



NEWS from the CHAGRIN FALLS SCHOOLS

For the School Bulletin Board or separate column, JANUARY 24, 2008
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CHAGRIN SCHOOL HONORED FOR 2nd STRAIGHT YEAR

Gurney Elementary School has been selected as an honoree for the 2006-2007 State Superintendent's Schools of Distinction recognition program for the second consecutive year.

This program was introduced during the 2005-2006 academic year as a new component of the Schools of Promise initiative. The Schools of Distinction program is designed to recognize schools in which a high percentage of all students, including students with disabilities, show outstanding performance. Gurney Elementary School has been selected for consideration based on their 2006-2007 statewide assessment data which has met or exceeded the program's rigorous selection criteria. At each School of Distinction, at least 75 percent of all students, including students with disabilities, scored proficient or above on the 2006-2007 Ohio Achievement Tests or the Ohio Graduation Tests in reading and mathematics.

The Ohio Department of Education recognized Chagrin Falls School representatives on the first day of the Office for Exceptional Children's statewide Special Education Leadership Conference, held in Columbus last week.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

The fifth graders at the Intermediate School went on their fourth electronic field trip of the year to Williamsburg. During this field trip, our students learned about the 18th-century financial interactions from an international economy to a local one. They learned that "ready money" was cash (coin and paper currency), in English pounds, shillings, and pence- the equivalent of today's dollars and cents. They also learned about gold and silver and the origin of the coin. In addition, our students were able to hear first hand from John Greenhow, a colonial store owner, on imports and exports of those days and how people made a living. During the electronic field trips, there is also time to answer questions, and one of our students had the opportunity to ask her question live on the air. This was an excellent learning experience for our students.

HIGH SCHOOL

At the recent Rocky River High School Fencing Club Invitational, 60 athletes from 7 different schools, including Rocky River, Chagrin Falls and West Geauga, took part. Competitors came from as far away as Columbus and Western PA.

The Chagrin Falls High School Fencing Club had four competitors: Matt Caimi, Dan Pecchio, Sean Porter and Shane Noel. All four competed in the Men's foil event in a field of 25. Matt Caimi advanced to the quarter finals and finished 8th. Shane Noel finished 13th, Dan Pecchio finished 17th and Sean Porter 21st. Sean Porter and Dan Pecchio competed in the epee event, which had 27 competitors. Dan Pecchio advanced to the quarter finals and finished 9th, earning an E rating. Sean Porter finished 16th. Overall, the Chagrin team took 3rd in a field of 6 men's high school teams.

GURNEY SCHOOL

Recently, Gurney School held their annual canned food drive for Chagrin Falls Meals on Wheels. Movies in the gym were shown, among other projects, with admission being a can of food. Gurney School collected over 2500 cans of food which were donated to the Meals on Wheels program. Kindergarten through 3rd grade students did a great job making this project a huge success

Education Foundation Establishes Philanthropic Board

The Chagrin Falls Educational Foundation's has established a Student Philanthropic Board (CFEF Student Board) at Chagrin Falls High School. The CFEF Student Board is a non-profit student-run organization operating under the auspices of the Chagrin Falls Education Foundation. Its mission is to Educate the students serving on the CFEF Student Board ("Directors") about the importance of philanthropy and best practices in the field, give the Directors a first hand experience of grant making and the philanthropic process and communal decision making, prepare the Directors for leadership roles they may play in the future, and empower the Directors and Chagrin students to know that they can make a difference.

The Chagrin Falls Educational Foundation Student Board has as its basic tenants: (1) teaching students about leadership, philanthropy, responsibility and communal decision making (2) providing a meaningful experience in allocating limited dollars to have the greatest impact on the Chagrin Schools (3)encouraging reflection on values and increasing confidence in the ability to both contribute and lead (4) teaching listening skills and the ability to work with others with different viewpoints (5)providing a challenging opportunity and instilling a spirit of volunteerism in our future adult leaders (6) providing high school students with hands-on experience in critical thinking for the Chagrin Schools.

Members of the CFEF Student Board will be made up of 17 students representing all classes who will be selected through student application profiles and an interview process.

BINGO NIGHT RETURNS

The Chagrin Falls High School PTO will once again sponsor its popular Bingo Night, on Friday, February 1 from 6-9pm at the Middle School gym. Come join us for an evening of fun, games and prizes. Information and reservation forms are available at school offices or call Kelley at 440-338-8284.

Community Is Asked to Give Their Opinions

All Chagrin Falls community members are being asked to fill out a comprehensive survey on the school district which will be used to update the district's strategic plan. Responses will give the administration a better picture of the community's perception of the schools.

The surveys will be available on the main district web page as a separate link beginning on Friday, January 18 and will be accessible until Friday, February 1.

The first survey is to gather community input on all aspects of the school district. The second survey is building specific for parents to give input about their children's school buildings and grade levels.

For those preferring to fill out the survey by hand, they can be picked up at Central Office. You may also call Barb Wilson in the superintendent's office at 440-247-5500 ext.4002 if you have any questions.