

News from Gerke

Gerke's Operation Care

For the second year in a row, Gerke students made sure that some area military personnel had a brighter Christmas by participating in Operation Care. Students donated personal hygiene items (shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush/paste) and goodies and treats (cookies, chips, beef jerky, crackers, etc.) to be packed into boxes and sent to Dayton-area soldiers. Students, teachers, and students' families donated enough items to fill 49 boxes.

The project was coordinated by Jason Meddaugh, who noted that everyone was pleased with the results and happy to be able to take care of military personnel who were far from home, taking care of us.

The building worked with MSgt Christina Dodson and her team at the Airman & Family Readiness Center stationed at WPAFB. Jason noted that Christina has been a great friend to Gerke; she was able to provide names of those stationed around the world who were unable to be home for Christmas.

Students engaged in some friendly competition to see which classroom could donate the most items for the boxes. Every classroom contributed, with Mr. Slone's 5th grade winning the contest and an ice cream party.



Literacy — Pirate Style!

Q: What do you call a gym full of young pirates?

A: Gerke's Fall Literacy event!

The pirate-themed morning had students and families reading books and stories or playing games with a pirate theme. First graders who read sight words correctly had to throw a ball into a treasure chest. Older students played Scattergories and had to wear an eye patch or made Bananagrams using the letter R in each word.

During the morning, families were able to visit the Book Fair and to visit the computer lab where they could see the computer program Fast ForWord.



Top fundraisers rewarded

Gerke students who reached specific sales goals in a recent PTO fundraiser were rewarded with various prizes such as a visit to a money machine or a ride in a limo to a lunch at Pisanellos's Pizza.



News from Pennyroyal

New Flag on Veterans Day

On November 11, Pennyroyal Elementary was presented with a new flag from Franklin's American Legion Post 149. Staff and students gathered around the flag pole for an assembly in honor of both the presentation and Veterans Day.

Special guests in attendance were Franklin Vice Mayor Carl Bray, Police Chief Russ Whitman, and Mr. and Mrs. Napier, all of whom are either veterans or are currently serving on active duty in the military. Each spoke briefly about their military service.

Staff and students expressed thanks to all veterans and active duty military personnel for protecting our freedom.



5th and 6th graders visit WPAFB

In early December, 5th and 6th grade students took a field trip to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, where they had a chance to see and interact with a wide range of exhibits. Students participated in two STEM activities that enhanced their learning in math, physics, and Earth/space sciences.



Pennyroyal welcomes grandparents and other special persons

Each fall, Pennyroyal designates a day as "Grandparents or Other Special Person Day." Students welcome people who are special in their lives to join them in their classrooms to enjoy doing activities together.



News from Schenck

Third Graders Learn About Franklin



Mrs. Irgens' and Mrs. Rice's 3rd grade classes read and researched information about their community and then spent a day on a walking tour of Franklin.

They visited and learned at the Historical Society's Harding Museum, the Log Post Office, the murals, the police and fire departments, the Franklin Public Library, and Pisanello's Pizza.

Sophia's Challenge

Grades 1 and 5 filled the sky with pink balloons that the students donated to launch the kick-off for "Sophia's 40 Day Challenge," a movement in memory of Sophia Grace Smallwood, who was born premature with heart defects and passed away after only 40 days of life.

Students accepted the challenge to make a difference in the lives of others, and for 40 days, participated in random acts of kindness, spread compassion, and became more aware of the impact that even small kind gestures towards others can make.



Fall Festival

The weather could not have been better as Schenck held its second Fall Festival on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23. Families enjoyed free hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks; participated in games, crafts, and activities; and got to shop at the various vendors. Students enjoyed hayrides to the pumpkin patch at the edge of the school property. They picked out a pumpkin to take home, saw the farm animals at the petting zoo, played in the bounce house, became mad scientists, and made goo.



Turkey Trot

Students and staff participated in Schenck's annual school-wide "Turkey Trot." Everyone was encouraged to bring in \$1 or more to donate and help provide Christmas presents to a



Schenck family and walk two miles throughout the neighborhood. This year, the school raised approximately \$600.

The school also took part in the local food drive in which items were donated to Franklin Area Community Services (Food Pantry). Students and staff enjoyed kicking off the beginning of the holiday season by bringing in a canned food item each day and participating in a daily dress theme, which included Winter Hat Day, Elf Day, Christmas Sweater Day, Pajama Day, and Crazy Sock Day. The school collected a total of 1,235 food items!

