



Chagrin Falls Schools



NEWS from the CHAGRIN FALLS SCHOOLS

For the School Bulletin Board or separate column, December 27, 2007
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HIGH SCHOOL

The Chagrin Falls High School Key Club recently completed its annual "Adopt a Family" program. Students try to match all members of the family with appropriate gifts. Originally the club adopted four families for the holidays but due to the tremendous community support, they were able to supply gifts for a fifth needy family. Hundreds of presents and hundreds of dollars and gift cards were donated to this cause by the Chagrin Falls community. In charge of the project were key club officers: Abby Vidmer, Garrett Sauey, Alex Penler, and Ricky Price.

2005 Chagrin Falls High School graduate and Ohio State wide receiver Brian Robiskie has been named first team Academic All-America, as selected by ESPN the Magazine and CoSIDA. Robiskie was a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award and led the buckeyes in receiving this season with 50 catches for 885 yards and 10 touchdowns. He holds a 3.50 grade-point average in marketing.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Ms. Sally Florkiewicz's reading class is "buddying up" with National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members in the 8th grade each month. The NJHS members travel to the Intermediate School to join the fourth grade reading class the second Wednesday of each month. The 8th graders have led guided reading groups and have been team leaders for "Time for Kids" activities. The reading buddies will also be conducting holiday activities with the students. The fourth graders love having these wonderful students visit them each month!

GURNEY

The third graders at Gurney Elementary spent the day on Friday, December 14th presenting information they learned about health in the form of a Health Fair. Students created games and activities based upon their learning on several health topics. The purpose of the activities was to teach something to others in a fun way. Topics included bones, muscles, exercise, safety, and nutrition. Students rotated throughout the day to all of the other third grade classes. This was a great culmination of their studies and they learned a lot too!

Second graders at Gurney Elementary have been working hard. Final preparation is beginning for the annual Holiday Show. Each second grader is excited to share their

part that they have been practicing so diligently. Along with the Holiday Show preparation, second graders have also continued to move forward in their academic content areas. Each class has continued to grow in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. In Art Class, Second Graders will be learning about the artist Paul Cézanne and his many Still Life paintings. Students will exercise observation drawing, drawing only what you see, by observing the shapes of the objects in a still life arrangement. Then students will learn the technique of watercolor painting. Just like sports, music, or dance, the more you practice drawing the better at it you get! Upon returning from winter break, students will begin several special projects which will be shared with parents during grade level presentations. Second graders will have an exciting end to 2007 and an exciting beginning to 2008.

Volunteers Needed

The Chagrin Falls School District will be initiating a planning process to assist in developing a comprehensive strategic plan. This plan will serve as a guide as we move forward in a community-led effort to plot the future course of our school district. The *Strategic Planning Committee* will begin meeting in February, 2008 and complete its work in June, 2008.

We will also begin the work of investigating alternative forms of school funding. The *Alternative Funding Committee* will research school funding options and meet with local and state political leaders to influence change in school funding in the State of Ohio. The committee will begin meeting in February, 2008 and complete its work in May, 2009 resulting in a recommendation to the Chagrin Falls Board of Education regarding possible future funding options for the district.

Ideal committee members are those individuals who are truly committed to strengthening our schools and community. If you are interested in being a part of either committee and are able to make the time commitment, please contact Barb Wilson, Secretary to the Superintendent, at 440-247-4363 to request an interest form. Interest forms may also be picked up at the Central Office located at Chagrin Falls High School at 400 East Washington Street. Forms must be received by **January 18, 2008**. Depending on the level of interest, it may be necessary to use a selection process to establish a representative sample of the community.

Parent Education Opportunity Offered

Chagrin Falls High School will offer parents the opportunity to connect in a nationally acclaimed parent discussion group beginning January 9th. Sponsored by Community Partnership For Youth (CP4Y), participants will meet in small groups to examine and discuss issues parents of teens are likely to face.

The format will be similar to a book group and discussions will be guided using the new 2007 edition of *Please Stop the Rollercoaster! How Parents of Teenagers Can Smooth Out the Ride* by Sue Blaney. Some of the discussion topics include: improving communication, keeping teens from engaging in risky behavior, “normal” teen development, exploring parents’ changing roles, and supporting your teen in school.

The discussion group program is comprised of eight sessions, with meetings scheduled every other Wednesday at noon beginning January 9th in the Sands Community Room. Please register early so that the textbooks can be ordered. Send a \$29.95 check

(payable to CP4Y) to Carol Nash, 817 Sun Ridge Lane, South Russell, OH 44022 or call 440-338-1089 for more information.

Save the Date

The After Prom Fundraiser, "Fat Friday" will be held on Friday, January 25, 2008 at 7:00p.m.at the Chagrin Valley Athletic Club. All proceeds benefit a safe After Prom for Chagrin Falls students. For more information, contact Lou Ann Hebble at 440-338-4193.