

News from Franklin High School

Spanish National Honor Society at FHS

Franklin High School students have an additional avenue for academic honors, service, and scholarships as the Board of Education recently approved establishing a FHS chapter of the National Spanish Honor Society (SHH). This honor society, designed for high school students enrolled in Spanish and/or Portuguese, is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

FHS Spanish instructor Veronica Brightman approached the board about SHH and its benefits. She said, "I want to continue to improve the FHS language department to one of the best language departments in the surrounding area in order to provide our students with the best education, career goals, and college readiness."

By establishing a chapter of SHH, FHS students will have more opportunities to earn scholarships (both academic and travel) and to be further motivated to learn the Spanish language and culture.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the FHS chapter defines eligibility requirements: Students must be actively enrolled in an upper level Spanish class (Spanish III or higher); Students must have received all A's and B's in Spanish classes from levels one through five or have a 3.5 overall average in Spanish classes from levels one through five; No student is eligible until the 10th grade (per National By-Laws); Students must never have failed a class due to attendance; Students must have a good behavior record and no recorded incidents of cheating, plagiarism, misconduct, insubordination or intentional dishonesty; Honorary membership may be granted to exchange students from Spanish-speaking countries, non-traditional heritage speakers, and faculty members.

Brightman said 76 students were eligible for membership this year and that the numbers will increase; she expects about 95 students to be eligible for SHH next year.

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

Brightman noted that students benefit in a number of ways from the presence of a Spanish National Honor Society. Membership adds prestige to students' academic records and honors their high academic achievement. Members are eligible for academic scholarships and travel awards and have the opportunity for additional global and community service.

In 1953, the SHH was formally organized as the Spanish National Honor Society, with the name changing to Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica in 1959. There are 2,000+ national and international SHH chapters. All accredited secondary schools are eligible to charter a chapter.

The SHH contributes \$150,000+ in awards to student SHH members annually, with the most prestigious being 60 college scholarships and 24 student travel awards given to high school juniors who are SHH members.

The first group of 45 students was inducted into the FHS chapter of SHH in January 2016.

Soil and Water Conservancy visits FHS

On Friday, December 4, the Warren County Soil and Water Conservancy visited FHS to show off their Thomas C. Spellmire Water Conservation Education Exhibit to junior and senior students in Mr. Vinson's Environmental Issues Class.

Students took part in some hands-on activities that will help them prepare for a



trip to a local stream where they will identify local micro-invertebrates and the health of the stream. The students also had the opportunity to use the new computerized watershed geography tool. This tool allows students to model watersheds and understand their local stream environment.

This is the second trip that the Conservancy has made to the Environmental Issues classroom; more visits are planned.



FHS NHS blood drive a success

On Wednesday, December 3, the Franklin High School NHS Chapter partnered with the Community Blood Center for a blood drive at Franklin High School.

Eighty appointments were created and 79 prospective donors registered to donate blood. Of that number, 70 were able to donate a unit of whole blood successfully — 123% of the collection target of 57 good units. Additionally, there were 33 new donors. Research shows that many new donors will continue to donate not only in high school, but throughout their lives, helping to ensure a safe blood supply for many years to come in whatever communities they settle.

The Community Blood Center was highly complimentary of Franklin High School students. "Your students are to be congratulated on their enthusiastic embrace of this life-saving community service event. The NHS student organizers did a great job setting up and organizing donor recruitment, donor escorts, check-in, and donor café, providing a safe, efficient environment in which to give the gift of life. Your students embrace the value of blood donation and translate that belief into action. Every unit of blood donated can save or improve the life of up to three patients."

News from Hampton Bennett & the ECC

Facilities upgrades follow master plan

Craig Hatfield, Franklin City Schools Business Manager, said the summer of 2015 was exceptionally busy. When the district committed to adding full-day kindergarten, creating sufficient classroom space created a cascade of renovations at Hampton Bennett that resulted in work being done in nearly every room.

Those projects were in addition to the normal painting, deep cleaning, repairs, mowing, and upgrades required by the district's buildings and grounds.

