

Wildcat Community News

News from Franklin City Schools | November 2018

Substitute levy maintains progress with no tax increase

Voters in the Franklin City School district will see a substitute levy on the ballot this fall. **Issue 2** asks them to renew two previously passed levies, but combines them into one so that voters aren't asked to vote on the individual renewal levies in back-to-back years. The levy combines the Warm, Safe, and Dry levy with the levy passed in 2014.

Passage of this combined levy **will not raise taxes**, and the millage rate will actually decrease (15.89, down from 16.80).

Monies raised by these levies keep our buildings functional and provide enhanced security measures.

When these levies were originally passed, the board committed to promises on how the funds would be spent:

Dual enrollment: Franklin High School students may enroll in courses that give them both high school and college credit, allowing them to amass college credits at no cost to them. Enrollment in these courses has increased 98% over last year, and has saved students' families more than

\$230,000 in tuition.

Security: Six buildings have new security vestibules and the district has a full-time school resource office this year.

Updating curriculum: New curriculum materials have been adopted or are being evaluated for English, Math, Science, World Language, Health, and Social Studies. Technology-based learning has been increased.

Technology: The one-to-one initiative (one laptop per student) continues to roll out; this year students in grades 7 through 10 have access to a laptop.

All-Day Kindergarten: The district is in its fourth year of All-Day Kindergarten, which is resulting in improved test scores for participating students.

Bus Fleet: The district continues to add one to two buses per year.

Those with questions about the levy or any of these initiatives may call the district offices at (937) 746-1699.

News from the ECC

Playground grant = tons of fun!

The Kindergarten and preschool students enjoying the new playground set on the north side of Hampton Bennett don't know how special it is — they just think it's fun!

It's special, because the new equipment is courtesy of the largest grant ever awarded by the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The two-part grant, which was awarded in June, included \$59,175.47 for the purchase of playground equipment and \$3,794.00 for the purchase of a Ready Bodies Learning Minds Lab Kit, which is set up in its own dedicated room in the ECC.

The equipment is designed for both typical and special needs students, and allows them to play together. The equipment chosen was designed around inclusive playground design research and its seven principals: be fair, be included, be smart, be independent, be safe, be active, and be comfortable.

Kindergarten teachers, therapists, and school administration collaborated on the grant application, which was complimented for its thoroughness.

The new fine and gross motor skills equipment lab has activity stations that promote and improve physical and

foundational skills needed for academic success. Lab activities promote balance, coordination, strength, and more. The district's occupational and physical therapists have been trained in its use and can train others.

While the lab is geared toward younger students, all students can use it, and the items can be used both inside and outside the lab.

As part of the grant, the district was obligated to perform site improvements: remove and dispose of the old playground equipment; install a larger gate; extend the fence; provide wheelchair-accessible ramps from classrooms to playground; mulch the area; and provide space for the motor lab.



Follow Franklin City Schools on Twitter at @FHSWildcats for news, pictures, and updates.

News from Franklin Junior High

Thrive Thursday's focus is character strengths

FJHS students are enjoying a big wave of positivity for themselves and their school this year as the building uses the Thriving Learning Community's character strengths to understand themselves and to appreciate others.

Based on global research that has identified 24 character strengths possessed by people worldwide, students have identified their top strengths, which fall into six broad categories. Every person possesses all 24, but regularly exhibits more strength in some than others. Students have identified their top five strengths and posted them on their lockers; teachers have done the same, posting theirs by their classroom doors.

In 30-minute lessons on Thrive Thursdays, students work in small groups to do activities and exercises using this common language to help build strong relationships between students and staff and among students. A recent exercise was Thrive Bingo, where students had to find someone in their group who had certain characteristics.

The 6 categories and 24 character strengths are:

Transcendence: appreciation of beauty and excellence; gratitude; hope; humor; sense of meaning

Courage: bravery; perseverance; honesty; zest

Justice: teamwork; fairness; leadership

Humanity: love; social intelligence; kindness

Temperance: forgiveness; humility; prudence; self-control

Wisdom: creativity; curiosity; judgement; love of learning; perspective

The program was created by the Mayerson Academy in Cincinnati based on the VIA Institute on Character. The program is being used in several SW Ohio school districts including Cincinnati Public.

