



BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

SUMMER

“ Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2010

Jacket Pride Initiative

Mrs. Carole M. Kakabar, Superintendent

Over the last year, a wave has been building to revitalize the Ferndale Area School District and catapult us into the high performing school district we know we can be. The wave reached a crest in the spring of 2010, with the formal roll out of what has been dubbed our Jacket Pride Initiative. Students, teachers, administrators, parents, and board members have joined forces to work toward this goal of instilling



pride and motivation by expanding our programs, increasing student opportunities, and maximizing student readiness for life after high school.

The kick-off to this initiative came May 19 with a meeting of key stakeholders on a Guiding Committee, including students, teachers, administrators, parents, and board members. Dr. Patrick Crawford, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Leadership Development Center, is facilitating the process, along with other associates who are leaders in the field, like Dr. Jay Scott, and Dr. Chuck Kensinger. After the initial meeting, a data gathering phase began. Constituent groups met with the facilitators to come up with a list of district strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This has been a daunting task, and we are still in the process of gathering input from parents and

community members---see the note at the end of the article if you want to participate in the data gathering phase. The Guiding Committee met again June 21 to review data gathered to date, and to revisit the district mission statement, develop universal values and belief statements and brand the initiative. Results of the data collection as well as values and belief statements will be published in the fall newsletter. Please stayed tuned.....this is HUGE! Future meetings will be scheduled to continue to develop action plans and to look at other areas that tie into effectiveness such as communication, public relations, school climate, and continued data collection to measure progress. The Jacket Pride Initiative will be determined and rolled out over the course of a year, with continued analysis and implementation for years to come. Follow the progress as we move ever closer to that “private school in a public school setting” reality and become noted as a High Performing School District in Pennsylvania.

If you would like to participate in our Parent/Community Survey to provide your input into the Jacket Pride Initiative, please call or email Patti Craig to receive access. You can reach Patti at 535-1507, or email her at pcraig@fasdk12.org. The more input we receive the better our initiative will be!



Ferndale Area School District

Board of Education

President

Mr. Ridley Banks—Dale

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Mrs. Barbara Penna—Ferndale

Secretary

Mr. Edward Jones—Middle Taylor

Treasurer

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Mr. Greg Blue—Middle Taylor

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Mr. James Ford—Dale

Mr. Wayne Meekins—Lorain

Mr. Stephen Thompson—Ferndale

Administration

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Elementary Principal

Mr. Justin Zahorchak

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School Board Meetings

The Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Elementary School Board Room at 6:00 p.m. except for the month of December. A meeting is not scheduled for the month of July.

District Adopts 2010-2011 Budget

The Ferndale Area School Board adopted the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget on June 16, 2010. Real estate millage was set at 65.83 mills, which was an increase of 2.83 mills. After review, the Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the tax rate. The increase was less than the 2010-2011 index of 4.5% which was required by Act 1 participating districts.

Ferndale Area School District is a Smoke-Free District

It is the policy of the Ferndale Area School District that all buildings, property (including sidewalks and parking areas), outdoor fixed seating areas, vehicles owned or contracted and other designated areas of the Ferndale Area School District are designated to be tobacco free environments.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Saying Good-Bye

Two Ferndale Area School District employees will be leaving the hive at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Congratulations and best wishes to our retirees.

Mrs. Kathleen Wojnarowski - Coordinator of Special Education - 19 years of service

Mrs. Kathleen Popchak - Food Service Director - 24 years of service

Also, retiring during the school year were:

Mr. Edward Ribaric - Elementary Custodian - 5 years of service

Mrs. Vickie Schmidt - Special Education Aide - 17 years of service



Left to right: Kathleen Wojnarowski and Kathleen Popchak

National Honor Society

Lisa Rivard, Teacher

Six students were inducted into the Ferndale Area National Honor Society. The ceremony was held in the school auditorium on May 10, 2010. Current members of the NHS hosted a banquet for the new inductees and their families in the cafeteria immediately following the ceremony. Members were chosen by a selection committee after achieving four criteria—Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Students who were selected were: **Marie Custer, Zachary Toth, Hannah Genovese, Brittney Wiesheier, Brittany Eisenhuth, and Megan McClain**. Graduating senior members who were elected last year include: **Chelsea Chobany** (President), **Ashley Smith** (Secretary), and **Melanie Bremer** (Treasurer). This year, the National Honor Society ran a teacher appreciation day at the high school which included a number of familiar games with a small twist. The NHS also organized a fundraiser for the March of Dimes.



