



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

800 North Sandusky Ave., Suite A
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Phone: (419) 294-2306

Fax: (419) 294-6891

www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us

December 2008

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Neil Kinley, President
Russell Lee, V. President
Gary Book
Hannah Kotterman
Dan Patchett

ADMINISTRATION

Ken Doseck
Superintendent of Schools

Nathan Lynch
Treasurer

Jim Clifford
High School Principal

Richard Stotts
High School Ass't Principal

Brad Ehrman
High School Athletic Director

Jim Wheeler
Middle School Principal
Gift Coordinator

Michael Walton
Union Elementary &
Middle School Ass't Principal

Pete Miller
Middle School
Athletic Director

Michael Courtad
East Elementary Principal
Director of Food Service
Title Funds Assistant

Laurie Vent
South Elementary Principal
Union Elementary Principal
Family Resource Center
Director

Kim Graboski
Director of Transportation

Jim Frye
Technology Coordinator

Brenda Adams
Special Education Supervisor

Janine McMillan
Curriculum/Professional
Development Coordinator

Superintendent's Message . . . About the Upcoming May Levy

One of the things that bothered me most about the Presidential debates and elections was that one never knew which candidate to believe. Come on, this is America, and this is the age of technology. Facts CAN be verified, and if I were running for President, I certainly would want to be able to substantiate and verify everything I said with FACTS – pure and simple, undeniable, unquestionable, unadulterated facts. Unfortunately, however, it seems that some people would rather vote along party lines rather than checking out what the facts are, and the candidates seem to know this, so they fill their campaigns with propaganda, half-truths, and out-and-out lies, banking on no one checking them out.

Well, this being a school district income tax renewal year, I hope you will check out the "FACTS" as I present them this year. Such "facts" CAN be verified – most at the Ohio Department of Education's website (which is where most of my facts are derived). I'm always doing comparative research studies with other Ohio school districts because in a labor-intensive business like education, especially during these economic times, I like to keep an eye on our spending and to manage operations here as efficiently as we can while still completing the mission of our schools.

By now, you may have heard rumors that it is the Board's intent to combine both of our current income tax issues into one issue on the May 5, 2009 ballot with the net effect being exactly the same as the renewal of both of the income tax issues currently in effect at their regularly scheduled renewal times. If you have heard this so-called rumor, please know that this rumor is true and that certain guarantees are also made by the Board and are attached to passage of this issue and this issue only if passed in May. If the levy passes on its first attempt in May, the Board promises to do its level best to live within its budget by making NO REQUESTS FOR INCREASES IN SCHOOL TAXES FOR THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS (including no requests for additional monies to build new buildings or to maintain existing ones, even if state building assistance monies are offered to us by the state at any time during this same five-year period). This pledge is being made by the Board out of respect for taxpayers and in sensitivity to the local economy and assumes no unanticipated events of a catastrophic nature (natural or otherwise) beyond which might be reasonably projected by the Board or its administration. The Board members simply believe that during these economic times, it is important for America to live within its means, and that includes our school district.

There is, however, a serious danger or risk that a school district runs in always trying to manage its spending as closely as Upper Sandusky Schools does (as evidenced by Upper Sandusky being among the top 15% of the best managed, lowest cost per pupil school districts in this state). The danger is that if a levy should ever fail and not be renewed, all the "would-be-easier-cuts" will have already been made. (Our hope is that residents realize how difficult it is to maintain one of the lowest costs per pupil in the state and still provide a quality education for its students.)

By asking for a simple renewal of the two income taxes currently in effect – **NOT** asking for anything **ADDITIONAL** now or within the next 5 years – the school district is not asking for a "bail-out" or making any request that will make life easy for the school district's budget. It is asking for a continuation of the funding currently in effect **WITH THE ADDITIONAL PROMISE** that **FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS**, we will make every effort **TO LIVE WITHIN OUR BUDGET**. We hope residents are equally aware that Upper Sandusky, by being in the top 15% in the state in terms of managing its spending, is thrown in amidst those school districts in this state in fiscal watch, in fiscal emergency, and all the Ohio school districts who have been making cuts for several years now, including those who have been in what I will call the "vicious downward spiral" from which there seems to be no return.

What do I mean by this "vicious downward spiral"? Please allow me to explain. When a district votes down an operating issue, it often misses a year of collection, which means it must then ask for more millage (or revenue dollars) the next year to make up for revenue lost the previous year simply to maintain. This starts a vicious cycle downward where nothing is done to improve education significantly by adding programs or staff but simply to maintain what we had before, even though we realize these are not times of zero inflation for anyone. Class sizes can only become so large before quality of education suffers. Missing a year of collection puts school districts behind the proverbial eight ball. Also, there is a phenomenon occurring within many Ohio school districts which have recently built new buildings and have accepted state building

Mission Statement: The mission of the Upper Sandusky Schools is to provide a safe, child-centered and developmentally appropriate environment where learning is a positive, exciting, and dynamic lifelong process.

assistance monies for new construction. Many do not realize that rarely do operating and building funds mix. After a new building program, for example, some will claim that a district should not have built new buildings if a district could not operate them once they are built. The error in such thinking is that if new/additional monies are needed to operate, they likely would have been needed regardless of whether new buildings were built as the two funds are typically used for entirely different purposes and are typically kept totally separate in about 98% of school construction situations.

According to the state's most recent Cupp Report (published in February of 2008), Upper Sandusky's cost per pupil (all costs), is **\$7,605.57** versus an average statewide cost per pupil (all costs) of **\$9,622.67**. (This figure includes ALL costs – administration, teachers, support staff, transportation, food service, literally ALL spending related to operations.) The difference between what the average school district in the state spends and what Upper Sandusky spends is **\$2,017.10 per pupil** times our student enrollment of 1,746 students = **\$3,521,856**. This means that if our school district operated the same as the AVERAGE school district in this state, Upper Sandusky would spend **over \$3 and one-half million dollars more (\$3.52 million more) PER YEAR**. This figure reflects how much MORE PER YEAR the cost of operations at Upper Sandusky would be if we were to spend what the AVERAGE Ohio School district would spend to educate the SAME number of pupils that Upper Sandusky currently educates, according to the most recent figures made available to us by the state.

