



# Upper Sandusky Schools

Superintendent's Office  
 390 W. Walker St. • Upper Sandusky, OH 43351  
 (419) 294-2306

## Newsletter

December 2001

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*Curriculum Coordinator*

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### PEACE CORPS ENGLISH CENTER PROJECT

Do you have a children's book or a book for a young reader you would like to donate? If you do, the Upper Sandusky Rotary Club could use your help.

Teresa Sakash, a Wyandot County native, is currently in Madagascar as a Peace Corps worker. She is assisting her village, Ambato Boeni, develop an English Center. The village is about the size of Upper Sandusky and is located in a very arid region of Madagascar. Madagascar is a large island off the east coast of Africa. There is no telephone service, no medical services, and only a few families have electricity in Ambato Boeni. Madagascar is one of the world's poorer countries, but its people are interested in learning English as a secondary language to improve their opportunities.

Where does Upper Sandusky fit into this equation? We can help this village develop an English Language Center. The center would be a small library of books and learning materials to assist children and young adults in developing their English skills. The project has the backing of the Peace Corps through a grant. You can help by donating a children's book for use in the Center. The book can be hardback or paperback, new or used, but in good condition.

You can send the book donation to school with your child from January 7 - 18, 2002. The Upper Sandusky Rotary Club will pick up the books at the office of each school.

### NEW ADDITION AT HIGH SCHOOL

If work continues as planned, the new addition should be ready for occupancy at the beginning of the second semester. There could be a possibility of teachers moving some items into the addition over Christmas break, but use of the new classrooms will not start until after January 11.

The addition of 4 classrooms will give all teachers with a full schedule at the High School an assigned classroom and limit the amount of "traveling" between classrooms that several teachers are doing now. The changes in room assignments are as follows:

Room #112	Keith Miller	<i>New music area:</i>
Room #114	Patricia Niederkohr	Room #500 Nichole Miller & David Headings
Room #118	Jane Stephan	Room #501 Kristine Gottfried
Room #307	Scott Barnett	Room #502 Scott Elchert
Room #315A	Mark Albert	Room #503 Connie Miller
Room #315B	Delores Graham	Room #504 Christine Lininger
Room #401	Cara Giles	

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### January

- 3 School Resumes
- 11 Second 9-Weeks Ends
- 12 East Recycling
- 14 School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., High School Library
- 21 **NO SCHOOL**, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 26 H.S. Solo & Ensemble Contest
- 26 Marseilles Recycling



*Happy  
 Holidays!*

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.



## MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISITS FAIRHAVEN RESIDENTS



It's Christmas time and to celebrate that fact, the students of Marseilles Elementary School performed their Christmas program to a packed school on Thursday, December 13. The students did an excellent job during the concert, so the teachers and principal decided to spread the Christmas cheer. Students were taken to Fairhaven to share the program with residents. The residents enjoyed the songs performed by the fourth and fifth graders on Friday, December 14. On Wednesday, the younger students performed for them. It is hoped that the children's renditions of many old favorite Christmas songs made Christmas a little merrier for the people at Fairhaven.

## READING PROFICIENCY AND THE FOURTH GRADE GUARANTEE

The State of Ohio has revised the Fourth Grade Proficiency Test schedule, criteria, and implications. This school year we have three categories for student results. The first is "below basic" which means the student has not passed the Proficiency Test and the results indicate the possibility of a significant reading problem. The next is the "basic level." This designation means that a student has not demonstrated proficiency and still needs intervention assistance. The final category is the "proficient level." This means the student has demonstrated mastery over the "fourth grade" reading skills as determined by the state test.

Starting this year, students will have three opportunities to reach the "proficient" level. The test is administered in October, March and in the summer. Students testing at the "proficient" level do not have to take the test again. Students scoring at the basic and below basic level will. Only the "proficient" scores from the October and March test count toward the district report card score.

This issue becomes more complicated than just a test score. A "proficient" student can be promoted to fifth grade. A "basic" student may be promoted to fifth grade after intervention. A fourth grade student scoring in the "below basic" range of the Fourth Grade Reading Test will be retained in Fourth Grade unless the following criteria are met. The reading teacher and the principal agree that the student has the necessary skills to be promoted to fifth grade after completing an intensive intervention program OR the parent signs an informed consent to place the child in fifth grade after the child has participated in a district approved or other pre-approved intervention program.

A special needs student may be exempted from the Proficiency Test if their Individual Educational Plan (IEP) specifically addresses the issue. They do, however, participate in other assessments.

As you can see, being a fourth grader just became more complicated. Our district is working hard to provide students the opportunities to be successful and we consider reading a key part of this success.