Holiday Fun

Grades 1 to 3 performed "Toys! The Night They Came Alive" under the direction of Mr. Kent Hollon and their teachers on December 15 to a packed auditorium at the high school.

Students truly helped everyone get in the holiday spirit with their songs, characters, costumes, and Christmas joy!



Students had the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping at Schenck's Santa Shop, choosing from a variety of items for their families and friends. Sixth grade students helped with the event by assisting students with their purchases and wrapping.



News from Anthony Wayne

MUSE Artist-in-Residency

Anthony Wayne 5th and 6th grade students recently participated in a MUSE Artist-in-Residence program. Students worked alongside their classroom teachers and a performing artist, Mr. Michael Lippert, from MUSE Machine to create original performances based on difficult-to-learn science concepts. Together, the teachers and students learned about the elements of live theater through hands-on sessions with Mr. Lippert. As academic experts, the teachers provided information to the students and artist, while Mr. Lippert directed the students in using the art form of live theater. They created their own live performances to communicate the science concepts they are working to master in the classroom.

This process enabled the students to genuinely experience the creativity, energy, and discipline required to produce live theater! 5th grade students created an original performance entitled "Ecosystems Under Attack," where they learned about habitats, food chains, food webs, and the impact of human activity on ecosystems. 6th grade students created an original performance entitled "Rocktitude" where they learned about the three different types of rocks, how these types of rocks are formed, and even how these rocks are used in everyday life!

The learning experience culminated with two live performances by the 5th and 6th graders for the student body, staff, and 5th/6th grade families. The MUSE Artist in Residency program was made possible through a special grant from the McLane Foundation. Muse Machine is a nationally celebrated arts education organization serving more than 70,000 students and their teachers each year throughout western Ohio since 1982.



COSI on Wheels

Anthony Wayne students explored the Solar System without ever leaving school when COSI (Center of Science and Industry) brought its traveling science program "Astounding Astronomy" to Anthony Wayne Elementary on October 26. The day began with a 45-minute interactive assembly introducing the students to the solar system. This assembly was followed by hands-on activities during which the students maneuvered a remotely operated vehicle, identified constellations, and watched the effect of air pressure on a marshmallow.

This experience would not have been possible without the support of school and community volunteers. Every student worked alongside parents, Franklin High School students, and community volunteers including Brent Centers from Franklin City Council, Mike Diehl from the Franklin Fire Department, and Chief Russ Whitman from the Franklin Police Department during the hands-on learning stations.

Funding for COSI on Wheels was made possible by AK Steel Laborers Local 534, the Anthony Wayne PTO, and through a special grant from the McLane Foundation. Many thanks to these organizations and volunteers for making this special learning experience possible for Anthony Wayne's students.



News from Hunter

Having a blast with STEM

Hunter first and second graders had a chance to do some hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities.

In Ms. Egelston's class (far right), students experimented with ramps. They used real miniature pumpkins and other small gourds to roll down a ramp. They had various materials to help incline their ramps, and investigated the effects of raising and lowering the ramp and what that did to the distance of the pumpkin or gourd.

In the background, students are using the smartboard to manipulate and put the life cycle of a pumpkin in the right order.

Ms. Johnson's class (pictured near right) discussed engineering and the

types of skills and careers that fall under the engineering category. In the activity students were asked to use toothpicks, marshmallows, and candy corn to try to create the tallest tower that could stand on its own. Students had to consider how they could use the various materials to build something that was stable and could stand as tall as possible.



Top Hunter fundraisers ride in style

Forty-three Hunter students were treated to a limo ride to Hunter Pizzeria for being top sellers at a recent PTO-sponsored fundraiser. The fundraiser replenished the PTO's account after the recent purchase of new playground equipment for the building. The total raised was about \$10,000. The students qualified for the limo ride by selling a certain number of items.



Columbus Zoo visits Hunter

Hunter students had a chance to meet and interact with a number of animals from The Columbus Zoo including a black and white striped skunk, a crested porcupine, a crocodile, birds, and a cheetah — the fastest land animal — who was the star of the show.

News from Franklin Junior High

Wildcat Choir visits Spring Hills Middletown

Franklin Junior High's Wildcat Choir recently visited Spring Hills Middletown to share some Christmas cheer.