Front Row from left to right: Melanie Bremer, Chelsea Chobany, Ashley Smith. Back Row from left to right: Brittney Wiesheier, Zachary Toth, Marie Custer, Megan McClain, Hannah Genovese and Brittany Eisenhuth.



Congratulations Graduates

Brittany Ann Baumbaugh
Justin Andrew Bodenschatz
Melanie Bernadette Bremer
Michael James Bunnell
Chelsea Marie Chobany
Corrine Renée Chuha
Nicholas Adam Clites
Jacob Luther Durant
Jessica Nicole Durant
Brittany Ann Eisenhuth
Joseph Daniel Erb
Ralynn Elizabeth Folta
Brittany Diane Garfoyle
Ryan Lee Gaunt
Sierra Elizabeth Haskins
Ian Bowie Havener
Cody Brian Helsel

Derik James Hileman
Haylie Lynn Homway
Lara Ashley Huff
Christopher Lee James
Alexandra Leigh Jones
Dylan Mitchell Krouse
Shardawn Elizabeth Lantzy
Kasey Jean Lichtenfels
Jennifer Rose Livingston
Angela Marie Margucci
Trevor Zachary Mattis
Jessica Lynn McClafferty
Mallory Paige Meekins
Cody Allen Miller
Ashley Renee Moeller
Brandon Joshua Moyer
Maggie Elizabeth Myers

Stephanie Nicole Natta
Laurel Ann Niederhut
Kaitlyn Lee Nisewonger
Danielle Lynn Ohler
Robert Andrew Palmer
Christina Marie Perrine
Carly Rebekkah Priest
Tara Ann Rager
Kayla Marie Reese
Monica Rose Reffner
Colte Aaron Reighard
Hollie Dawn Russell
Amanda Lynn Smith
Ashley Lynn Smith
Mark Vincent Stachura
Jordan Alexander Taranto
Precious Rose Wilson

Class of 2010



As We End the School Year...

Mr. Justin Zahorchak, Elementary Principal

As we end another school year, we have taken some time to reflect on this year, and the students that have made it so wonderful. Each child has played a special role in making up our school. We would also like to take time to thank you for all of your support throughout this school year.

At the end of each year, it is important to celebrate the many successes that we have had. Some of my highlights for this school year include:

- tremendous gains in both reading and math scores throughout the year
- the introduction of our new bullying prevention program
- the success of our new Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program
- the implementation of literature centers and guided reading in grades K-3
- the addition of a new reading specialist to help improve our overall reading program
- an upgrade in our math curriculum to the latest version
- adding second grade to our after-school tutoring program
- teachers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty throughout the school year!

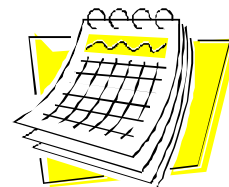
Looking ahead at next year, here are some initiatives that we are anticipating:

- the addition of two laptop carts with twenty five laptops
- making the elementary wireless
- the addition of a bookroom with more than 2,500 books.



2010-2011 School Calendar

The calendar for the 2010-2011 school year was adopted by the Ferndale Area Board of School Directors on April 21, 2010. The first day of school for students is August 25, 2010; the last day is June 2, 2011.



Teacher in-service days and Act 80 Days are scheduled for August 23, August 24, October 1, November 12, January 31, February 21, and June 1.

Scheduled make-up days are February 14, April 21, May 27. If additional days are used for emergency reasons, the make-up days will be added at the end of the school term in June.