In August we received official notification from the state that we had FOUR (4) EXCELLENT school buildings and that we were 2 students away from meeting 29 of 30 indicators possible on the Local School District Report Card. In October, South Elementary School was specially recognized by the state as a School of Promise.

The Board has given much thought and has tried to demonstrate sensitivity to local taxpayers and the local economy before requesting the renewal of our school district income taxes currently in effect asking for no increase in taxes – not simply for now but pledging the same for the next five years. If, however, we should ever miss a year of collection, the effects would be devastating to our district, and the vicious “downward spiral” would be set into motion.

Our hope this May is that at least 51% of our voters will not penalize but reward good management. The danger in being in the top 15% of the most efficiently managed in the state is that a school district must rely upon, and place its trust in, a very educated and caring citizenry. We believe that most Upper Sandusky voters are astute enough to consider what taxes they would be paying if they lived somewhere else or even in an “average” Ohio school district, but such a realization will only be arrived at by those willing to find out the FACTS.

Renewal of the income tax issues will allow the district to achieve its mission. Failure to renew the issues would not allow this to happen and would start the vicious downward cycle from which recovery would be most difficult if not next to impossible – especially given how tightly we already manage our budget. We are simply asking that we be able to continue to manage our resources wisely so that we might continue to provide a quality education for our students, and we obviously cannot do this without your care and assistance.

More information about the particulars of the language concerning the renewal of the income tax issues will obviously be covered in subsequent newsletters over the next 5 months.

Below is what was shared at the November 17, 2008 Board Meeting as introductory information about our May of 2009

1.25% renewal of BOTH of our existing income tax issues, amounting, in effect, to NO INCREASE IN TAXES, effectively a RENEWAL of BOTH of our ALREADY EXISTING income tax issues. The pledge of no increase in taxes for the next five years is pretty much unprecedented during these economic times, so we hope that residents appreciate what we are trying to do by making such a statement. If the levy passes in May, we feel confident that we will be able to continue to manage our budget in a fiscally responsible way unless something catastrophic or totally unpredictable should happen.

An Explanation of the May of 2009 Income Tax Issue: Definitely a Novel Approach with Incentives for Renewal of Our Existing Income Tax Issues:

- * May 5, 2009, the school district will, in effect, be requesting the RENEWAL of our 2 existing income taxes (½% + ¾%) for a total of 1.25% amounting to NO INCREASE IN TAXES. Passage of this issue would last for a period of five years with collection starting January 1, 2010.
- * If passed the first time on May 5, 2009, the Board and superintendent promise to do everything possible to live within this budget, also pledging **NO INCREASE IN TAXES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS**, barring any unforeseen catastrophes, **and including no requests for additional revenue for building projects** (even if Ohio School Facilities Commission dollars are offered, which they are sure to be as our funding number is scheduled to arise).
- * The Board believes that during the economic times that the district must do what America must do, and that is to live within its means until the economy recovers.
- * The treasurer has done the projections, and the Board and superintendent believe that if the levy is renewed the first time in May of 2009 (and we do not miss a year of collection on our taxes), that we will be able to live within our existing budget for the next five years.
- * The five-year promise applies only if the 1.25% passes in May of 2009 and a year of collection is not missed.
- * The particulars as to how we will accomplish the combination of both of our existing income issues into one issue without increasing collection of taxes will be revealed in the upcoming months. Essentially, however, the Board will pass a resolution next month **right BEFORE the resolution to put this issue on the ballot** -- which will effectively suspend collection of the last year of our already scheduled collection of the ¾ of 1% income tax, so that if the levy passes in May, **there would NOT be duplicate collection for this one year**. Again, this resolution would take effect only if the levy passes in May without a year of collection being missed. (We cannot miss a year of collection on our taxes and make the five-year promise.)
- * In answer to the question, “Why is it being done this way?” – The answer is: For two major reasons: (1) the Board wishes to get away from the cycle of being on the ballot every fourth and fifth year; and (2) to better enable the Board to plan our budget and to live within it for the next 5 years. (It is difficult for the Board to live within its budget when it doesn't know for certain what its budget is.)

If I can answer any questions for you now or in the months ahead, please feel free to contact me at 419-294-2306.

Yours for education,
Ken Doseck, Supt.

South, Union & East Elementary News

SANTA'S HOLIDAY HOEDOWN

This year at South School, the third, fourth, and fifth graders will be putting on a Christmas program at the high school. The program will be held in the high school auditorium on Dec. 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join in on the fun. We have not only Mr. and Mrs. Clause, but also every big name country musician you can think of. Also making a special appearance is Elvis. You will see singing, acting, line dancing, and square dancing this year. Be sure to come see these aspiring new actors!

- Jessica Starnier

SOUTH TAKES AN ISLAND ADVENTURE

The week of November 3rd was South School's Right to Read



Week. This year's theme was "Island Adventures." The students learned about such islands as Great Britain, Japan, Madagascar, and many others. On Monday, Jill Stansbery from the Upper Sandusky Public Library visited

each classroom and

read stories to the students. The students created many great displays showing their island knowledge.

Each day the students celebrated reading by either reading on their own or with a partner. Since we had nice weather, students could be seen reading outside. Each day students were asked a question about an island. They could then read to find the answer to the question.