## MORNING WITH SANTA

This year's Morning with Santa was a huge success with over 40 students (with their parents or grandparents) attending. They made many different crafts and also had refreshments. We also had a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus and his elves and reindeer. The South Parent Team would like to send a BIG "Thank You" to all the FEA members who came to help. It was a great day of fun and we couldn't have done it without you! The South Parent Team also extends their thanks to everyone who came out to make it such a success. Happy Holidays from all of us!  
- SouthParent Team



## MRS. HINESMAN'S THIRD GRADE UNION ELEMENTARY

We have been busy bees in the third grade. In language arts, we have read a chapter book and a story from our reading book about the Titanic. Right now we are finishing up our personal narratives and typing them on the computer. Some of the boys and girls have had very interesting experiences! The stories are fun to read!

We made Christmas crafts last week which turned out great!

In science, beetles were born in the classroom. We were lucky enough to observe their life cycle. Now, we have snails on our desks to watch and learn about. The topic we are studying is habitats.

In math, the students have started learning their multiplication facts. It is awesome to see their eagerness and excitement to learn their multiplication facts. We are getting very good at story problems and writing about math.

In social studies, we have learned where and why communities form. The government of communities is next on the agenda.

The third graders and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## ANIMAL PROJECTS

The fifth graders at East Elementary are becoming animal experts. The students have read books, magazines, encyclopedias, and on-line sources to learn more about their favorite animal. They kept notes and are using this information to write, type and publish research reports. Siting their sources in a bibliography was easy with the help of a web site. In order to share what they have learned with the rest of the class, they are creating hyperstudio stacks complete with pictures and sounds. To culminate our unit of study on animals, the class will be treated to a special presentation sponsored by OSU called "Inquiry, Scientists and the Environment." If you have any questions about animals, ask a fifth grader from East.



Pictured are: Jessica Brown, Caitlin Long, and Collyn Weaver using the computer.

## CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at East Elementary. The fifth graders have been glyphing gingerbread boys for a bulletin board and snowmen ornaments for a Christmas tree. You may even find the perfect glyph gift under our tree. The students are enjoying reading "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, which takes place in a nineteenth century village. Our homemade village is similar but is made of gingerbread houses constructed with many geometric shapes. To share the joy of the season, the third, fourth and fifth graders



Pictured are: Caleb Keckler, Cassie Walton, Ashleigh Kline, and Seth Miller with their gingerbread houses.

## TIME TRAVELERS

The second graders at East visited the Wyandot County Historical Museum and one room school house as part of our Social Studies. Mrs. Raber took the students on a tour of the museum and Mrs. Leeth spoke about what the children learned in school and did for fun long ago. Mrs. Spillis came from Napoleon and showed how the Indians used every bit of the animals they hunted. Students enjoyed being pioneers, at least for a short time.

A walk through the Indian Trail Caverns showed artifacts found in this area from prehistoric times. Many were amazed at the animals that once lived where we are now.

A quick trip to space in the planetarium took us to the future! Students pondered the possibility of living among the stars while finding common constellations and witnessing a meteor shower.

In preparation for our illustrator's visit in February, the students went to the Mazza Gallery in Findlay to see original artwork from children's literature. East School is part of the Extension Program and has sponsored artwork in the gallery.



Mazza recently received the cover artwork for the book "Uncle James" by Marc Harshman, illustrated by Michael Dooling.

For Christmas, second graders will put on Reader's Theater for parents, other classes, and the residents at the County Home. Students will also give gifts and hugs to the grandmas and grandpas staying there.

The children are busy doing chores at home to earn money. Math class will include counting the money to buy Christmas presents for the Angel Tree. Students hope to make Christmas even better by remembering to share their good fortune with others.

To see pictures and read more about what we are doing in second grade at East Elementary School, please visit our website at <http://www.upp sandusky.k12.oh.us/east/eastgr2/>.

## RECYCLING INKJET CARTRIDGES

The last two years all schools in the district have participated in a project to save our environment. We are recycling our empty inkjet printer cartridges. We encourage all of you to help us by simply saving your empty inkjet cartridge, placing it in a small plastic bag, and sending it to school with your child. Each building has a container to collect these.

If any businesses or industries in the community are interested in participating, please feel free to call East School at (419) 294-2396.

-Mike Courtad, East School Principal

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Jean Fox

**Title:** Special Education Teacher/Resource Room Teacher

**Building:** Upper Sandusky High School

**Years with Upper Sandusky Schools:** 3rd year

**Favorite Part of My Job:** The students. They always have a unique way of looking at things.

**I Love to:** Shop!!

**Last Book Read:** "7 Kinds of Smart"

**Last Good Movie:** "Frequency"

**Favorite Hobby:** Cooking

**Favorite Place to Visit:** Mackinac Island, Michigan

**Family:** Husband, Robert; dog "child" Mac, 3 mth old husky

Recently married on June 23, 2001. In March 2001 we began completely remodeling our new home. The house has been in my husband's family since the 1870's.