August 23	In-Service Day for Faculty
August 24	In-Service Day for Faculty
August 25.....	First Day for Students
September 6	Labor Day (No School)
September 28	Open House (HS)
September 29	Open House (Elem)
September 30	Open House (Elem)
October 1	Act 80 Day for Faculty
October 11	Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
November 11	Veterans' Day (No School)
November 12	Act 80 Day for Faculty
November 25 - November 29	Thanksgiving (No School)
December 24 - December 31	Christmas (No School)
January 17.....	Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
January 31.....	In-Service Day for Faculty
February 14.....	Make-Up Day (No School)
February 21.....	In-Service Day for Faculty
April 21	Make-Up Day (No School)
April 22	Easter (No School)
April 25	Easter (No School)
May 27.....	Make-Up Day (No School)
May 30.....	Memorial Day (No School)
June 1.....	In-Service Day (No School)
June 2.....	Last Day of School

Marking Period Ends

October 25
January 5
March 11
May 31



What a Fabulous School Year Ferndale Area Elementary Students Had

Belinda Penrod, Library Aide

Three of our students entered in the Appalachia IU8's Annual Science Fair held on March 27 at Forest Hills Elementary School. **Grace Bailey** competed in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade division and earned a Certificate of



Grace Bailey

Turbine Blade Design Experiment" and congratulations go to Hannah for



Hannah Bailey

Recognition for her "Does it Pay to Pay?: A Consumer Research Experiment." **Xavier Mann** and **Hannah Bailey** competed in the fourth and fifth grade division. Out of 42 contestants, Xavier received a Certificate of Recognition for his "Wind Turbine Blade Design Experiment" and congratulations go to Hannah for earning a fourth place trophy for her "Cornmeal vs. Oatmeal: A Mealworm Nutrition Experiment."



Xavier Mann

Mrs. Olson once again had her students write Haiku poetry for a chance to be published. This is the second year that Mrs. Olson has had her students entered, and this year she received word that 17 of her students' poetry will be published in the Young American Poetry Digest 2010, which is up from the number of students published last year. Congratulations to the following students for having their poetry published: Fourth grade: **Sean Norman, John Herring, Bethany Hartline, Eva Myers, Tashaun Moore and Nathaniel Barrett.** Sixth grade: **Marlena Zack, Taylor Maris, Tiffany Boring, Mason Lehman, Claudia Mikulsky, Jaquien Johnson, Alex Geiser, Kendall James, Lakin Mills and Sara Maines.**

Five band members were chosen to participate in the PMEA (Pennsylvanian Music Education Association) Band Fest: **Grace Bailey, Amber Boast, Lauren Olschewsky, Preston Speicher and Alex Reese.**

Not only are the students here at Ferndale Area Elementary learning academics, they are also learning the importance of giving back to the community. Third grade collected cold-weather necessities, such as hats, gloves and scarves to assemble a "mitten tree." Over 100 pieces of cold-weather necessities were donated to New Day, Inc.

Fourth grade was really busy this year. At Christmas time, they collected items to be donated to our local Humane Society. They gathered up newspapers, food, paper towels, bleach, and other items. It made the kids feel real good

helping our furry friends. Around Valentine's Day, they organized a school wide penny drive called "Pennies for Love" to benefit Lafora Research. In a one week time frame, the students raised \$1,356.25. GREAT JOB!

Fourth grade also learned about Earth Day by going out and weeding around the school grounds then planting flowers to help beautify our little piece of Earth. They also learned about keeping their bodies healthy. Mariann McCowan, the school's athletic trainer from Western PA Sports Medicine, spent a few hours with them talking about nutrition and stressing how important it is to develop healthy eating and activity patterns now while they are still young. Then she did a "Boot Camp" and some "Circuit Training" with the students as well as the teachers. After, everyone had a great time playing several games to keep active, which helped the students realize that being healthy can be fun!

Mrs. Byer's sixth grade sold the "Help an Angel in Shelter" angels this year around Christmas. In all a total of 302 angels were sold which means a \$302 donation to the Women's Help Center in Johnstown. That total is up from previous years. GREAT JOB SIXTH GRADE!