In education, there has been increased recognition of the importance of social-emotional learning, and its tie to improving student engagement, achievement, and well-being.

FJHS counselor Corina Mosher noted that students are starting to use the strengths language they've been learning and to refer to their own and others' character strengths.

Students are publicly recognized when they use their strengths; recognition includes a public notice hung by the office and a mention on the morning announcements.

The program was recommended by the building's Making Middle Grades Work liaison and was funded by MMGW monies and a grant.



Students attend STEM conference

FJHS 8th grade STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) students were among the 600+ participants from area districts who attended the 4th annual Discover STEM conference on Oct. 12.

The session was hosted by the Butler County ESC and held at Miami University Middletown. This one-day conference is designed to spark student interest in STEM fields and to provide an opportunity for students to learn from noted guest speakers; to participate in interactive, informational sessions; and to speak to professionals in STEM fields.



Redo Day

FJHS recently hosted Redo Day, a high-intensity anti-bullying program. Many students found this to be a very powerful experience as they worked on activities that helped them to focus on showing respect for peers; engaging with others and learning their stories; defending others from bullying; and overcoming stereotypes. The program is sponsored by the Violence Free Coalition of Warren County.



FJHS welcomes new assistant principal

Franklin Junior High welcomed Alicia Mailhot as the new assistant principal this fall. She's joining the administrative team after teaching math at Valley View, but working in Franklin is a homecoming of sorts because she attended Gerke and FJHS! Her grandparents have lived in Franklin for years, and her dad retired after 30+ years from the Franklin post office.



News from Pennyroyal

Soil Lab visits Pennyroyal

A visit by the Warren County Soil and Water Trailer (courtesy of the WC Soil and Water Conservation District) gave Pennyroyal third graders a first-hand look at different types of soil — sand, silt, and clay — and how worms help the environment.

Students worked through four stations as they moved through the lesson. Station one was the worm station, where students learned about the benefits that worms have on the environment; the second station was the actual soil trailer, where students learned about soil and how trash leads to water sources; at the third station students used household ingredients which represented materials in real soil to make a "soil play doh"; the last station was a soil profile, where the students made their own soil layer card.



Flag etiquette

During the first week of school, Mrs. Monk's class learned about treating the flag with respect.



Follow Pennyroyal Elementary on Twitter @PennyroyalElem for news, pictures, and updates. Pennyroyal PTO has its own Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PennyroyalPTOFranklin/

Thank You For Your Service/Acts of Kindness

This school year, Pennyroyal Elementary is continuing its "Thank you for your service" program, which is under the leadership of Mr. Stephen Lake.

Pennyroyal staff and students have extended an invitation to the Franklin Division of Police and Division of Fire Departments, other first responders, and active or retired military service personnel to stop by the school for a brief visit and to sign the Banner of Appreciation. If time permits, these visitors are asked to visit a classroom for a picture with students and to answer a few questions.

Pennyroyal staff and students are thankful to all who serve to make Franklin and America a safe place for everyone.

As an additional way to thank first responders for their service, Mrs. Fry's third grade students raised money to buy donuts for the Police and Fire Departments. This project was a result of them studying Acts of Kindness, and deciding as a class to buy donuts for police, fire, and emergency room workers. The note from the class said "A Dozen Acts of Kindness."

A second kindness project the class worked on is Kindness in a Shoebox. Students will fill shoeboxes with items for victims of Hurricane Florence.

Homecoming Week dress-up days

Pennyroyal students helped celebrate Homecoming Week with dress-up days. Below: Camo Day, Wacky Socks, and Jersey Day.



News from Franklin High School

Students tapped for French Honor Society

Thirty FHS students have been tapped for induction into the newly formed FHS chapter of the French National Honor Society. The Société Honoraire de Français is an organization run by the AATF (American Association of Teachers of French.)

Membership requirements are completion of two full years of French with a grade of A- or better; a minimum 3.0 GPA in all other coursework (excluding French grades); and completion of at least one full semester at FHS (transfer students). Membership is by invitation only.