"We had to restart a kitchen that hadn't been used in decades," said Hatfield, referring to the kitchen at the Early Childhood Center (ECC). Readyng the kitchen and cafeteria to serve breakfast and lunches involved demolishing and remodeling parts of the room and installing new kitchen equipment and a point-of-sales system. Kindergarten-sized tables had to be ordered for the cafeteria.

Other work at the ECC/HB included electrical upgrades, remodeling and moving offices to house administrators in one wing and the kindergarten students in another, installing ductless HVAC units in offices, prepping classrooms to house all-day kindergarten, installing tables and chairs, and installing a playground (in late November). "The only things not moved," said Hatfield, "were the existing kindergarten rooms."

While the ECC had the most extensive internal work, projects were completed in virtually every classroom building. At Franklin High School, the auditorium roof was replaced; asbestos tile was replaced in three classrooms; ductless HVAC units were installed in the office and vestibule; electrical upgrades were done; and the kitchen hood was repaired.

The Junior High had tuck pointing (masonry repair) done. Enhancements were also made to proxy card readers (building security); similar work was done at FHS. Additionally, 32 cameras were installed at FJHS for after-hours security.

"We installed 16 internal and external cameras at Anthony Wayne," Hatfield noted. "Crews also installed new playground bor-

ders and we had work done on a storm drain (concrete dry well)." Schenck also had a storm drain repaired, hallways painted, and the media center relocated to the stage to create a separate computer lab in the former media center.

Wireless issues drove electrical upgrades at Hunter. Hunter, Pennyroyal, and Gerke had hallways painted. Hunter's roof was repaired; Gerke's kitchen was repaired. Pennyroyal's work included installation of some ductless HVAC systems, and replacement of both the water heater and walk-in freezer.

Stadium lights were repaired and replaced and turf maintenance was done. At the bus garage, upgrades were done to the fences and additional parking created. The district has purchased five new buses in the last two years, and all buses were inspected prior to the start of school. Hatfield noted that 75% of the fleet has cameras and GPS for safety and security.

District-wide, Hatfield noted that the keyless-entry staff badges make the buildings much more secure, as does the re-keyable system the district uses for perimeter doors, where hardware stays the same, but keys can be switched between two sets at intervals.

The district has a master facilities plan that looks out five years. Projects scheduled for coming years include work on gym floors, roofs, the track, and HVAC upgrades in several buildings.

Help Wanted

Franklin City Schools needs qualified applicants to serve as substitutes in all Classified positions including Transportation, Custodial, and Food Services.

For more information on CDL requirements and training to become a bus driver, please contact the Transportation Office at 937-743-8670.

If you would like to obtain more information on applying to be a substitute in our Custodial or Food Service Departments, please contact the Business Office at 937-743-8600.

ECC students love playground equipment

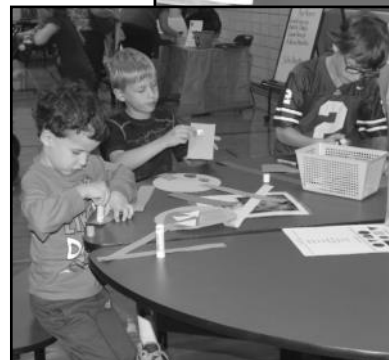
It's fair to say they love it! ECC students are enjoying the newly installed playground equipment on the south side of their building. To show their appreciation, they signed a big "Thank you" banner that ECC teacher Robin Bradley shared with the Board of Education on Dec. 14.

(Picture at right courtesy of the ECC.)



Fall into Math

ECC students and their parents had a chance to practice math skills together at the an-



nual Fall Into Math event. Halloween-themed activities centered around counting, graphing, and more.

News from Franklin Junior High School

Young Adult author visits FJHS

A visiting author offered advice to Chrissie Blevins' 7th grade language arts class that applies to many situations: "Don't quit."

Young adult author Mindee Arnett put it in writing terms: "Completing the story is the most important thing. If you get to the end, you have already won." Arnett spoke with Blevins' class on Nov. 20 as they completed a unit on narrative writing; students had been working on fantasy and other fiction-genre stories.