Mrs. Olson's class, with the help of elementary aide Mrs. Linda Stuft, took up a Health Kit Collection to aid the Earthquake Victims of Haiti. This project is very close to Mrs. Stuft's heart as she has done missionary work in Haiti with her church. The students here at Ferndale Area Elementary once again showed their compassion. A total of 182 Health Kits were collected and sent to UMCOR for distribution in Haiti.

WOW, what a bunch of wonderful students we have here at Ferndale Area Elementary School. Not only do they keep raising their reading and math scores, but they are also showing how much compassion and care they have in them. Keep up the good work!



Seniors Attend 4th Annual Career Linking Academy

Loraine Dodson, Guidance Counselor

During the week of April 12 through April 16, the Ferndale Area High School's senior class participated in the school's Fourth Annual Career Linking Academy in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Career Link and Goodwill Industries. Thanks to a combined effort on the part of the school, Career Link, Goodwill Industries and local businesses and colleges, the seniors were exposed to



career awareness activities, presentations, tours, and assessments throughout the week.

The Career Linking Academy started off with keynote speaker and

Ferndale Area alumni, Brock Kull of Manpower, Inc. Brock discussed with the students the importance of setting goals and implementing a personal development plan. During the Academy, the seniors took part in budgeting activities as designed and presented by Ferndale Area's own mathematics expert, Miss Williams.

Other presentations focused on interviewing tips, resume writing guidelines, business ethics, appropriate business dress and leadership skills and qualities. Chris Vann, of DRS Technologies, another successful Ferndale Area alumni, presented the seniors with a presentation entitled "Success Is Intentional". This presentation made a strong impact on the students. Chris also provided the seniors with a group tour of DRS, the first ever at the Richland facility. Students also had the opportunity to tour the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown as well as Penn Highlands Community College and to meet with several

college representatives during the Academy. Lastly, each senior completed a job shadow experience with local employers which was related to their career preferences.



In all, the week long 2010 Career Linking Academy proved extremely beneficial and enjoyable for the seniors!

Field Day

Lauren Birch, Science Teacher

The 6th, 7th, 8th, & 9th grade students faced off in Ferndale Area's first annual "HIVE" Program Field Day held on May 19, 2010. The purpose of the field day was to stress the importance of teamwork and promote positive relationships among students, which is the overall goal of the "HIVE" character-building program. It also allowed the upcoming 6th graders to get acquainted with the Junior/Senior High environment.

Rainy weather confined the students to the gyms, but the teams' intensity and competitiveness were in no way stifled. The students competed in individual events such as sprints and hurdles along with team events like relays, free-throw rallies, and tug-of-war. The students were also educated on the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol through an eye-opening presentation by Community Action. In the end, the 6th and 7th grade baby blue team and the 8th and 9th grade white team were crowned the victors. Overall, the students enjoyed their experience and are already making plans for the 2nd annual "HIVE" Field Day next year!



Seniors Hold Fundraisers to Help Former Classmate

There are 45,000 children under the age of 15 who develop epilepsy each year in the United States (epilepsy foundation.org). Six seniors went that extra mile this year to help a friend. **Ryan Gaunt, Brandon Moyer, Shardawn Lantzy, Brittany Eisenhuth, Carly Priest, and Brittany Baumbaugh** held fundraisers as their senior projects to help former classmate **Jessica Ambroe**. Jessica would have been a sophomore at Ferndale Area but is battling Lafora, a progressive form of epilepsy.

Ryan Gaunt and Brandon Moyer decided a fun way to spread awareness about epilepsy was to have a football camp for kids in the community (grades 3-6). All participants in the camp received a T-shirt, and the proceeds of the camp went to the Epilepsy Awareness Foundation. The camp raised \$200 for the Epilepsy Foundation.

Shardawn Lantzy and Brittany Eisenhuth held a powder puff football game in May. This idea came from working on their senior projects. "We had the alumni come back, and teachers helped us raise over \$1,000 in profit to help Jess," Shardawn said. "It turned out to be more than just a powder puff football game," Brittany

said. "We had a bunch of baskets donated, and it became a whole big thing."