Students tapped are Katherine Coffey, Kristin Earles, Shanni Mangroo, Madison McGuire, Sidnie Penny, Madison Powell, Adrianna Richards, Brooke Stover, Ashley Townsend, Skyler Warden, Allisyn Brinkman, Molly Eyink, Samantha Hopper, Drake Oakes, Christian Pajo, Dylan Powell, Hayley Canter, Jessica Gollahan, Braden Little, Jordan Rogers, Ashley Stamper, Garvin Adams, Joseph Claborn, Megan Combs, Dominic Emmett, Ashley Hall, Kennedy Jones, Alondra Pulido, Cyara Barge, and Cassidy McNinch.

Members of the FHS chapter are required to participate in fundraisers, attend 4 of 7 chapter meetings, and be available for tutoring or elementary mentoring.

The group will hold a National French Week at FHS in November. Holly Crosley is the group's advisor.

Veterans Day Assembly

Franklin High School will hold its annual Veterans Day assembly on Friday, Nov. 9, at 9 a.m. This year's theme will be "The History of Veterans Day."

All area veterans and their families are invited and encouraged to attend the event, which will be in the FHS auditorium. The morning will include vocal and instrumental music, readings, and recognition of those who have served.

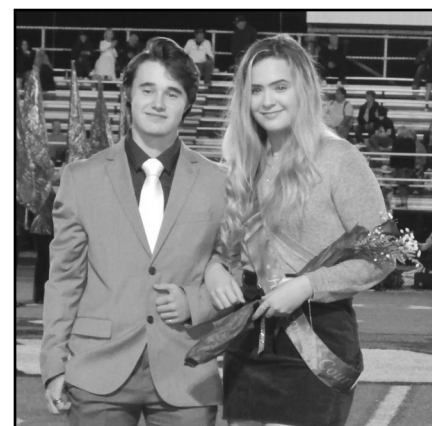
Those with questions should call the high school at (937) 743-8610.

Community members who plan to attend should arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. for advanced seating.

A brief reception will be held in the media center for veterans and their families following the ceremony.



Follow Franklin High School on Twitter
@AdminsFHS for news and updates.



Homecoming week and royalty

A parade, bonfire, Powder Puff game, and themed dress-up days were all part of the week leading up to the Homecoming Game and crowning the Homecoming royalty. Students crowned at the game include senior Homecoming Queen Macey Hurley and Homecoming King Dustin Stewart; junior princess Jaiden Miner and prince Cameron Deaton; sophomore princess Jordan Rogers and prince Eddie Collins; and freshman princess Kaity Dalton and prince Aiden Defrates.

News from Anthony Wayne

First Graders visit Franklin Public Library

Anthony Wayne Elementary first grade students have been visiting the Franklin Public Library for many years. AW first graders had their first visit of the 2018-19 school year in September.

The students participated in several literacy activities, applied for a library card, and checked out books. The students can't wait to return to check out and read more books.

Students stopped at Franklin's historic log post on River Street on their way back to Anthony Wayne (above).



Centerpoint Health partnership

Anthony Wayne has teamed up with Centerpoint Health to offer free dental care to students over the past several school years.

Participating students receive a free cleaning, along with dental hygiene products to care for their teeth at home. Centerpoint also provided selected students with sealants to further protect against tooth decay.

Beginning this school year, Centerpoint will return in six months to provide another cleaning for those same students.

A special thanks to AW's school nurse, Kristina Holweger, for coordinating this invaluable dental program for our students and to Centerpoint Health for their willingness to expand this wonderful partnership.

Centerpoint Health is a not-for-profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located at the Conover Medical Center in Franklin; an additional office is in Middletown. They provide integrated primary, dental, and behavioral health care.

Students track own learning

Under the guidance of Anthony Wayne 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Amanda Burtrum, students track their own progress using a digital spreadsheet.

Educational research suggests the biggest influence on learning is self-reporting of grades. If only it were that simple, as there is much more happening here than simply entering a score on a spreadsheet!

Mrs. Burtrum works alongside students to set goals and expectations for performance, as well as helping students understand why they have earned a grade and how they can improve future performance.

In just a few short weeks, Mrs. Burtrum has observed an increase in student ownership of learning, fewer missing assignments, and an overall increase in student engagement!