On Wednesday, the students had a chance to learn about the other islands in the building by having a switch day. The students had short sessions where they made Statue of Liberty hats, origami pandas, and crowns. The week ended on Friday with "dress-as-an-islander-day." We had celebrations in our rooms to finish off the week. We then bid a fond farewell to Right to Read week for another year!

- Alan Lortz, Fourth Grade

EAST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Students at East Elementary are busy preparing for their Christmas music program to be presented on Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. The kindergarten and first grade students are singing traditional Christmas songs such as "Up on the Housetop" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" as well as celebrating the colors of Christmas with the song "Red and Green."

Melting you into the program: It's December, the happiest time of the year. Three children are setting out to visit Santa at the North Pole. Santa has lost the jingle in his heart because he feels that people all over the world have lost the true meaning of Christmas. The elves, reindeer and other characters try to convince Santa that it is not too late. The musical, "Jingle All the Way" will be presented by the second and third grade students. Some songs they will sing include "Whatever Happened to Christmas?" and "Ring the Bells of Christmas."

And finally, the fourth and fifth grade students are presenting the musical "A Storybook Christmas." Santa's workshop is visited by our favorite storybook characters: the Wolf, the Three Little Pigs, and Little Red Riding Hood. But wait! Little Red Riding Hood owns a health food restaurant, the Three Little Pigs are interior decorators and the Wolf is a gourmet chef? What's next? You will have to attend the performance to find out.

To accommodate the many friends and relatives planning to watch the program, guests are invited to attend morning dress rehearsals on Friday, December 12 and Monday, December 15 at 8:45 a.m. This will hopefully give everyone an opportunity to watch these wonderful young people as perform. - Robin Spoons

READING GETS MY VOTE!

This year at Union Elementary we celebrated Right to Read Week with lots of election-themed activities. Each classroom learned about a different US president. At the end of the week, we had a scavenger hunt to search for the things we learned. Each day we had a different thing to wear. We had hat day, button day, "wear-a-shirt-with words day," and "red, white, and blue day." The best was Friday when students wore ties to dress like a president. Each class set goals and kept track of their reading.



At the end of the week, each classroom voted for president in our homemade voting booths, and we had an assembly to celebrate our achievements.

- By Jennifer Ruhlen and Angie Morris

5TH GRADE SCIENCE DEPT.

Fifth grade at Union has been getting used to our new science series. The new series from Macmillan/McGraw-Hill is tailored to meet the objectives of the Ohio Achievement Test. The series has so many resources to enrich the learning experience for the students. There is an online edition of the textbook that students can access from home. There are also online review materials, including games and links to websites for more in-depth information. We are all excited to be using the new materials.

One part of the new science materials that has been challenging is the test. After less than stellar scores, I utilized a type of survey method, a consensogram, which the teachers learned about during our recent training. The students were given nine choices, from which they were to choose their top three things that needed improvement. The top answers were, in order, 1. *Fewer extended response questions*, 2. *Study more at home*, and 3. *More time for the test*. The choices receiving the least amount of voters were 1. *The reading is too hard*, 2. *Mrs. Miller teaches too fast*, and 3. *I don't really understand the material*. From this information, I was able to make some changes to the test to still meet objectives with fewer, but better selected questions. Students learned that they needed to study more at home to do well. I have also started to provide after-school assistance to students who need extra help understanding the material. Hopefully, these changes will help all students to experience success.

- Angie Miller

Middle School Happenings

BUILDING OUR OAT SCORES

Last month I highlighted a number of things that teachers are doing to further enhance our OAT scores. As the year progresses, I see more and more evidence that this staff has taken these scores personally this year.

Not only do the students in Buffy Reinhart's room prepare for the OAT test, but they also get to THINK! Mrs. Reinhart and her class discussed voting procedures and rights. She had all students cast mock votes but only counted some of them. She explained that

in earlier parts of our nation's history, black Americans and women did not have the right to vote. Only white men did.

Students whose votes did not count were upset, so they built upon that. Students wrote an essay from the point of view of someone in earlier times who had not been allowed to vote.

How does this help us? Well, most importantly, it helps our kids THINK. It helps our kids think about more than themselves. It helps our kids problem solve. "Hey, people weren't allowed to vote 200 years ago. That's not right. We need to make sure that never happens again." In the educational environment right now, there appears to be an over emphasis on test preparation. But education works best when kids can THINK, while also learning information for a test.

Such assessments help us OAT wise because one thing we needed to work on is our literary techniques and one of those techniques is recognizing point of view. By asking our kids to produce an essay from someone else's point of view, they are better able to recognize points of view in other stories or articles.

We also have teachers using other forms of media to not only help their kids think but to reach OAT standards.

Mary Brocklesby does a nice unit on the play *Brian's Song*. Now as I'm sure you know, Brian's Song is a classic story about Brian Piccolo, the Chicago Bear who tragically died of Leukemia in the 1960's. It's also a story about a deep personal friendship between him and Gale Sayers.

Mrs. Brocklesby puts a nice twist on it. She has the kids read the play, and while they read, the kids keep track of the characters, the setting, and other various literary techniques in the play. She then asks them to develop a soundtrack for the play. Students (working in teams) must choose three important scenes from the movie, play a song, and tell the class why they chose that song for that scene.

Such activities force our kids to delve deeper into characters and settings and themes while they read. Such lessons strengthen reading skills, specifically in terms of the aforementioned literary strands we are working on. But this activity also does two more things.

First of all, it helps our students work collaboratively in a problem solving scenario. They must work together, read together, listen together, come to a consensus and plan a presentation together. Secondly, such assignments teach them to THINK. Why is this scene here? This is what I would have done differently. I think this scene would work better here.

In a world where it seems like we are creating test takers only, our teachers are also creating thinkers – and I like that!

