

Dear Bulldog Supporters,

The Garfield Heights City Schools hosted its 4th annual Fall Family Fun Night this past Friday, just before the varsity home football game. This event featured bounce houses, football tosses, the Punt-Pass-Kick competition finals on the football field, food and lots of fun. Fall Family Fun Night has grown in popularity over the years, with the expressed purpose to bring together elementary school families and get them to interact with each other on the high school campus... and to build Bulldog Pride. Our estimated total attendance for the evening was approximately 350 people. Thank you to the full range of staff members who helped out that evening, the National Guard and the City of Garfield Heights for their help in making this year's Fall Family Fun Night so successful.

The district continues to push ahead with its dedication to provide healthy meals and educate about nutrition with our students. You have learned in the past about what is being done in the cafeteria to eliminate plate waste and improve meals, but for this report, I want to share with you about what the GHHS is doing in the classroom to accomplish the same goals. Family & Consumer Class is once again being offered at Garfield Heights High School and there are approximately seventy-five students who are currently enrolled in three classes. They are learning valuable lessons that we intend them to carry on for the rest of their lives. We have a very passionate teacher, Garfield Heights veteran instructor Stephanie Czech. The third floor of the High School produces the aroma of a gourmet kitchen. Three Food Tech classes at the High School give Mrs. Czech the opportunity to promote the skills and awareness that will help students make healthy life and food choices. Kitchen safety, proper sanitation and positive, healthy food awareness are all a focus for these classes. Students also read articles about dietary trends and nutrition. Every recipe she shares with the students involves a certain food preparation skill. Students will learn about the recipe, perform the necessary prep work under Mrs. Czech's supervision and then create the meal. Part of her vision for these students goes beyond the classroom, with a hope that they will avoid processed foods and move toward a lifestyle that gives them confidence and the skill to prepare their own meals with fresh food products. Mrs. Czech, who has taught in the district for 13 years, splits her time between the high school and middle school, where she provides opportunities for those students by teaching a Life Choices course for 8th graders along with a Math Lab course for 6th graders. She hopes to prepare students in the Middle School for taking the Food Tech courses, which are open and available to all students in grades 9 through 12, and continue growing even more opportunities in the future. The revitalization of the Family & Consumer science class demonstrates our continued emphasis on improving nutrition and promoting healthy lifestyles throughout the entire district. Thank you to the Board for your continued support.

The district will be hosting its annual Practice Emergency Evacuation Drills during the week of October 2, 2017. Each day that week, a different building will practice the evacuation protocols that are outlined in the district's Emergency and Security protocols. The schedule will be as follows:

-Monday, 10/2 -Maple Leaf- 9:00
-Tuesday, 10/3- Elmwood- 9:00
-Wednesday, 10/4- Middle School- 9:00

-Thursday- 10/5- High School- 1:30

-Friday- 10/6- William Foster- 9:00

This protocol which we have developed has been applauded by statewide officials, and I thank everyone involved with the process. The community will see more information about this in the future, but I wanted the Board to be aware of this process.

Finally, on behalf of the entire district, I'd like to congratulate William Foster Elementary, which recently was awarded with a status of Silver Medal from the Ohio Department of Education... and which is up from a bronze medal which the school earned last year. This award recognizes buildings in school district that exceed expectations when it comes to promoting the PBIS program, which incentivizes students for demonstrating positive behavior. William Foster Elementary School has gone above and beyond to promote positive behavior, completing tasks on time, demonstrating respectfulness and other acts of kindness amongst its student body. Congratulations to Mr. Patton, Mrs. Kosta and the entire William Foster building for earning a Silver Medal in this year's PBIS Showcase.

Thank you for your continued support of the GHCS, and as always...

GO BULLDOGS!

Terry Olszewski

Superintendent of Schools