

News from Franklin City Schools

Franklin Junior High received a \$1,500 grant from Walmart's Community Grant program to fund their building's behavioral incentive program.

Students earn ROAR tickets for positive behaviors (Responsibility, Ownership, Attitude, and Respect). Tickets are used for weekly prize drawings, or saved for larger prizes in monthly drawings. This is FJHS's second Walmart grant; they applied last year and were awarded \$1,000, which was also used for ROAR tickets. Last year's ROAR awards also had an attendance incentive which has been suspended this year due to the pandemic forcing quarantines.

Prizes include gift cards, lunch with friends, and being Principal for the Day.

After the passage of the bond issue in November, FJHS students expressed their gratitude to the community, placing thank you signs in the building's lawn on 6th St. This is the last year that students will be housed in the FJHS building, which opened in 1921.



Franklin High School inducted 21 students into the Esteman Mateus Williamson chapter of the Spanish National Honor Society in a virtual ceremony. The chapter was chartered in 2015. The chapter had 39 active and 10 associate members prior to the induction of the new group.

Veronica Kiefaber, Spanish instructor and Chapter organizer said, "By being a member, students embrace Spanish-speaking cultures and language. The society provides enrichment opportunities and allows students the opportunity to graduate with honors and recognition of their achievements with graduation regalia."

Students inducted were Unique Agaton, Jacklyn Alcorn, Eryn Back, Tyler Bond, Ashley Booth, Kathleen Clevenger, Aiden Creech, Cadence Crocker, Hayla Gadd, Tressel Gibson, Emma Green, Jenna Horvath, Isabella Knipper, Camille Lafferty, Liam Rarden, Justice Sawyer, Maddox Taulbee, Holly Thornton, Samantha Viers, Sarah Waughtal, and Patrick Young.

Students must meet eligibility requirements including being actively enrolled in an upper-level Spanish class and having received all A's and B's in their Spanish classes.

Maintaining SNHS membership at FHS requires students to engage in one activity from each of the following three categories: Academic Commitment; Franklin High School Community Commitment; and Global Commitment.

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Feb. 2021



Wildcat Community News

Thank you, voters! Next steps are underway!

In November, voters in our district had a chance to say yes or no to new buildings for our students. Not only did they say yes, they said yes by an overwhelming margin and in every precinct. The issue's passage started a cascade of activity that will culminate in a once-in-a-lifetime complete overhaul of our district facilities, with four entirely new buildings and the complete renovation of another. The state of Ohio will pay 57% of the cost of the new classroom buildings through the Expedited Local Partnership Program. The first building, a new Franklin High School, is tentatively scheduled to open in the fall of 2023.

The \$130 million project is the largest capital project the district has ever undertaken, and passage of the issue was the result of a partnership among many people and groups.

District superintendent Dr. Mike Sander said, "Passing the bond issue was a huge victory for our students and our community, and we have many groups and people to thank, starting with the Franklin Board of Education, who listened to the community's wishes for new buildings and took the steps to make that happen."

"The community came together to make this happen. A community advisory team worked for nine months to develop a building configuration plan that

they believed the rest of the community would support, and community residents shared their input in a community forum and through a survey."

Sander added, "We also had a campaign committee who worked tirelessly to share information about the bond issue and to explain why it was so important to our students and the community." Sander named other groups who were instrumental in the issue's passage including the business community, who offered endorsements and support, and district staff, who handled the many details needed to put on a bond issue and to ensure that voters had accurate information.

"Finally, we owe a huge thank you to the community," said Sander. "Despite a pandemic that's created disruption and economic uncertainty, they said the district should take advantage of the incredible offer from the State of Ohio to build new buildings. We take the public's trust seriously and are gratified by their confidence."

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Passage of the bond issue was like a falling pebble that starts an avalanche. Many tasks are underway; some behind the scenes and others visible to the public.

One behind-the-scenes, but vitally important task



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was the school board's action to roll back the bond issue millage. At its Nov. 23 board meeting, the Board passed a resolution to collect tax at a rate of 4.94 mills commencing in 2020 with taxes first due in 2021. The district promised during the campaign that the issue's millage would stay below 5.



"The board needed to vote on this rollback because the bond issue ballot language was 6.52 mills," said interim treasurer Robert Giuffre. He added, "The state of Ohio dictates the ballot language for bond issues, and it's based on the assumption that the community's property values are unchanged for the entire 37 years of the bond issue."

Giuffre explained there are several ways that districts can structure debt repayment. Under two of those, the millage changes over the years. However, Franklin chose the method that keeps the millage the same for all 37 years, which in this case keeps it under 5 mills.

"Franklin's property values have increased 33% in the past 18 years, and we anticipate that they will continue to do so," said Giuffre. He added, "We may choose not to issue all of the debt at once depending on the market environment."

One activity that the public may see is survey work. The new high school will be on the current Franklin Junior High and Hampton Bennett lots, and survey crews have been at work for several weeks.

SHP, the project architect, met with the high school staff to discuss their needs, and will be gathering both district and public input on how they want the building configured. The picture at

the top of the article is only the architect's rendering for how the building **could** look. Staff and public input will dictate the final decision.