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Arnett, who writes young adult fantasy, science fiction, and horror, is the author of *The Arkwell Academy Series* and the *Avalon series*. Students asked about the work and details of writing. Arnett said a book runs about 100,000 words and takes three months to write. She described her path to publication, noting that she wrote four novels before signing with an agent and selling *The Nightmare Affair*. "I learned a lot by my fifth book," said Arnett, noting that each book was an improvement over the last. According to her bio, "I only submitted one of those novels and received dozens of rejection letters. [The] moral of the story: Keep writing, keep trying."

Arnett was an early reader and got her start as a writer when she won the "Power of the Pen" competition while she was in junior high. She urged students to write and to take creative writing classes in high school.

Conservation of mass, pumpkin style

FJHS Honors Science students had to plan, organize, and conduct an experiment that proved the law of conservation of mass. The material they used was a pumpkin; size was irrelevant. The experiment's conclusion should be that the mass of the pumpkin before gutting and carving is the same as the mass of the pumpkin after gutting and carving. Students had to figure out their own way to prove the law using their pumpkins. At the conclusion, the pumpkins were lit.



Wildcat Choir visits Spring Hills



On December 9, the FJHS Wildcat Choir performed and visited with residents at Spring Hills Middletown. They were under the direction of Brittany Rhea and accompanied by Lucinda Bires.

8th graders see Wash., D.C., Gettysburg

During their annual October class trip to Washington, D.C., four Franklin Junior High School 8th graders had the opportunity to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Clockwise from lower left: Olivia Faulkner, Elyce Aldridge, Jared Kremer, and Sidnie Penny. Students wrote



essays to compete for the honor of laying the wreath.

In addition to the visit to Arlington and the laying of the wreath ceremony, the trip's itinerary included the White House (exterior); Embassy Row; the Marine Memorial; the Lincoln Memorial; the National Archives; the Holocaust Museum; the Air & Space Museum; American History Museum; U.S. Capitol Visitor Center; the Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorials; Washington National Cathedral; the WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials; and a tour of Gettysburg.

The 2016 trip will be Oct. 19 to Oct. 22.

News from Gerke

Gerke students give back

Gerke Student Council sold chain links during lunch during November. The homeroom with the longest chain was treated to donuts. Mr. Lewis' class won the competition. The total raised by Gerke students was \$659.26 for United Way of Warren County.



Student Council advisor Matt Slone presents a check to Jerri Langworthy of United Way of Warren County. Immediately above, class chains are displayed in the gym.

Win-win: students read with seniors

Dawn Hanson, reading resource instructor at Gerke, hit on a win-win scenario when she decided to take her 4th graders across the street to Sherman Glen for a visit once each week. The students take books and practice reading aloud. The students polish their reading skills and the seniors enjoy visitors and interacting with young people.

Hanson has been doing the visits during the school year for seven years. Additionally, she herself visits once/month during the summer and is joined by students if they are available.

On December 16, students took Christmas-themed books to read. As a special treat for the seniors, students also took plates of cookies and candy they had made.



Above, Jesse Martin (left) and Josh Isaacs practice reading with Mike Sandfoss. At right, Dawn Hanson is pictured with Phyllis Diver and student Anthony Squirers.

Supporting the troops

When asked how they'd feel if they couldn't be home for Christmas, Gerke students guessed they might feel sad, emotional, and alone. Gerke teacher Jason Medaugh's brother Jeremy missed Christmas one year because he was deployed in Iraq. He challenged students to help make Christmas brighter for soldiers far from home this year by donating items for care packages. Master Sergeant Dodson, who works with groups and families to assist families during deployment, came from Wright Patterson to pick up the 2,484 donated items — enough for boxes for 20 soldiers. Students also donated \$312.66 to help with shipping costs.



Jason Medaugh asks students to guess how many items they donated.

Donations included books, games, DVDs, tissues, toothpaste/other hygiene items, snacks, and more. Top classes were Mrs. Akers' class (205 items), Mrs. Warner's class (433 items), and Mrs. Gilmour's class (891). The winning class was treated to pizza and ice cream.



Blane Parker, Kamyrah Hogans, Noah Greer, Jayden Hooker, Peighton Hansford, and Hunter Caulley show thank you letters received from soldiers.