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

DUKES

DUKES is a reward for 4th and 5th grade students at Union School for students who show the following characteristics:

***Self Control • Respect
Compassion • Fairness***

Each month qualifying students go to East of Chicago on he last Friday of the month for an all-you-can-eat buffet with their teacher and their principal. This months winners are:

4th Grade

Delaney McQuown
Kate Ritchey



5th Grade

Josh Amert
Nathan Rossman
Yushi Okada

JUNIOR ROTARY

Junior Rotary is a youth branch of Rotary International. Each year, several USMS students are members of this service organizations and undertake several community service type projects. In the past the group has:

- assisted with Fantasy of Lights;
- donated rattles to be given to each baby born at Wyandot Memorial Hospital;
- planted trees on the north side of the building in honor of those members of the Union/USMS family that have passed away;
- hosted a bake sale to purchase several gifts for the Angel Tree; and
- hosted an OSU/UM Canned Food Drive for the local food pantry.

This year the members of USMS Junior Rotary are: Logan Pierson, Hannah Smith, Allie Smith, Rowan Ritchey, Courtney Bricely, Jenna Brocklesby, Cassie Schindler, Sierra Miller, Ashley Mullins, Nick Koehler, Ian Baker, Stuart Young, Trent Howard, Brennan Miller, Shin Nagahoma, Logan Newell, and Tyler Toland.

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

8TH GRADE READING

For the next several weeks, eighth grade reading students will be studying the Newberry Medal Award Winning historical fiction novel Johnny Tremain. Johnny Tremain, written by Esther Forbes, is about a teenage silversmith apprentice during Revolutionary War times in Boston. Real historical figures and events are intertwined with an exciting fictional story. The money to buy 100 copies of this novel was received by writing a grant to the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. The novel is truly a cross-curricular experience for the students as it ties in nicely with their American History class.

- Jason Zeller - 8th Grade Reading

GETTYSBURG For 8th Grade 2009

Once again our 8th grade class at Union Middle School is planning a trip to Gettysburg and Antietam Battlefields and Shanksville, PA, the site of the 9-11 crash of Flight 93. Our trip will take place the last three days of the school year, June 2, 3, and 4 of 2009. All year, the students and teachers work toward this trip with fund raising and learning. We will be taking approximately 140 students and 60 adults, both teachers & chaperones.

The cost of the trip this year is \$225 for students and \$230 for adults. Payment dates are Nov. 14, Jan. 23, and Feb. 27.

Several fund raisers are planned to help students pay for their trip. The first is the collection of General Mills Box Tops, due October 24th. Second is the sale of candles made by our own 8th grade parent Cathy McKee. Third is the sale of McDonald's coupons, and a fourth includes our plans to have a chicken BBQ dinner in February. Additionally, there is a fund at the Recycling Center in Wyandot County where you can request that your aluminum can money goes toward the general fund of our trip. Businesses and individuals have also been graciously donating funds to help us out. We appreciate this very much as it is indeed a very worthwhile educational experience.

We will again use the tour company Lakefront Lines, Inc. Places we will visit in Gettysburg include: the cemetery, visitor's center, Shriver House, the Abe Lincoln Drama, the Civil War Wax Museum, and a 2-hour guided tour of the battlefield. Four meals and the hotel room are also included in the cost.

This year, if a student is in need of financial help, we ask that they complete a simple "scholarship form" found in my classroom. We are requiring those students who receive financial aid for the trip to complete 5 hours of community service, help with or participate in at least one of our fund raisers, and contribute a minimum of \$10.

If there are any questions, or if anyone would like to contribute financially to this event, please call Union School at 419-294-5721, or contact this e-mail address: minehart_c@treca.org.

- Carol Minehart

STUDENTS VISIT SR. CENTER

On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, four students from the Union Middle School Newspaper staff, *Rampages*, and their advisor, Mrs. Amy Wood, visited the Senior Citizen's Center for the Veteran's Day celebration. Luke Miller, Alexis Schwilk, Brennen Miller, and Angela Massara assisted at the center by serving lunch to the seniors. During the luncheon, Angela Massara and Luke Miller read a story entitled *Across the Blue Pacific* by Louise Borden, a story about a girl whose neighbor perishes while serving on the *USS Albacore* during World War II. The *Rampages* staff members were honored to serve the community veterans on such an important day. Everyone enjoyed the visit, and the *Rampages* staff was invited to return next year for a similar presentation.

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

VETERAN'S DAY

We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence among those who would do harm to us. – George Orwell

Throughout the month of September and October we debated politics. We put yard signs up. We analyzed. We argued. We went door to door. We made phone calls. We hung up on political calls. We told those people knocking on the door that we didn't want to talk. Or that we supported the other candidate or the other view.

We wrote letters to the editor. We made impassioned pleas to anyone who would listen about why they should vote yes, no, Democrat, Republican or Independent. We argued some more.

Then we made up. On November 4, we watched a set of historic election returns. We saw other countries watch in jealousy that we all had a voice in this historic election. We saw the reaction across the world when the decision was announced.

And what did we think when the election was over? How millions of brave men and women gave their hearts, souls, minds, bodies, and in some cases, their lives so we could continue to do what we did this fall. Mothers lost sons. Wives lost husbands. Children lost fathers. For us. So we could argue and debate and write those letters and go door-to-door and make those impassioned pleas. And most importantly, so we could go to polls on November 4. All of us, doctors, lawyers, teachers, farmers, construction workers, young, old, black, white, rich, poor. We all were equal that day because we got one vote each. It is humbling when you think about it. Your next door neighbor may have gone to Vietnam, Germany, Japan, or some other foreign nation in order to protect the things we sometimes take for granted.

Each year at USMS we take part in a small but important program as we invite several of those rough and ready men and women to a luncheon in their honor on the Friday preceding Veteran's Day. This year on November 7, 2008, USMS proudly welcomed the following service men and women into their midst for a luncheon and a program to honor their service and bravery.