Carly Priest and Brittany Baumbaugh had a "Purple Day" to benefit Lafora Research as their senior project. The goal of this project was to have everyone in the district buy and wear Think Purple T-shirts on May 7. They sold over 700 shirts district-wide and profited over \$2,000 for Chelsea's Hope, the Lafora Research Organization. Carly and Brittany did this because Jessica is one of their classmates who is suffering from this disease. They wanted to do everything they could in order to help find a cure. They also wanted to show Jess all the love and support she has here at Ferndale Area. Carly and Brittany were blown away by the response they received from the district. "The support Ferndale Area showed was more than we had anticipated, and we can't thank all the students and staff enough. We hope that "Purple Day" will continue for years to come."

Marsha Williams, senior advisor, said she was pleased that the students raised over \$3,000 to help in the fight against Lafora. "We just had so many kids that wanted to raise money for Lafora this year. The students really did a great job."



Left to Right: Carly Priest, Jessica Ambroe, and Brittany Baumbaugh



Picture taken from football camp fundraiser.



Picture taken from football camp fundraiser.



Picture taken from powder puff football game fundraiser.

Elementary School Special Recognition Awards

Presidential Gold Award - Outstanding Academic Excellence

**James Adamy
Grace Bailey**

Emily Szekeresh

Presidential Silver Award - Outstanding Academic Achievement

**Amber Boast
Leah Cenko
Ryleigh Chuha
Brett McGowan
Trey McGough
Dylan McGreehan**

**Erin Mills
Ceara Ohler
Lauren Olszewsky
Madison Thomas
Candyce Vannatter**

Senatorial Good Citizenship Award

**James Adamy
Leah Cenko
Zoe Kirkwood
Brett McGowan**

**Lakin Mills
Ceara Ohler
Jason Sabo
Emily Szekeresh**



American Citizenship Award

K4

**Austin Elliott
Jullian Novotny**

Kindergarten

**Hailey Berg
Samantha Himes
Makenzie Jerin**

Grade 1

**Evan McGilvery
Jalynn McGilvery
Trey Saylor**

Grade 2

**Noah Korenoski
Chloe Lux
Madison Myers**

Grade 3

**Matthew Morgart
Megan Moyer
Hunter Thomas**

Grade 4

**Brittany Fitz
Alexis Glenna
Izabella Hauger
Olivia Hudson**

Grade 5

**Nathan Berkebile
Lilia Soderquist
Julius Thomas**

Grade 6

**Sara Maines
Ceara Ohler
Emily Szekeresh**

Outstanding Peer Tutor Award

**Emily Szekeresh
Madison Thomas**



Students who received scholarships and awards.

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We're on the web!
www.fasdk12.org

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ferndale Area School District is to be **"Big Enough To Challenge"** all students, but **"Small Enough to Care"** about each student. To accomplish this mission, the Ferndale Area School District will strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment for excellent teaching and learning experiences where students prepare for a life of continual learning, and acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to solve problems, communicate effectively and be a responsible citizen.

Athletic Highlights

Anthony Penna, Sr., Athletic Director

Winter Sports

- Boys' Basketball - Record was 13-11
Ryan Gaunt was named the WestPAC MVP. Ryan went over 1,000 points. The team beat Juniata Valley in the first round of playoffs and lost to Conemaugh Valley in the second round.
- Junior High Boys' Basketball - Record was 3-11
The team showed a lot of improvement.
- Girls' Basketball - Record was 10-11
Brittany Eisenhuth was named the WestPAC MVP. Brittany went over 1,000 points and broke the single season scoring record. The team lost in the playoffs to Bishop Carroll.

Spring Sports

- Girls' Softball - Record was 2-15
The team shows tremendous improvement.
- Boys' Baseball - Record was 12-5 and ranked 2nd in District.
- Junior High Girls' Volleyball - Record 13-2
The team placed first in the WestPAC Conference. It was a great season for the girls.