News from Hunter

Hunter students donate to food drive

How much did Hunter Elementary students want to duct tape their principal to the wall? Enough to donate 1500+ items to the canned food drive. Students met a number of goals for the drive, and as a result, enjoyed popcorn and a movie and were able to wear school-appropriate pajamas on the last day before winter break.

Principal Kevin Sizemore noted that the total was 200 items short of the goal before one special Hunter family stepped up and donated 200 cans.

The big reward, however, was being able to tape Mr. Sizemore to the wall, where he hung during a school assembly as students and staff enjoyed a visit from the Franklin High School Show Choir.

Students who did the taping included Student Council members plus a random boy and girl chosen from each class. How much duct tape was required? "A whole roll, at least," said Sizemore, who didn't quite trust the tape to hold him up and kept a stool under his feet, just in case.

Hunter students also donated \$325 in change in memory of two-year-old Kinsley Kinner, who died recently. At her visitation, Kinsley's father requested donations of toys for those in need. Toys were purchased and donated to Toys for Tots in Kinsley's name.



Math and reading literacy night

Hunter held a literacy evening that allowed students and families to work together on math and reading skills. The evening included a Scholastic Book Fair.



Columbus Zoo at Hunter

The Columbus Zoo visited Hunter Elementary on November 12. The focus of the presentation was how animals are adapted to their habitats and what those habitat characteristics are.

Some of the visiting animals were:

- An African black-footed penguin who can hold his breath for 2 1/2 minutes and has extra, clear eyelids that function as swim goggles.
- A black-and-white striped skunk named Febreeze, whose offensive smell warns off predators.
- Barbie, an African crested porcupine.
- Ellie May, a 13-foot, red-tailed boa constrictor.
- A bush baby named Poe, who is adept at leaping long distances.



- A Madagascar hissing cockroach.
- An armadillo named Eva, who students were able to pet.

The star of the show was Zumba, a two-year old cheetah. The zoo presenters explained that cheetahs are the fastest land animal, able to reach speeds of 70 mph.

Students learn some Show Choir moves



Franklin High School's Show Choir visited Hunter on December 11. They performed some holiday favorites, but the highlight was teaching Hunter students (and some staff members) the choreography to Jingle Bell Rock.

Donuts with Dad

On November 20, the Hunter PTO sponsored a Donuts with Dad event. More than 150 dads, grandfathers, and uncles attended and spent time with Hunter students. Hunter will host a Muffins with Mom event in February.

News from Pennyroyal

Grandparents' Day

On November 23, Pennyroyal held its 10th annual Grandparents' Day. Throughout the day, over 250 "Grandparent or other Special Friend" visitors participated. They visited their child's classroom for about an hour and participated in activities together. Visitors included parents, grandparents, and family friends. Tom Pecor, Pennyroyal principal, says, "This is a small way to celebrate some of the wonderful people in the lives of our children."



Pennyroyal, WCCC are garden partners

Pennyroyal Elementary has entered into a partnership with Mr. Flem and his science classes at the Warren County Career Center to begin a sustainable organic gardening project. WCCC students built and delivered six raised beds and compost to Pennyroyal during the fall. WCCC students will also be building a compost center so that all of the organic waste from the student lunches can be composted to help "build" soil for the raised beds. Topsoil will be added, as well. The plan is to plant fast-yield crops this spring so that the students may taste the "fruits" of their labors before leaving for summer break.

Stay tuned for additional details about this partnership, which is a multi-year project. Students pictured here, from left, are Emma Ambro, Brayden Alcorn, Caleb Powell, Jessica Sprout.



STEM lunchbox project

Mrs. Currin's third grade and Mrs. Todd's fourth grade science classes recently completed a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) project. The project was all inclusive with science, engineering, math,



English Language arts, and social studies.

The students worked in teams and were given the challenge to design a lunchbox that kept cold items cold and hot items hot for as long as possible. The students

did many experiments with how quickly they could melt an ice cube and which materials would be the best insulators for their lunchboxes. They designed lunch boxes with their chosen materials and then had to market to an audience.

