



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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December 2004

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

As we are celebrating the Holiday season, it is easy to find many things for which to be thankful for in the Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools. We are fortunate to have caring families, dedicated administrators, teachers and staff, conscientious students and a supportive community.

For the past several months, many people on our staff and in the community have spent countless hours working on behalf of the Upper Sandusky Schools levy campaign. I was truly humbled by the support demonstrated by the Upper Sandusky community in passing the levy on Election Day. What a relief to know that our school district can maintain many of the programs and services that have come to be expected of the Upper Sandusky Schools. I am grateful for the many parents, staff, students and community members who helped to plan and distribute information in support of the levy. I am proud to live in a community that so highly values education.

We are proud of the success our students achieve both in and out of the classroom. Academically, students have more opportunities than ever before. With the support of parent and community volunteers, before, after and summer school reading and tutoring programs are enhancing skills and giving students increased opportunities for learning. Upper Sandusky students have continued to outperform state averages on the Proficiency Tests. Over the past three (3) years, average ACT and SAT scores of Upper Sandusky High School seniors have risen significantly while state and national averages have remained stagnant and in some cases declined.

We give thanks to our coaches, advisers and volunteers who make co-curricular and extra-curricular activities possible. These activities also serve as an outlet for student success. Athletics, music programs and student organizations play a key role in the education of our students. They afford students the opportunity to practice decision-making, leadership, confidence-building and teamwork skills. When added to classroom learning, these skills enhance the students' ability to become productive citizens of the school and community.

On November 11th, students throughout the school district participated in Veteran's Day activities. With local veterans attending school assemblies and remembrances, students were able to express appreciation for our local veterans and understand the importance of the freedoms they have protected.

This is also a time to give thanks to the parents and families who take time to be actively involved with their children's education. This is an appropriate time to encourage parents to read with their children, assist with homework, attend parent-teacher conferences and activities and share in the educational process whenever possible.

As I walk through the school hallways, I am reminded of the many reasons why I love my job! What a joy it is to see the students learning new concepts, challenging old perceptions and performing service to the community. It is the season for giving thanks and appreciation for the gifts we enjoy! To all of our parents, administrators, teachers and staff, students and community members, we extend our appreciation to you and wish you a blessed and peaceful Holiday season.

As always, please feel free to share your thoughts with me by calling (419) 294-2306, writing me at 390 W. Walker Street or sending an email to steve_p@treca.org.

In service to our children,

Superintendent of Schools



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.

East, Marseilles, South & Union Elementary News

South Elementary

The third grade students at South Elementary School had a visit from Raggedy Ann and her friend, Kevin Lok. Raggedy



Ann was really Dr. Betty Lok, and she and her husband taught us about how bones, nerves, and body systems work together to help keep

us healthy. The class had fun trying out different ways to sit, stand, and sleep! It was fun to examine the models of some of the bones that the Loks brought. The afternoon ended with pictures and a Halloween sucker. No "bones" about it, we had a great time!
- Cindy Constein

Someone Has Been Toilet-Papering Our School! Who Could It Be?

The students of Marseilles became investigators trying to figure out the mystery of the "Toilet Paper Bandit" the first two weeks of October. The toilet-papering started with one student desk and snowballed into multiple coverings in classrooms, lockers, cafeteria, kitchen, an office, and even a police car. Many people were suspects, mostly teachers! Some students kept notebooks, some collected



paper evidence, and some just slinked around spying.

The mystery was solved when Judge Kate Aubry, Sheriff Mike Hetzel, Court Officer Jason Barth, and Attorney James Ruhlen visited October 15. Originally scheduled to speak about the election process, they were called upon to solve the mystery by following official courtroom procedure.



Evidence and witnesses were called forward following the gavel's pounding on the table. Judge Aubry listened to the evidence and issued warrants for Donna Swavel and 5th grader Ben Beekman. Sheriff Hetzel and Mr. Barth brought them forward in handcuffs and the hearing began. Mr. Ruhlen interrogated the witnesses for the court. Mrs. Swavel called many witnesses and had affidavits showing her innocence. Mr. Beekman's only reply was "I've been framed!" Due to conflicting evidence and multiple sightings of other possible suspects, Judge Aubry released Swavel and Beekman. Because of the uproar and confusion caused by the toilet paper incidences, the judge banged her gavel again and requested that the guilty party(ies) please come forward. Jaws dropped and eyes bulged as one by one every teacher, janitor, cook, aide, and even the principal walked forward. The "Toilet Paper Bandits" were all adults!