Tara Baliet	Pam Moebius
Mike Hare	Ruth Reier
Steve Hill	Jim Miller
Melvin Lowmaster	Jim Richman
George Eyestone	David Wagner
Rosie Hawkins	Rich Landversicht
Tom Hill	Rick Moebius
Bob Hollandshead	Bob Hill
John Ulrich	Cliff Davis
Catherine Gillen	Leonard Beekman
Clyde Shull	George Kreachbaum

It is because of these men and women and so many more, that we live, and will continue to live, in the greatest country on earth.

I would also be remiss on an important day like this to not mention the others who helped this day come together.

- Terra Balliet and Mike Hare at the Veteran's Service Organization – they always go to the corners of the county to

find us veterans to honor.

- Our Work and Family Life Teacher Connie Davis hosts the luncheon in her room each year. Her services and her cooperation are paramount to the annual success of this day.
- Mike Walton who comes in early that morning to set up cones for our guests so they can have a safe, comfortable parking space within easy walking distance of the building.
- Carol Minehart's 8th grade history class, which write thank you letters to our veterans in appreciation for their service and sharing their experiences with us.
- USMS teachers, who spend time before this day talking about what our veterans have done for us and preparing students to ask pertinent, in-depth questions about their service.

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

VETERAN'S DAY DISPLAY



I thought I would do a display for Veteran's Day in honor of my father who passed away almost two years ago. I had asked my dad to be a guest speaker about four years ago for the Veteran's Day activity that we do here at the middle school. He did not feel comfortable talking about his experiences in Korea to the students. My dad would only talk about certain parts of what he did and what he drove in Korea when I would watch war movies with him. I tried to ask my dad some

questions about his experiences in Korea, but my mom said not to ask him those questions. Now my dad has passed away and some of the questions are being answered about his time in Korea through items we found in his basement.

My dad (Harry Fett) served in Korea with the U.S. Marines from October 5, 1952 - October 1, 1953 as a Tank Crewman. He also served in the U.S. Navy from 1949 - 1951.

My mom gave me pictures of my dad and other family members that served in the military from WWII - just before the current Iraq war. Some of the items that were on display were photos of my dad, my uncles, great uncles, a grandfather, and a cousin. My dad had a lot of Korean money and still even had some military script (money). Also displayed were my dad's Honorable discharges from the Navy and the Marines, his military medals, and his dog tags from WWII, a re-enlistment letter, a Marine's Handbook from Korea, a War Ration book from WWII, bullet shells, a Marine pin, and an American Flag in a case from the U.S. Marine military funeral that we gave my dad. I was always very close with my dad and now am finding out more about his military career. I just wish I could have learned more before he passed away. I encourage you to talk to a veteran in your family or a veteran you meet at a Veteran's Day Celebration. Just listen and I'm sure you will learn something you didn't know.

- Mr. Jeff Fett

ELECTION

What an exciting and historic election we just experienced!

USMS was a very active participant this year. We know our kids can't vote, but we wanted to plant a seed. We wanted them to know that in a very short time, they will be casting a vote, and they should start preparing for that day now. I think we also did a nice job of reminding them to tell their parents to vote, too, which was a nice off shoot.

Everyone knows about our street fair, which had a wonderful turnout, but there are other things we got our kids involved with.

- On two occasions our students distributed Rock the Vote literature to eligible voters. We spent time in downtown Upper Sandusky the Saturday morning of October 11 and also spent a few hours passing out the literature to both Upper Sandusky and Fostoria fans at the last football game.
- Twenty-eight of our students accompanied 8th Grade History Teacher Carol Minehart and me to a roundtable discussion at the Ohio Historical Society in September, based on Ohio's role in the election.
- Two things that came out of the OHS visit may have made my year. Eighth grade student Allie Smith asked me the next day how she could get involved with a campaign. I put her in touch with local Republican Party Chairman Sherm Stansberry. Allie worked at the annual pork chop dinner. Sherm was so impressed with her, he offered to take her to see Sarah Palin at the University of Findlay. What an honor it was for her to not only meet Governor Palin but to shake her hand and get her autograph! Along those lines, Wade Rakes from Governor Strickland's office complimented our kids when he appeared at our street fair. He said he had heard good things about our kids at the roundtable discussion. He wasn't even there! Word of our kids and their interest had spread to the Governor's office!
- I was humbly honored to represent our students and to be able to sit in on a roundtable discussion with US Senator Sherrrod Brown to discuss, among other things, the state of No Child Left Behind.
- Art Teacher Jeff Fett had kids produce election posters for their candidates and displayed them in the hallway.



- Fourth Grade Social Studies Teacher Kelly Gelinas had kids print their own "For President" posters and displayed them in the hallway.
- Students got to participate in a mock election,

where each classroom in the building was assigned a state and its electoral votes. For example, the bus garage was assigned Washington DC, Mrs. Minehart's home base was assigned California, etc. We kept track and were able to show the students the difference between the popular vote and the electoral vote.

- Twice teachers came to me and said they overheard kids talking about the election. Our Cross Country Coach Jeff Fett told me he heard his athletes having an intelligent discussion about who they would vote for on the way home from their last meet. Fourth Grade Teacher Kelly Gelinas also told me she overheard a group 4th graders having an animated discussion about who should be our next President.

We also asked our students to participate in a mock vote on November 3. One can usually use the school's mock election vote as an accurate precursor to the actual vote. Ours was very similar.

Barack Obama won the electoral vote 380-158, compared to the nationwide electoral vote 349-162. He also won the popular vote 454-435, or 51%, which was also fairly close to the national vote.

We also asked the kids to vote on the rest of the issues and candidates they had studied over the last month. Results:

- US Representative District 5 – Bob Latta
 - State Senator District 26 – Thomas Cruse
 - State Representative District 82 – Jeff McClain
 - Wyandot County Commissioner – Joe Kraus and Steve Seitz
- Our kids also voted down the casino issue.