WHERE WILL STUDENTS BE DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Ensuring that our students have the best educational environment during construction is a top priority. While some students will be in temporary classrooms during construction, we're confident the disruptions will be minimal. This fall, the Hampton Bennett Early Childhood Center will be closed to students. Kindergarten students will attend their neighborhood building and all the pre-school students will attend Gerke, since it's centrally located. To make room for the additional students, portable classrooms will be placed at the elementary buildings, and the older students will use them as classroom space.

The state of Ohio will pay 57% of the cost of the new classroom buildings through the Expedited Local Partnership Program. The first building, a new Franklin High School, is tentatively scheduled to open in the fall of 2023.

This is also the last year that students will attend the current Junior High building, which is slated for demolition this fall. Incoming 7th and 8th graders will be in portable classrooms on the current Franklin High School property. We recognize the FJHS building is important to the community and we will be planning tours to celebrate its heritage. More information will be shared as it's available.

Part of Hampton Bennett will remain open to house the administrative offices, technology, the Welcome Center, and the gym since the FJHS gym will be lost. The childcare provided by the YMCA will be moved to another building in the district.

We are looking forward to breaking ground on the new high school this fall.

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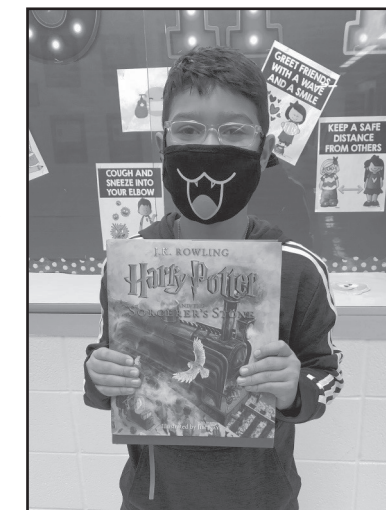
Anthony Wayne's 4th grade students held a mock election to learn about the election process and the importance of making informed decisions.

2nd graders completed animal research projects. Principal Jim Rhoades complimented the wonderful student presentations and family support.

All **AW** students were invited to Trunk or Treat, sponsored by Franklin First United Methodist Church (picture above).



Just prior to winter break, **Gerke** students enjoyed a Harry Potter-themed activity/competition that combined literacy with behavior incentives. Classes were sorted into the four Hogwarts houses and students earned merit or demerit slips based on who was successfully following COVID rules regarding mask wearing, handwashing protocols, etc.



Students also celebrated spirit week (dressing as a favorite character was one choice) and 5th and 6th grades had a behavior reward auction for virtue bucks.

Hunter students enjoyed a bit of "normal" with their traditional Christmas Parties.

Parents were unable to attend but they supported from home by donating craft supplies and snacks so students could still have a great time. Principal Erin Truesdell noted that it was nice to feel the holiday spirit and have a tradition continue!



Schenck students spread kindness during the holiday as they raised funds to support several families. The fundraising drive included dress-up days, the annual Turkey Trot, and a class coin competition. If you wonder why a student came to school dressed as a taco (picture at right), it's because they could wear costumes representing things for which they are thankful.

In November, several district buildings (**Schenck, Hunter, FHS, and FJHS**) combined to participate in a Shoes For The Shoeless event at FHS. Students received shoes and socks.



Pennyroyal students celebrated a season of gratitude with events that touched lives both locally and globally. The annual Turkey Trot raised money for Adam's Hope, a Germantown-based organization that supports military families around the world. The building collected items that will go to two military units in Iraq, and to a unit in Africa that is working with a village in desperate need of supplies.



Students also did a food drive for the Franklin Food Pantry, with a friendly competition for a classroom party. Students will continue giving this semester with a Pennies for Patients drive to support people with cancer.

Pennyroyal also participated in a Shoes for the Shoeless event, which was held in a drive-through format this year. (continued back page).

Follow our district on its social media pages for news, pictures, and updates. Twitter handles are:

- @HunterElemNews
- @PennyroyalElem
- @AnthonyWayneEle
- @Schenck_Elem
- @GerkeElementary
- @AdminsFHS
- @FJHSOH
- @FCSWildcats (District)

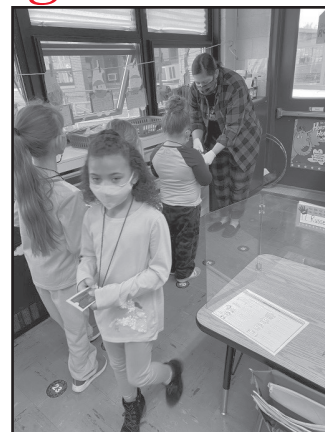
Instagram: fcswildcatpride (District)
 Facebook: facebook.com/FranklinCitySchools/
 Website: franklincityschools.com

What's going on around the district?

Kindergarten students (the class of 2033!) at the **Early Childhood Center** have been busy! They've learned "The Wildcat Way" ECC Pledge: I am ready to show RESPECT; I am ready to be RESPONSIBLE for myself; I know how to be SAFE; I am ready to have a GREAT DAY.

They spent the fall picking up basic computer skills, included learning and memorizing a password — quite a feat for students who have never logged onto a computer. They're using their new computer skills in the FastForward literacy program. They're also using a reading instruction program called Sunday.

An annual ECC favorite activity is Polar Express Day. This year's activities were moved into classrooms for safety (picture



above left). Students also started their ABCs and ABC Sound Club (picture above right). Students and families also enjoyed an online book fair. (continued page 3)