kids' Hearts model during the third trimester of the school year.

A representative from each Newaygo County school district and the Newaygo County Regional Educational Services Agency worked together to make this training available for all high school counselors.

Program training for Capturing Kids' Hearts and Teen Leadership took place in November. The Fremont Area Community Foundation provided funding support.

Twelve administrators from throughout the county have received scholarships from the Flippen Group to be trained in Capturing Kids' Hearts in March, with the intent to extend local training efforts for this worthwhile program.

These programs, developed by internationally renowned speaker Flip Flippen, have helped small rural school districts and Fortune 500 companies improve performance, leadership, trust, and productivity. ■

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FREMONT RECREATION DEPARTMENT

204 E Main, Suite 200, Fremont, MI 49412-3192-3750

Now located in the South end of the High School
 Website: <https://communityed.fremont.net>
 On-line signup available with credit card.

POOL SCHEDULE	A.M. Lane - Adults only	Open Swim
M/T/W/Th/F	5:30-7:30am	
Fridays		7-9pm
Sundays		2-4pm

Swim cost \$2.00/person
 Call 924-7318 for pool times 24 hrs a day

ADULT EXERCISE

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
4001b	Water Exercise	M/W/F	2/27-4/6	8:30-9:15am	\$35
4002b	Water Exercise	T/TH	2/28-4/5	8:30-9:15am	\$30
5001b	Senior Aerobics	M/W/F	2/20-3/30	9:00-10am	\$35

Water Ex. held in shallow end of the pool. Instructor: Corine Murphy
 Sr. Aerobics is held in the Quest Gym. Instructor: Tracey Crowley

BASIC TRAINING CLASS

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
6001c	Basic Training	M/W	2/20-3/28	7-8pm	\$45

Basic Training is for all ages! 1-min. intervals of weight training using light weights. Class helps you lose weight, sculpt & tone muscles. Location: FHS Fitness Ctr. Instructor: Tracey Crowley

KARATE

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
8006	Kid's Karate	M/Th	4/9-5/24	6:00-6:45pm	\$25
8007	Adult Karate	M/Th	4/9-5/24	6:30-8:30pm	\$40

Study the ancient art of Tae Kwon Do. Learn discipline, respect & self-esteem. Classes held in PF Gym. Instructor: Frank Ferrier

SELF DEFENSE CLASS

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
8005	Self Defense	T/W	3/20-3/21	6:30-7:30pm	\$20

Instructor Master Frank Ferrier will teach basic self-defense techniques. Classes held in PF Gym. Open to ages 12 - adult

EQUESTRIAN CLUB

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Times	Fees
215a	Intro. to the Horse	Tues.	3/13-5/22	5:30-6:30pm	\$100

Entry level program designed to introduce participants to horses. Class will focus on breeds and types of horses, anatomy, feeding and care, equipment and more through book study and hands on. Classes will be held at 645 S. Dickinson, in indoor riding facility. Instructor: Melody Kamphorst 231-854-8006

SOCCER

No.	Class	Days	Dates	Fees
8011	K-1 Soccer	Sat.	4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19	35/\$40
8012	2-3 Soccer	Sat.	4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19	35/\$40
8013	4-6 Soccer	Sat.	4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19	35/\$40

Soccer is co-ed. Teams from fall will be kept together in the spring. One practice and one game a week. Practice will begin week of 4/9. New players welcome! T-shirt is included in \$40 fee. Games are all in Fremont. Coaches needed!

Watch for Tumbling & Violin Classes + Detroit Tiger outing!



Please call 924-3750 for information.



Sign-up on-line at: <https://communityed.fremont.net>

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 PERMIT # 338
 48838
 GREENVILLE, MI
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 US POSTAGE
 PRESORTED STANDARD



Building Bridges Preschool Programs



No Fee - State Funded

Classrooms located in Fremont, Grant, Hesperia, Newaygo, and White Cloud

GSRP - Great Start Readiness Program
 State funded program which requires that a child be 4 years old by December 1 of the year they begin school, live within the School District providing services, and that a family meet two or more factors to be eligible.

Children must have at least two eligibility factors that are required by the State. Factors which can qualify a child for the program include things such as child's development or challenging behavior, certain family circumstances (including age of parent at child's birth, single parent, unemployed parent, school achievement of family member, loss of family member, etc.), housing status, family health factors, prior eligibility for Early On®, etc. Income can also be a qualifying factor. Screening is provided free by the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency Early Childhood Staff. (All qualifying factors will be explored at screening appointments.)

Parent Paid Tuition

Classrooms located in Fremont, Grant, and Newaygo

Our tuition based program offers the same services as GSRP for those students who do not qualify as at risk. Parents are offered a low cost tuition based preschool experience for their 3 or 4 year old child.

Sessions are scheduled depending on the over-all needs of the preschool population each year.

The Learning Environment

In all of our programs the learning environment and curriculum is presented to help children achieve their individual Preschool Learning Outcomes through active play-based learning. These outcomes cover the areas of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Social Skills, and Technology, which are aligned with state and national standards.



Attending a high-quality early childhood program prepares children for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Experts agree that children who have quality early childhood learning experiences are better prepared in school and throughout life. Preschool is the essential first step in your child's lifelong education.

Building Bridges Preschool uses a research based curriculum to prepare children both academically and socially for success in school and in life. Support is also provided for parents and caregivers, as well as access to community programs and services.

Call 652-3683 to put your name on the mailing list.

Enrollment application packets and screening appointment letters will be mailed to you.

PRESCHOOL OR INFANT/TODDLER SCREENING:

Are you concerned about your child's health or development? All children develop at different rates but if you have concerns about your child's development, call us.

NC RESA - Neway Center 652-3683 or 652-3843

Play-based Assessment Screens for preschoolers are held in local school districts in the spring (by appointment) and as needed at other times (also by appointment).

Early On® is for qualifying infants and toddlers under the age of three and their families.

Children 0-6 with suspected delays/disabilities can be referred at any time.

Ages and Stages Questionnaires, a parent-completed, child monitoring system, can also be sent upon request to any family. It may be useful to a family who wants more information on their child's development.



Fremont Public Schools
 450 E. Pine Street
 Fremont, MI 49412