I love my job at USMS, but at times like this, I truly appreciate how lucky I am not only to work here, but to also live in a country that allows us to do this. We have all shown and been exposed to the divergent opinions during this election season, and I'm proud of the way our kids participated learning experiences.

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

PAM STENZEL

We are pleased to announce that nationally renowned speaker Pam Stenzel will be in Upper Sandusky on December 10 and 11. On December 10 she will also be speaking at John Stewart United Methodist Church at 7:00 PM.

On December 11, she will speak to the students at Upper Sandusky High School and USMS. She is also scheduled to speak to students at Carey High School.

Pam has appeared throughout the country and has been a guest on *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher*, *The Dr. Laura Show* and *Hannity and Colmes*. Most recently, Pam spoke at Wynford and Mohawk High Schools last spring.

Pam Stenzel helps youth tackle the tough issues of responsible decision-making with candor, insight, humor and challenge. You are invited to hear her captivating message as she speaks to teens about the "abstinence advantage." Her message will help teens as they develop their character.

Pam's appearance was funded in part via a Drug Free Schools Grant and also with financial assistance from John Stewart United Methodist Church, Trinity Evangelical, the Community Christian Center, the Carey Fest, the OLC Carey, and the Rosary Altar Society of the Transfiguration of the Lord Church here in Upper Sandusky.
- Jim Wheeler, Principal

FCCLA

The Union Middle School FCCLA kicked off the first semester of the Cookie Company with their Spooky Halloween Grand Opening Sale the week of October 13. This the first of 5 theme sales this semester. Next was the election sale, where students voted for their favorite candidate by placing their raffle ticket in the container representing their candidate. They have also renamed 2 of the cookies: the Obama obsession and the McCain white chocolate macadamia nut. Soon will be the OSU vs. Michigan week, again using a ticket vote. Drawings will be held for OSU and Michigan gear. December brings the Christmas sale and drawings for special Christmas ornaments. Finally, our last sale of the semester brings in the new year.

The kids have brought change to the company (in its 12th year) by hiding free cookie cards in bags of cookies and holding a drawing at the end of the week for fun prizes - like the oversized candy bars and Tootsie Rolls at the end of the Halloween sale. All of this, and learning how to make a profit, too! After each sale we take a day to do what we call "The Dr. Phil" or to ask, "How's that working for you?" At that point the students look where we started with working capital, what we had for expenses/what we brought in, in order to see what kind of profit we have made. Students find out that even though they brought in \$648.75, they only made a profit of \$208.16 after paying for the dough and prizes. Overall, they were satisfied, but next time they plan to lower their expenditure for prizes.
- Connie Davis

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Indiana Jones, watch out! Third graders in all three elementary schools have been studying archaeology and had an actual dig to look for artifacts.

Learning the process of archaeology, tools, and types of artifacts that may be found, have kept third graders busy for several weeks. Pieces of pottery, shells, arrowheads, bones, and coins are some of the artifacts discovered when digging in tubs of sand that Enrichment Teacher Jill Eyestone brought to class.

Like all scientists, the students kept record of the type and number of artifacts found. They also made bar graphs to show the results. Later students wrote paragraphs telling of their experiences and what they had discovered.
- Jill Eyestone



High School Events

USHS will be open to Senior Citizens from 3:00-5:00 p.m. each day for indoor walking. Seniors are welcome to use the high school facility on days school is in session. The building will be closed when school is not in session.

The school year is moving along quickly with Christmas vacation just a few weeks away. USHS will be closed two-weeks with no school for students from December 22-January 2. School will be back in session January 5, 2009. Following are important dates for December at USHS:

December 1 Financial Aid Information Night: USHS Gym @ 6:00 p.m.
December 4 Sentinel Program Presentations
December 5 Interim Grades
December 8 Blood Mobile: USHS Gym @ 7:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.
FFA Meeting: USHS Café @ 5:00 p.m.
Ram Boosters Meeting: USHS Library @ 7:00 p.m.
December 10 Wyandot County Leadership: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
December 11 Speaker Pam Stenzel: USHS Gym @ 8:15 a.m.
South School Assembly: USHS Auditorium @ 6:30 p.m.
December 14 High School Christmas Concert: USHS Gym @ 2:30 p.m.
December 22-31 NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS VACATION
January 1-2 NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS VACATION
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- Jim Clifford, Principal

USHS STUDENTS-OF-THE-MONTH

Our congratulations go out to the students who have been selected by the high school staff as students of the month. These students are chosen for outstanding qualities, such as positive attitude, improved academics, academic achievement, and community-school involvement. Each student receives a certificate from the Lions Club and coupons from area businesses.

October 2008

Senior: Kelly Bennett Junior: Erin Rife
Sophomore: Haley Fruth Freshman: Taylor Flowers
- Jim Clifford, Principal

JUNIOR AND SENIOR NEWS

It is hard to believe that the first grading period is already over and we are looking towards Christmas break! Although I have sent out many college applications already, I know that there are still MANY students out there that plan to attend college that have not applied anywhere yet. Please encourage your student to get their applications in before Christmas break. Many colleges have scholarship and application deadlines in December, we don't want our students missing out on any available money!! Also, we have been receiving word of new scholarships on a regular basis, so students should be checking the guidance office weekly to see what has come in. Our book of local scholarships should be available by the beginning of December. Students often have a better chance than they think at getting scholarship money. Some scholarships only get a couple applicants, and they rarely require that much extra time to apply for. I think anyone would agree that \$250, \$500, or even \$1000 would be well worth an hour or two spent on an application!