After performing some holiday favorites, they had a chance to meet and chat with the residents, and then stayed a little longer so they could sing Christmas carols together.

The choir is under the direction of Brittany Rathge.

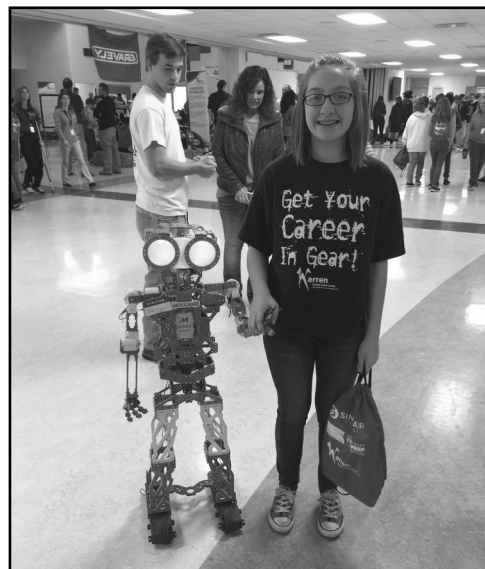


FJHS students visit WCCC Career Expo

On Nov. 22, approximately 260 8th grade students attended the 8th Grade Career Expo at the Warren County Career Center. Students were able to explore over 30 careers in a fun, hands-on, and engaging environment. Students were encouraged to take selfies and post them to Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to share their experiences. College representatives were also available to talk to students about college plans.

Career Center teachers were on hand to discuss their programs and talk to students about how they can earn college scholarships through the tech prep programs. Students had a great time exploring the careers on display such as

digital design, cosmetology, information technology, agriculture, culinary arts, construction, and many more! They also saw displays from outside companies such as manufacturing.



Some of the favorites were the criminal justice display where they had the opportunity to be handcuffed; the robotics display, where they were able to interact with robots; and the fire science area where they were able to explore a variety of aspects of fire science. Students had a great time learning additional information about things they already knew about and also learning a lot about careers they weren't familiar with.



Franklin Junior High students showcased at the OSBA Student Achievement Fair

A group of Franklin Junior High students had one of 100 projects that were recently showcased at the Ohio School Boards Association Student Achievement Fair in Columbus. Schools from throughout Ohio were represented.

The FJHS students in Jamie Lafferty's STEM I class used their scientific knowledge of speed, potential energy, and kinetic energy to design, build, and test a roller coaster made from paper. Students who presented were, from left, Joe Current, Ashley Back, Mallory Wulff, Makenzie Buzard, and Jacob Isaacs.

News from Franklin High School

49 inducted into National Honor Society

Forty nine students were inducted into the Franklin High School chapter of the National Honor Society on Thursday, Nov. 17. NHS membership is one of the highest honors that high school students can achieve. Seven seniors and 42 juniors were tapped for the honor. NHS recognizes students for outstanding character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Students must have a minimum grade point average and are nominated by teachers.

The seniors inducted were Connor Albin, Dalton Campbell, Shanya Conover, Adia Glueckert, James Jones, Leanna Roberts, and Joshua Storms.

Juniors inducted were Brandan Adkins, Austin Akers, Maggie Biltz, Kaylee Bishop, Keely Briggs, Audrianna Brinkman, Megan Brock, Brianna Brogan, Cole Bundren, Charlotte Caldwell, Harry Clevenger, Samantha Collins, Kelsey Cowell, Jayln Cross, Kyla Dishun, Raiko Dosado, Alexander Ellison, Benjamin Eyink, Mackenzie Faulkner, William Franer, Jessica Frazee, Morgan Gentry, Zachery Glomb, Dylan Gray, Shelby Hedric, Abigail Hill, Samantha Jones, Rowan Karrick, Rachael Kindred, Hunter Lester, Elise Loux, Alexis McGuire, Logan Miller, Rylee Nisewonder, Chelsea Rose, Taylor Schneider, Brianna Sizemore, Brooke Sizemore, Cameron Slaton, Candace Smith, Hallie Taylor, and Jessica Thornton.

The 2016-2017 officers are Matthew McGrew, President;

Kelsea Penny, Vice President; Katelyn Murrill, Secretary; and Andrea Flower, Treasurer.