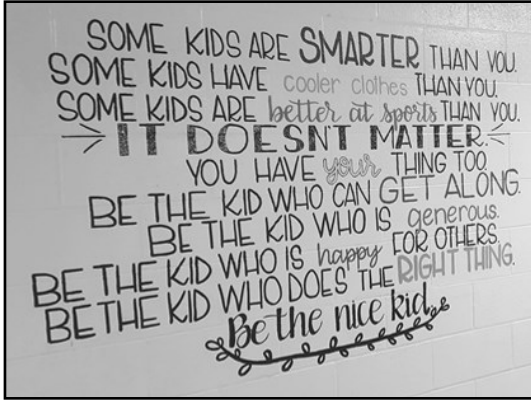


News from Schenck

“Be the Nice Kid” mural

When school began, Schenck students and staff were welcomed by several building changes and upgrades including a new, more secure office configuration and a newly sealed, re-stripped parking lot.

Everyone was especially excited by a beautiful new mural in the front entrance reminding everyone to be a nice kid.



The mural was painted by Schenck parent Kellie Jones, with a little help from her daughter and former Schenck student, Kara.

Follow Schenck on Twitter at Schenck_Elem for news, updates, and pictures.

Schenck is a great place to GROW!

Schenck kicked off its school-wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) plan by teaching, modeling, and practicing specific expectations and procedures for all areas of the school and times of the school day, with a focus on the acronym “G.R.O.W.”

Students watched videos to see what expected behaviors should look like, completed activities in their classrooms, and have been consistently practicing.

All teachers are integrating their PAX training into the classrooms and are using Dojo points to track positive behaviors and to work toward rewards.

An online form is used for office referrals and classroom behavior documentation to track frequency and types of

Data Day, mixed-grade learning buddies

Teachers analyzed MAP results, completed Reading Improvement & Monitoring Plans (RIMPs), and created goals during Schenck’s Data Day.

Mixed grade level classes combined, and learning buddies worked together, participating in science, language arts, and Constitution Day activities.

Third and sixth



Outdoor Learning Center construction has begun!

This three-year project, which began with fall mum fundraising, has finally resulted in the building phase of our outdoor learning center/community shelter. Schenck students raised approximately \$10,000 to build this facility and equip it with tables. High school students from the Construction and Heavy Equipment classes at Warren County Career Center are building the structure.

A sensory garden and nature area are ideas for future planning.



discipline.

Teachers and students both have commented that our PBIS plan has helped create a very calm and positive start to school.



grade students worked in teams to modify and improve their paper airplane designs to increase the flying distance.

News from Hunter

Basketball Jones' positive message

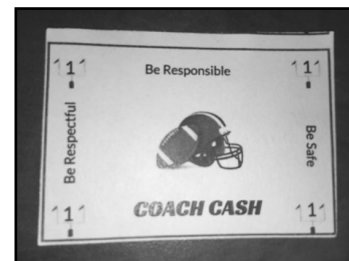
Thanks to the generosity of our Hunter PTO, Hunter welcomed Basketball Jones for an exciting assembly during first quarter. He shared a positive message with students about always trying your hardest, setting goals and working hard to achieve them, and never giving up.

He uses his own experiences, humor, impressive basketball tricks, and audience participation to relay his message, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. What a great way to start off the year!



PBIS positive reward system

This year at Hunter, we have taken the next step in our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative by implementing a positive reward system. On the first day of school, students learned about expectations in all areas of the school from the people who maintain those areas. All staff also began passing out Coach Cash to students who were meeting our three school expectations to be safe, responsible, and respectful.



We set high goals for our students to earn a certain amount of Coach Cash by the end of the quarter to be eligible to participate in a school-wide celebration, and they are doing their best to meet that goal! We appreciate your support from home as we focus on positive behaviors this year at Hunter.

Students agree to A-R-T-I-S-T contract

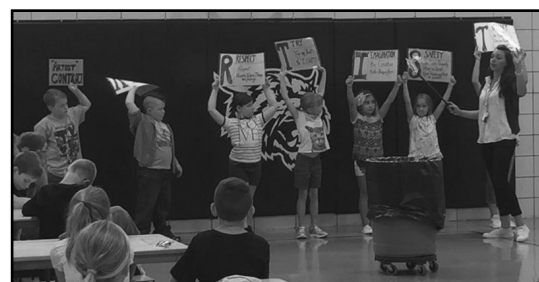
Art teacher Natalie Weaver, who joined the district this year, created an "A-R-T-I-S-T Contact" for students to follow in art class. The acronym explains what it is to be an "artist" in art class and serves as the classroom expectations and rules.