As always, please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns at 419-294-2308 or cara_s@treca.org.
- Cara Stevens, Guidance

FRESHMEN NEWS

Freshmen students in the computer applications class will review the on-line Ohio Career Information System (OCIS) which they began in the 8th grade. The OCIS is a Internet-based career and information planning system, which can be accessed during student's entire career life. Once students have developed a user name and password, if they choose do so, they can use OCIS to compile important academic and career information. Please

contact the guidance department if you have questions regarding the OCIS program.
- Barb Norman, Guidance

SOPHMORES

The PLAN test was given to 33 students in the sophomore class on November 13th. This is a pre-test for the ACT, covering the same subjects, and gives an estimated ACT score. PLAN also:

- lets students know if they are on track for college;
- points out academic strengths and areas to improve; and
- helps find careers to match student interests.

The approximate arrival of test results to the high school will be the first part of December.

Sentinel Guidance Counselor Bev Willman will be presenting program information to sophomores in the English classes on December 4th. At that time students will be given a video preview of Sentinel programs and asked to choose two programs they would like to tour during the Sophomore Sentinel Tour on January 26th.
- Barb Norman, Guidance

SADD ACTIVITIES/RED RIBBON WEEK

The USHS Chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) recently held activities for Red Ribbon Week. The themes were "Our Mission is Possible to Live in a Drug-Free Community" and "Be a Hero Everyday, Be Drug Free." Information was given everyday about the negative effects of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use on the body. On the fun side, however, students and staff were permitted to dress as twins, in red, and in costumes. One day the classes all dressed in class colors, while the staff all dressed in black to show that they were sad about students making destructive decisions and using wrongful substances. Several prizes were given out to participating students throughout the week. Alternative activity options and positive promotions were posted around the school to encourage better decision-making.
- Julia Massara

2008 USHS Fall Sport All-League First Team Athletes

The USHS Athletic Department would like to congratulate all of our Fall Sport All-League First Team athletes!

Cross Country – Halee Stief
Tennis – Jordan Coakley and Olivia Frey (2nd Place
Doubles Champions)
Boys Soccer – Derrick Skillman
Volleyball – Alyssa Graboski

Thank you, student athletes, for all your hard work and representing our school with "class" during the fall sports season!
- Brad Ehrman, A.D.

"RESPECT THE GAME!"

The Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Department is excited about the upcoming winter sports season as girls basketball, boys basketball, cheerleading, swimming and wrestling take center stage. We are looking forward to exciting and successful seasons from all of our winter sports teams.

We ask our fans to please display good sportsmanship while attending our winter athletic events. It is important to respect all participants, coaches, officials, and fans in attendance. Good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity are all cornerstones of the Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Department and we are proud of the fine sportsmanship and character that our athletes continually display. We encourage our athletes to compete with "class," while displaying the highest level of sportsmanship, so we ask that you "respect the game" while you support our student athletes with your attendance at events.

We thank you for your continued support of all our athletic teams and our athletic department at Upper Sandusky High School! You are the best and most loyal fans in the state!

- Brad Ehrman, A.D.

USHS BAND & CHOIR NEWS

Costumes On Parade

It was all treats and no tricks for the Marching Ram Band on Thursday, October 30th, as we performed during the 2008 Halloween Parade. Our students certainly dressed the part as we made our way through town. Thanks to everyone in the parade and along the route who made it a great night!

Greenery Delivery

Orders for holiday greenery (wreaths, garland, poinsettias, etc.) will be delivered to USHS on Tuesday, December 2. If you placed an order for greenery with a USHS music student, you should expect to see your items arriving shortly! If you have questions, contact Mr. Headings or Mr. Morris at the high school.

USHS Christmas Concert

Mark your calendar to join the USHS Bands and choirs as we present our 2008 Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14th at 2:30 p.m. This free concert, filled with sounds of the season, will surely include a few of your favorites as we play and sing music ranging from serious to comical. Don't be left standing out in the cold. Come share some holiday cheer and see the work your award-winning students have done!

Be sure to visit the USHS Band and Choir websites for pictures, calendars, and up-to-date information about everything in the music department!

<http://web.me.com/ushsramband>
<http://web.me.com/ushschoirs>



Please Support the Upper Sandusky Academic Boosters

The Academic Booster club has been in existence for 10 years. The purpose of our club is to provide support and recognition to students in all areas of academic achievement. Below are some of the items the Academic Boosters provide support for in the Upper Sandusky Schools:

2008-2009

Membership Categories

\$10.00	Orange
\$25.00	Black
\$50.00	Silver
\$100.00	Gold
\$500 or more	Platinum

1. High School Chenille Academic Letters
2. Elementary Proficiency Test Breakfast
3. Muddy Buddy Program
4. High School Quiz Bowl
5. 6th & 7th Grade NWEA Testing Program
6. Enrichment Robotics Program
7. Valedictorian & Salutatorian Scholarship
8. 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Incentive Programs

Officers: President Connie Hildebrand, Vice President Toni Courtright, Secretary Tammy Clifford, and Treasurer Elaine Tschanen



----- Please complete and return the form below along with your donation. -----

_____ Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Upper Sandusky Academic Boosters.

_____ Yes, I would like to serve as a committee member.

* Name _____

** Please list name as you would like it to appear in the High School Honor's Program*

Address _____

**Please make checks payable to:
Upper Sandusky Academic Boosters**

Mail to:
US Academic Boosters
Upper Sandusky High School
800 N. Sandusky Ave.
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