The group includes 41 additional members who were tapped in 2015. They are Morgan Abner, Caitlin Callahan, Wyatt Hillard, Victoria Patrick, Noah Kremer, Katelyn Murrill, Charles Trevino, Siok Kiam Felisa Dosado, Matthew McGrew, Abigayle Chamberlain, Morgan Stidham, Konnor Black, Erin O'Connell, Joseph Balon, Nicholas Kakaris, Karrie Freeze, Emily McNinch, Jackson Cornwell, Kelsea Penny, Madison Wilson, Brady Tibbs, Belinda Morris, Jeremy Hall, Nicole Sotomayor, Emily Hall, Natalie Simpson, Samantha Jansen, Lindsey Hurst, Sarah Phelps, Tyler Stidham, Jake Dishun, Kyle O'Bryan, Danielle Fleshood, Andrea Flower, Madison Blevins, Caedmon Mills, Macy Neace, Tess Delcamp, Leah Watkins, Emily Spencer, and Kaylin Whitt.

The group's advisors are Alisa Humphrey and Karin O'Donnell.



FHS inducts second group into SNHS

FHS inducted 36 students into the Esteman Mateus Williamson chapter of the Spanish National Honor Society on Nov. 29. The chapter was chartered last year; this was the second group inducted.

SNHS, designed for high school students enrolled in Spanish and/or Portuguese, is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. The FHS chapter is named for the Colombian singer Esteman.

Students inducted were Aaron Blake, Alexis McGregor, Benjamin Eyink, Braden Hitte, Cooper Daniels, Danielle Fleshood, Davis Mears, Dustin Stewart, Emily Hall, Emma Bicknell, Erica Black, Fischer Langdon, Harry Clevenger, Jaiden Perez, Jasmine Savage, Jessica Frazee, Jayln Cross, Jessica Thornton, John Harris, Joseph Balon, Kaitlyn Jones, Kaitlyn Reynolds, Kayla Gillespie, Kylee Fox, Lillian Baker, Mikayla Torrance, Luis Pulido, Nicole Sotomayor, Riley O'Connor, Samantha Collins, Skyler Weir, Sydney Wenglikowski, Taylor Senters, Tosha McKeever, Tristan Hatfield, and William Warden.

Maintaining SNHS membership at FHS requires students to engage in one activity from each of the following three categories: Academic Commitment; Franklin High School Community Commitment; and Global Commitment.

Veronica Brightman is the FHS Spanish instructor and organizer of the SNHS.

ReDo Day at FHS

On Nov. 29, over 100 FHS students took part in ReDo (Respect, Engage, Overcome, Defend) Day, a program designed to help kids to look beyond stereotypes, to build respect, and to put an end to bullying.

Guest speakers led the students in activities and breakout sessions. The focus was to help students understand that a person is more than what is seen on the outside. Everyone has challenges in life; everyone has difficult circumstances and what a person looks like or how they are perceived is far less important than who they truly are as an individual.

This program was made possible in part by a Spark Grant received by the School Counseling & Guidance Department.

Mark your calendars

Feb. 17 & 18, 7 p.m. and Feb. 19, 2 p.m. Franklin High School Drama Club presents Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$8/seniors, and \$5/students.

March 31 & April 1, 7 p.m. and April 2, 2 p.m. Franklin High School Music Department presents *Into the Woods*.

News from the Board and ECC

Nominate an Outstanding Alum!

Do you know a Franklin High School grad who's accomplished great things since graduating? Beginning with the next newsletter, we will profile one of our many outstanding graduates.

If you'd like to nominate someone, please submit their picture and a paragraph or two about their accomplishments.

Info may be emailed to msander@franklincityschools.com or mailed to Dr. Mike Sander, Superintendent's Office, 150 E. 6th St., Franklin, OH 45005.

Senior Citizen Activity Passes

Senior citizens (age 62+) living in the Franklin City School district may pick up a pass in the Superintendent's office that will allow them to attend school-sponsored activities, including sporting events and arts performances, at no charge

Help wanted

Franklin City Schools is in need of bus drivers and substitute bus drivers. For more information on CDL requirements and training to become a bus driver, please contact Tamara Centers in the Transportation Office at (937) 743-8670.

Polar Express

Early Childhood Center students kicked off the start of the winter season with a Polar Express Day on Dec. 20. Students wore pajamas and enjoyed games



and activities with classmates and family members.

The ECC will hold an I Love to Read Dance on Feb 16 at 5 p.m.

Franklin City Schools
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