



## **NEWS from the CHAGRIN FALLS SCHOOLS**

**For the School Bulletin Board or separate column, November 1, 2007**  
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### **HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Reserve Your Seats for *You Can't Take It With You***

The hilarious comedy *You Can't Take It With You* marks the first high school play to be performed in the new 765 seat beautiful Chagrin Falls School District's Performing Arts Center. Please come and support these high school students and enjoy this amazing play in the new Center located on the 7-12 campus, 400 E. Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Performance dates are Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices for general admission are \$7.00 for students, \$9.00 for adults and \$12.00 for reserve seating. Please call the box office at 440-247-5500 ext. 4288 to reserve your tickets.

### **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

The Intermediate School students in Mrs. Katherine Owen's 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts classes started the year with a focus on the issue of bullying. After much reading, writing and discussion of the topic, students created and performed skits incorporating many strategies that could be used in dealing with a bullying situation. Next, students read one of two novels with themes of bullying and friendship, *Freak the Mighty* or *Joshua T. Bates Takes Charge*. Students who read *Freak the Mighty* also experienced a distance learning program from NASA on robotics, one of the ideas presented in the novel. Students who read *Joshua T. Bates Takes Charge* took the words to the theme song from "The Mighty" and made connections to their novel. It was quite a thought-provoking and challenging unit on issues with which all students could relate.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The seventh grade social studies students have just completed a journey through Ancient Egypt and have migrated north into the Fertile Crescent. Students will be working on projects of their choice, creating Sumerian Cuneiform clay tablets, models of Ziggurats, writing commercials selling products, or writing journal entries describing daily life in Ancient Mesopotamia. Additionally, groups of students will be writing and performing songs about the many important contributions such as wheels, coins, and the architecture of various ancient people that lived in the area.

## **GURNEY**

All students at Gurney School this year have spent time talking about the components of “Tiger Pride” in their classrooms. Each week we have a Tiger Pride Skill that we focus on as a whole school. Thus far, some of these skills have included greeting people, good listening skills, and how to ask for help when needed. With resources and activities provided by our speech therapist, Mrs. Tracie Guggenheim, and our occupational therapist, Mrs. Kara Brogan, teachers are able to reinforce all of these social skills.

## **Teachers Working On National Certification**

Teachers in the Chagrin Falls School District are becoming involved in a challenging form of professional development called National Board Certification, a year long exploration of quality teaching and its applications in the classroom. Candidates voluntarily reflect upon their professional practices based upon five core propositions that set the standard for quality and accomplished teaching. These standards include content knowledge, commitment to students and their families, the management of student learning, how to most effectively meet individual needs, and the involvement in their own professional learning and development.

Currently in the Chagrin Falls schools, there are six teachers who have National Board Certification; Bobbie Serensky, Dave King, Lisa Todaro, Ellen Calvello, Susan Tatom, and Sheri Halagan. This school year there are five more teachers working through this process. They have been spending many hours a week outside of school developing their entries and meet together once a week as a group in order to support each other through the intellectually stimulating process.

Throughout the year long process, the candidates must compose four written entries that show what they do in the classroom, how it affects student learning, and how they might make future changes. Along with these written essays, two of the entries require video examples of their teaching in action, and there is an assessment center piece in which the teachers must complete six essay questions. Once their portfolio is complete, it is assessed by trained teachers who evaluate their work based upon the standards.

Whether certification is achieved first time through or not, teachers will agree this process is one of the most productive professional development activities due to the high standards that signify accomplished teaching. Meeting these standards strengthens teaching which in turn enhances student learning, and that’s what teaching is all about!

Learn more about National Board Certification by going to [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

## **Booster Club Scholarship Dance Scheduled**

The Chagrin Falls Booster Club Scholarship Dance will be held on Saturday, November 17 at Signature of Solon. Festivities begin at 6:30 with dinner beginning at 7:30. Come and enjoy the silent auction and music provided by Tony Quarles & the Discovery Band. For more information please contact: Amy Groneman @ 440-338-1804, Beth Fung @ 440-893-0746 or Jane Stricker @ 440-338-3791.

## **Music Lovers Citrus Fruit Sale Ready to Go**

It is time again for the annual Chagrin Falls Music Lovers Citrus Fruit Sale. Orders will be taken between October 26<sup>th</sup> – November 9<sup>th</sup>. Pick- up will take place on December 14<sup>th</sup> or you may have your order directly shipped! Questions? Call Ruth Loconti @ 893-0737 or May Burl@ 247-4906

### **Poinsettia Sale To Begin**

The Chagrin Falls After Prom Parents Committee is again offering poinsettias, garland and wreaths through its annual Poinsettia Sale beginning November 1-23<sup>rd</sup>. Shop for all your holiday needs while providing for a fun and safe After Prom Party for our students. Call Robin Kratche at 440-338-1121 with questions or to place an order.