DECEMBER 2008

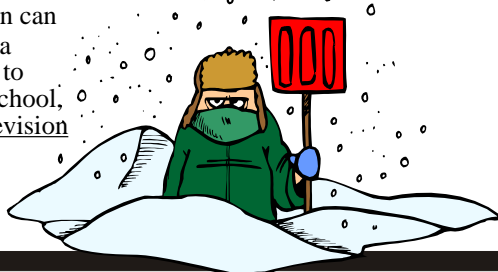
District Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>EAST</u> Collection of Soft Goods for Wyandot County Humane Society - collecting until Dec. 8 <u>USMS</u> Girls BKB - Norwalk H - 4:30 pm <u>USHS</u> 5:30pm C JV/V Swim @ Colonel Crawford Financial Aid Info 6:00pm	2 <u>USHS</u> 6:00pm G JV/V BKB Colonel Crawford	3 <u>USHS</u> Interims	4 <u>USMS</u> Girls BKB - Bellevue A - 4:30 pm	5 Christmas Parade - 5:30 MS & HS Bands <u>EAST</u> Grade 2 to visit Humane Society <u>SOUTH</u> Picture Retakes <u>USHS</u> 6:00pm B BO BKB @ Wynford	6 <u>USMS</u> Wrestling - East of Chicago Classic - 10 am <u>USHS</u> 1:00pm G JV/V BKB Norwalk 6:00pm B JV/V BKB Elgin 6:00pm B JV/V WR @ Buckeye Central w/ Riverdale
7	8 <u>USMS</u> Girls BKB - Fostoria H - 4:30 pm Boys BKB - Fostoria A - 4:30 pm	9 <u>EAST</u> Open House 6:30-7:30 PM <u>UNION</u> K-3 Christmas Program - 7:00 pm <u>USHS</u> 4:00pm C JV/V Swim @ Bucyrus YMCA 5:00pm B FR BKB Norwalk 6:00 pm G JV/V BKB @ Fostoria	10 <u>EAST</u> Interim reports	11 <u>SOUTH</u> 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Christmas Program <u>USMS</u> Girls BKB - Tiffin H - 4:30 pm Boys BKB - Tiffin A - 4:30 pm <u>USHS</u> 6:00pm B JV/V BKB @ Tiffin Columbian	12 <u>EAST</u> Holiday Program Dress Rehearsal - 8:45 am <u>USHS</u> 6:00pm G JV/V BKB Willard	13 <u>EAST</u> Recycling 8:30-10:30 am <u>USMS</u> Wrestling - Mohawk Little Warrior - 10 am <u>USHS</u> 6:00pm B JV/V WR @ Bucyrus Inv. 6:00pm B JV/V BKB Norwalk
14 <u>USHS</u> Christmas Band & Choir Concert - 2:30 pm	15 <u>EAST</u> Holiday Program Dress Rehearsal - 8:45 am Program - 7:00 pm <u>USMS</u> Girls BKB - Willard A - 4:30 pm Boys BKB - Willard H - 4:30 pm	16 <u>USMS</u> 7-8 Christmas Band & Choir Concert - 7:00 pm <u>USHS</u> 5:00pm B FR BKB @ Fostoria 5:00 pm C JV/V Swim @ Marion 6:00pm G JV/V BKB Hopewell Loudon	17	18 <u>USMS</u> Girls BKB - Shelby H - 4:30 pm Boys BKB - Shelby A - 4:30 pm <u>USHS</u> 5:00pm B FR BKB @ Shelby 6:30pm B JV/V WR Carey/ Plymouth	19 <u>USHS</u> 6:00pm B JV/V BKB Fostoria	20 <u>USMS</u> Wrestling - Willard Duals - TBA <u>USHS</u> 9:00am C JV/V Swim @ Toledo St. Francis DeSales Inv. 1:00pm G JV/V BKB @ Shelby 6:00pm B JV/V BKB @ Carey
21	22 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Christmas Vacation <u>USHS</u> 5:00pm B FR BKB Willard	23 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Christmas Vacation <u>USHS</u> 6:00pm G JV/V BKB Bellevue	24 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Christmas Vacation	25 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Christmas Vacation	27 <u>USHS</u> 10:00am C BO Swim @ U of Findlay w/Findlay / Fostoria (Sink Natatorium) 6:00pm B JV/V BKB Willard
28	29 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Christmas Vacation <u>USHS</u> 11:00am B FR BKB Tiffin Columbian 12:00pm B JV/V WR @ Wendy's Inv. @ Tiffin Columbian 6:00pm B JV/V BKB Bucyrus	30 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Christmas Vacation <u>USMS</u> Wrestling - Huron Duals - TBA <u>USHS</u> 10:00am B JV/V WR @ Wendy's Inv. @ Tiffin Columbian 11:00 am B FR BKB Wynford 6:00 pm G JV/V BKB @ Galion	31 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> Christmas Vacation	School is back in session on January 4, 2009		

WEATHER DELAY/CLOSING PROCEDURES

TWO HOUR DELAY means report to bus stop or pick-up point two hours later than usual. High School classes will begin at 9:50 a.m. Middle School and all Elementary Schools start at 9:55 a.m.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL TO CHECK ON SCHOOL DELAYS. Open phone lines are needed to receive input from bus drivers and law enforcement agencies so that a wise and informed decision can be made. When a decision is made to delay or cancel school, the radio and television stations are the first to be notified.



The following stations will make the announcements:

WTOL TV 11
WTVG TV 13
WNWO TV 24
ONN
WYNT (Upper Sandusky) 95.9
WXML (Upper Sandusky) 90.1
WDIF-WMRN (Marion) 94.3
WKXA (Findlay) 100.5
WKTN (Kenton) 95.3

ATHLETIC DELAYS

When school is closed due to weather, evening sports contests are sometimes held if the weather conditions subside during the day. Therefore, decisions about evening events are usually made sometime after 1:00 p.m., and announcements are broadcast over the local television station. (See note below).



For more information about school events and activities, please watch WRAM TV 22 or visit our web site at www.upper sandusky.k12.oh.us



Upper Sandusky
Exempted Village Schools

800 North Sandusky Ave., Suite A
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

*Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
Upper Sandusky
OH 43351*

Local Postal Patron