Pennyroyal students assist Santa

Here's the problem: Rudolph (the red-nosed reindeer) isn't getting any younger and he's just not the skilled guide for the other reindeer that he used to be. When Santa realized he needed help planning his delivery route, he called on Stephen Lake's 5th grade class. They agreed to help Santa figure out where each state capital was on the map so that Santa would be able to find them using GPS. Getting to each state capital was critical because those were "drop zones" for the reindeer food needed to re-fuel the 9 reindeer for the Christmas Eve trip.

Students determined the coordinate pairs on the map, found the total distance traveled among all 50 capitals, the total miles for the trip, and finally, how much reindeer food was needed (Santa's reindeer team can travel 500 miles on 1 pound of food).



News from Schenck

COSI On Wheels

All Schenck students recently participated in the COSI on Wheels program, "Astounding Astronomy." A school-wide assembly presented information about space and the planets, and then each grade level participated in a variety of astronomy-based, hands-on science activities and experiments throughout the day. This event was provided by the PTO. Parents and Franklin High School National Honor Society students volunteered to help with the event.



one enjoyed donuts and then rotated throughout the classrooms to participate in math learning activities. Many also took the opportunity to visit the book fair, which was open for the event.

Music Notes

On Tuesday, November 10, the Franklin Elementary Sixth Graders presented a Veterans Day Program in McDade Auditorium at Franklin High School. Students honored veterans through an evening of singing patriotic songs.



The 1st through 3rd grade students, under the direction of Mr. Milham, performed the musical, "Crazy Christmas," before a packed auditorium on December 10. The students spent a lot of time learning the songs, memorizing their speaking lines, and practicing for solos, making the performance first-rate!



Third Graders learn about Franklin

Mrs. Rice's and Mrs. Irgens' third graders read and researched information about their community. They were able to step back in time in their classroom with visitors from the Franklin Area Historical Society to learn about the town's history and traditions and compare life of today with that of long ago. The classes also spent a day on a walking tour of Franklin, learning from the Historical Society, and visiting the Harding Museum, the Log Post Office, the murals, the police and fire departments, the library, and Pisanello's Pizza.



The students, teachers, and parents attending truly enjoyed the day. Many students reported that "This was the BEST field trip EVER!!"

Monster Math Mash

Students enjoyed bringing their parents, families, and guests to the Monster Math Mash, which was held on October 30. Every-



Turkey Trot

Schenck's Annual Turkey Trot was held on November 23. Each student was asked to donate \$1.00 or more to help a Schenck family for Christmas.

There was also a competition between the classes to see who could bring in the most quarters for the event. The winning class got to



duct tape Mrs. Kienle, Schenck principal, to the gym wall.

Students and staff walked and ran the 1-mile or 2-mile lap around the neighborhood. It was a great way to support a family in the school community, and get some exercise before the Thanksgiving feasting.

News from Anthony Wayne

St. Jude Math-A-Thon fundraiser

Anthony Wayne (AW) students asked family and friends for pledges to solve math problems to raise money for St. Jude's Research Hospital to continue helping children suffering from cancer and other life-threatening childhood diseases. Students raised \$1,566.48 during the Math-A-Thon and AW's Student Council sold lollipops and contributed an additional \$325 for a grand total of \$1,891.48!

Money was used to cover costs of a full day of chemotherapy and oxygen for a patient. Noah Kratzer, Victoria Braddom, and Madeline Montez raised the most money for St. Jude's and were treated to lunch at Pisanello's.

Veterans Day

AW students held an intimate ceremony to honor local veterans Gary Dennis, Bob Gansheimer, Bill Gansheimer, Bill Collins, and Paul McClellan. They also connected via Facetime with Drew Kaer, who is on active duty in the army, stationed in Qatar! Students sang several patriotic songs and presented the veterans with thank you letters they had written.



Kindness matters

AW students created cards and crafts to deliver to Dayton Children's Hospital to bring a ray of sunshine into the lives of the patients and families. Along with the cards and crafts, students were filmed telling 'kid-friendly' jokes to bring smiles and laughter to the patients at Children's Hospital. The cards, crafts, and video were presented by AW students during a special ceremony at Dayton Children's Hospital.



Franklin City Schools
150 E. Sixth St.
Franklin, OH 45005