Students learn what a contract is and why it's important to follow one, and are reminded that their success comes from following it regularly to promote excellence and leadership skills.

The following are the expectations of what it means to be an A-R-T-I-S-T: A stands for Attitude — A positive "I can do it!" attitude. R stands for Respect — Respect people, ideas, things, feelings, and time. T stands for Try — Try my best! No "I can't's!" I stands for Imagination — Be creative. Make unique art. S stands for Safety — Use the tools properly. Stay in my seat. Keep my hands and feet to myself. T stands for Target — Use time wisely. Stay on task.

The students are reminded of the contract as a tool for motivation and for learning life skills such as time management. Above all, the contract is used to promote accountability and excellent character.

Each month, an A-R-T-I-S-T of the Month is chosen for each class — a student who exhibits the qualities of what an A-R-T-I-S-T is. Students are given awards and their names are displayed on the A-R-T-I-S-T of the Month wall. We call it "seeing your name in lights!"



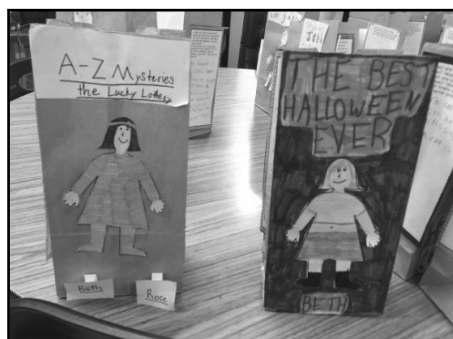
Brown bag book reports

Mrs. Banks fourth grade class recently completed a Paper Bag Book Report project.

Students chose a book of interest and read it over a six-week period. They had class time to read and could take the book home if needed.

Once they completed the book, they began working on the report. They had a graphic organizer to complete to guide them regarding what should be included on the paper bag. They were given templates for the bag but were able to create the final product on their own.

Each student worked at his/her own pace to complete the project. Once the projects were completed, each student presented to the class.



Hunter welcomes new principal

Hunter Elementary welcomed Erin Truesdell as their a new principal. She joins the district with over a decade of experience as a math teacher, team leader, assistant principal, and principal.



Follow Hunter Elementary on Twitter @HunterElemNews for news, pictures, and updates.

News from Gerke

Kids Who Code

Twelve Gerke 6th graders are trying their hand at computer coding thanks to a new club called "Kids Who Code." The program is based on a program called Girls Who Code, but is open to both boys and girls.



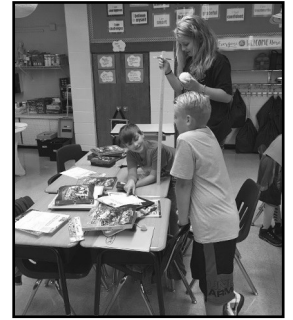
Advisor Becky Garrett said prerequisites were the desire to learn new skills and being willing to work through frustrations. She said students are having fun learning types of coding and while there's frustration in learning something completely new, there've been many "I got it!" moments.

The group chose animals as their overall topic; students are working individually or with a partner on a project related to the topic. The group will publish a website linking to each project when they're finished.

The final group website will be finished in mid-November, then the club will take a break and resume in the spring. Garrett said she hopes the group can use a program that involves creating things with Legos and writing code to make them do specific tasks.

How high? A controlled experiment

Mrs. Rose's 5th graders worked together on a controlled science experiment. Students had to see how high a tennis ball would bounce when it was dropped from various distances.



Maurices Adopt-a-School donation

Maurices clothing store in Lebanon recently donated \$100 to Gerke, thanks to a corporate campaign whereby all Maurices adopted a classroom or school. Principal Steve Greenwood said, "I didn't know that they were collecting for us so it was a nice surprise when they called."



Follow Gerke Elementary on Twitter @GerkeElementary for news, pictures, and updates.



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