Judge Aubrey sentenced the teachers to "ONE DAY WITHOUT GIVING HOMEWORK." The final word was from Mrs. Ruhlen when she explained, "It all started when Danial Maltsbarger gave me the 'Loser' sign!"
- Sue Kitzler

A Veteran's Day Salute

by Mrs. Barrett's 3rd Grade

- V - is for Veterans
- E - Everyone appreciates them
- T - Thank you for protecting our country
- E - is for Enjoying Freedom
- R - is for the Respect we give you
- A - is for Appreciation and Thanks
- N - Never forget how you helped make this country great
- S - Sacrificing yourselves for us

- D - Doing things that weren't always pleasant
- A - And we are so thankful to know
- Y - YOU!



J. Patrick Lewis Visits South and Marseilles



Both South and Marseilles Elementary Schools have been reading and writing poetry this fall. As a reward for all their hard work, on Monday, November 8th, writer J. Patrick Lewis, visited both schools. He has published 39 poetry books and picture books. Pat has 20 more books that will be published in the next five or six years. He loves to

play with words and that is how he got started writing poetry at age 39! Before that, he taught economics at Otterbein College. Pat shared poetry and poetry riddles and talked about how books are published. Everyone enjoyed his books and poems and had a great time.

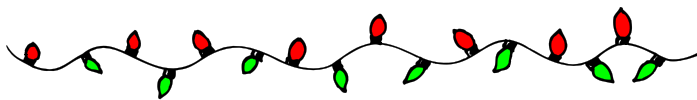
-Cindy Constein & Laurie Vent

Veteran's Day

Veterans Day was extra special for Marseilles and South Elementary Schools. Air Force Lt. Col. Keith Newell, formerly of Upper Sandusky, came and talked about his job. He showed and explained the equipment that helps him fly F-16's. When Keith is flying, his "code name" is Shadow. He talked about his job and the training that is needed, including a college degree. Keith also answered many questions from the students. Everyone learned many new fascinating facts about the Air Force.



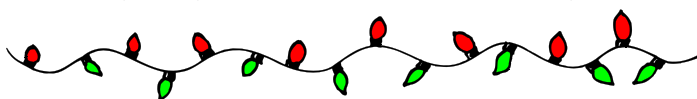
- Cindy Constein



Upper's Winter Fantasy Of Lights

Come meet the new member of Union Elementary School's Fantasy of Lights Display- Snow Days! There are now five penguins in the park ready to greet visitors. Mr. and Mrs. Mangus, Mr. and Mrs. Hufford, Mrs. Hinesman and her mother, Mrs. Leightey, set up the display in the middle of November. It's a fun project to take part in, and it benefits our community each year.

- Amy Hineman



Right To Read Week

Mrs. Morris, Ms. Shaw, Mrs. Hufford, Mrs. Hinesman, Mrs. Rose, and Mrs. Gelinas have been making some great plans for Right to Read Week. It will take place May 9-13, 2005. The theme is "Send Yourself into Orbit - Read a Book!" Watch for details in the future. There will be some opportunities for parents and grandparents to get involved.

-Amy Hinesman

What Do You Have To Say About Mrs. Hinesman's Third Grade?

Justeen Searfoss - Third grade is so awesome that I want to stay here next year.

Breanna Pickett - I think third grade is exciting. I wish my dad was here.

Hope Laforest-Koehler - I think third grade is fun. I learned that water flows faster through garden soil than through clay and sand.

Allison Kesler - I learned that when you read you should think.

Will Adelsperger - On Veteran's Day we had three veterans come to our school.

Dakota McClelland - I think third grade is fun. I have learned my times one and times ten facts.

Keely Stover - I like math and recess. I found out about rocks.

Tylor Pritchard - I like science and recess. I learned that seeds grow in flowers.

Abby Kline - I like recess and social studies. I found out how to use context clues.

Rahul Shukla - I like math and recess. I have learned multiplication.

Dermot Garza - I like when we did a descriptive paragraph about breakfast.

Josh Sanborn - I learned a lot of math.

Kyle Farnwalt - I have learned a lot of social studies.

Cameron Binau - I like gym. It is fun. You can play matball and you can kick the ball hard.

Alex Miller - I learned the ten times facts.

Brad Sipe - I learned times in third grade.

Cheyenne Lykins - I learned about rocks and soil.

Simon Hill - I've looked at different kinds of rocks.

Justin Bucher - I have learned how to make sedimentary rocks.

ACES

The ACES Program is going strong at Union Elementary School. The students are striving to be Awesome Children Exceptional Students. We had our first breakfast on November 10, which honored five students from each classroom who had been displaying the character education traits of responsibility, respect, caring, trustworthiness, citizenship, and fairness at school. Pam Baker sponsored the breakfast. She generously volunteered to bake muffins, bring juice and milk, and bring napkins and plates for the breakfast. She, along with Suzanne Getz, helped run the breakfast and clean up afterwards. THANK YOU!!