Graduate of Mohawk High School; University of Toledo, Bachelor's Degree; University of Findlay, Master's Degree.



## MENTORING PROGRAM

The first year teachers with Upper Sandusky Schools are involved in a new state mandated program called "Mentoring." All first year teachers are assigned a "mentor" or advisor to help them through their first year challenges. The mentors have had extensive training in the four domains of planning, classroom environment, instructional goals, and teacher professionalism. Their job is to guide and advise the EYT (entry year teacher) through these areas to make the first year a smooth transition. The Upper Sandusky School system already has many of the suggested programs under operation. Entry year teachers are required to document all lesson plans with an objective from the course of study. This provides a framework for why the teacher is planning to do any and all activities in the classroom. Classroom management procedures and policies were suggested by the mentoring program. These are also being implemented in many of our schools. It is the program's goal to make EYT's first year as successful as possible!

## ORNAMENTS FOR MUSEUM TREE



Third and fourth grade students at Marseilles School participated in the Wyandot County Museum's Christmas Open House by creating ornaments for a tree. Each student made a gingerbread man ornament for the tree and decorated it with chocolate chips, red hots, and a variety of other materials. They enjoyed creating their own unique ornament for this community event.

The tree was located in the Indian room at the museum. On Thursday, December 13, the tree was displayed in the Marseilles School's gymnasium for the Christmas Program "*Joyous Traditions.*"

## OHIO READS GRANT

Union and Marseilles will be receiving Ohio Reads Grants. The grant to Union will be \$60,000 total for two years. The Marseilles grant will be \$52,334 for two years.

Union will use a significant portion of their grant to purchase a permanent site license for the "Fast Forward" language arts intervention software. Marseilles will be investing in assistive technology called Leap Pad and Leap Frog. This program is intended for kindergarten and first graders. It will serve as a lead in for the Reading Academy software.

The district has also received Ohio Read Volunteer Coordinator funding, \$2,000 each for South, Marseilles and Union.

## DECA FUNDRAISER

The high school DECA marketing club held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on December 3 at Finger's Corner Restaurant, located on U.S. Route 30 between Upper Sandusky and Bucyrus. Thirty-seven junior and senior marketing education students participated by selling tickets, advertising the event, preparing promotional materials and serving in a variety of food services

functions, including service as greeters, hosts, waiters, cashiers, salad preparers, busers and dishwashers. Six senior DECA members, Wendy Bertsche, Sara Clark, Margaret Held, Brandon Hetzel, Lacie Kirby and Matthew Lehman, served as shift supervisors, performing a variety of restaurant management duties and supervising the work of fellow DECA members.

Wayne Thomas, marketing education instructor/coordinator and DECA advisor, said that, "I am extremely proud of all the students who participated. The event helped raise funds for the many DECA activities we do throughout the year, including participation in DECA district and state competitive marketing events. Perhaps more importantly, it gave the students great "hands-on" sales, marketing and management experience in planning an event and managing the activity from start to finish. This event would not have been possible without Mr. and Mrs. Greg Palmer, owners of Finger's Corner Restaurant, who allowed us the exclusive use of their restaurant that evening and also provided us with invaluable kitchen help and advice."

## MARSEILLES TITLE I

One of the second grade Title I classes have been "hamming it up" while they work to improve their reading skills. The six Title I students practiced and performed a play called, "*The First Thanksgiving.*" which was written by their Title I teacher.

Students were motivated to work on their oral reading fluency and expression because they wanted to do a good job with their part. They also were learning about important people and events in our country's history. After practicing the play for several days, the students performed the play while they were being video taped. Students in the second grade classroom enjoyed watching their classmates in the play.

## TITLE I PARENT PROGRAM

On Tuesday evening, November 13, Upper Sandusky Title I children and their families were treated to an evening in Japan. The evening, presented by the district's Title I teachers, began with a presentation by Mrs. Laurie Vent, who has recently returned from a three week visit to Japan, sponsored by The Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Following Mrs. Vent's presentation, parents participated in each of three different sessions.

In one session, parents and students listened to "*How My Parents Learned to Eat,*" a story about an American Sailor and a Japanese student and their difficulties because of the different utensils that they used to eat. They were then shown how to use chopsticks and given a chance to try this skill with their own set of chopsticks and popcorn.

In another session, the students and their parents were shown how to do origami with pieces of white paper squares. With help they were able to fold paper into a cup that actually held water and a three-dimensional swan.

Students gained some insights about Japan from the third session that was offered. Each family worked on a book that contained a map of Japan and interesting information concerning customs of the Japanese people.

After completing each of the three sessions, the Title I families were treated to Dominoes Pizza and pop. Each Title I student in attendance was then presented with a book purchased with Title I funds. It was an enjoyable and educational evening for everyone in attendance.