Jazmon Binion, a fifth grader, dressed up as our ACES mascot during the breakfast. Three ACES Awareness Days have also been quite successful. The students have had the opportunity to work with other students from different grade levels while making ACES badges, learning about responsibility, and acting out caring skits.

-Amy Hinesman



East School: T.E.A.M. Readers

In the spirit of celebrating American Education Week and National Children's Book Week, the students and staff of East School participated in a variety of projects and activities. T.E.A.M. is an acronym for Totally Excellent Academic Master Readers.

To show support for our T.E.A.M. Readers, the main lobby showcase, halls and bulletin boards were decorated with orange and black signs, RAM logos, and posters.

Creating their own books, sharing their favorite stories, and interacting with different teachers and students added to the variety and excitement of the week. And, of course, there was plenty of refreshment rewards during the week for all to enjoy!

Mr. Keith Diebler, the new head boys basketball coach for this season, was a special guest reader for the younger students.

Go T.E.A.M. Readers and Go Rams! - Penny Case

Would You Take A Panther Home?

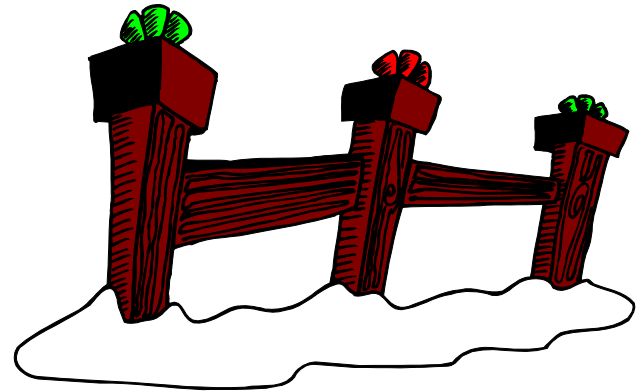
The second graders at East School answered that question with an enthusiastic "YES." The class is taking turns to take home an endangered panther. On the eve of the first day of school, a book began with a prologue and first chapter written at Miss Case's house, where the stuffed animal anxiously waited to meet the class and begin a new school year. Finally, the big day came and the class met their new friend. After voting to name him Simba, the first student was chosen to take him home. While visiting each student, Simba shares information about Florida panthers and adds a chapter to the traveling book. He writes (with the help of the students), about his experiences as he journeys from home to home. Then, when he returns, tired but happy, the book is read by the host student to the rest of the class. Pictures taken of the visit are also shared.

Simba has met about half the families so far. He helped move Bailey's grandma, went to a piano



lesson with Nicholas R., went to Great-Great Uncle Pete's 93rd birthday with Sarah, won a chess game with Colin, rode on Caleb's 4-wheeler, paraded at the county fair with Cole, cheered on Hannah at her soccer game, jumped on the trampoline with Marissa, balanced on Allison's feet at gymnastics, visited the pumpkin patch with Nicholas H., played Xbox and did chores with Alex, rode on a tire swing and fixed a combine at Brian's, played Nintendo with Tim, dressed in costume as "Super Simba" to trick or treat with Carlee, and much, much more!

When Simba has completed his adventure, the class will have a book with 24 chapters, a better understanding of an endangered species, and a closer feeling of friendship among our families.
- Penny Case



East's Christmas Program

The hard-working kindergarten and first grade elves at East Elementary are "Getting Ready for Christmas" at their Christmas program. It will be presented on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. They are also solving a problem about Santa and the chimney with the country song, "Santa's Gone and Got Stuck in the Chimney."

Mmm, the smell of gingerbread baking at Christmas time brings back sweet holiday memories. Except when you're the Gingerbread Boy and Santa's on his way for a midnight snack! Join in the antics of the Christmas toys and the Gingerbread Boy as the second and third grade students present this Merry Christmas Eve celebration, "A Gingerbread Christmas."

It's the last day of school before winter vacation officially starts. Excitement fills the air with plans of tropical vacations, shopping at the mall, visits from relatives, NO homework for awhile, and lots of presents! Everything is just right, including the beginning of a beautiful snowfall. SNOW! Oh no! The snow keeps coming and vacation appears to be heading for disaster in the musical "I Need a Christmas Vacation," but the fourth and fifth grades make the best of "Christmas with Their Friends."

To accommodate the many friends and relatives planning to watch the program, guests are invited to attend morning dress rehearsals on Monday, December 13 and Tuesday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m. This gives everyone an opportunity to watch these wonderful young people as they perform. Please come and enjoy!
- Robin Spoons

2nd Grade At Union Elementary

On November 19, Mrs. Newell's second graders wore Scarlet and Gray to cheer on the OSU Buckeyes for the OSU vs. Michigan game! Students could pay \$1.00 to wear a Buckeye or Michigan hat to school. Funds are going toward Right to Read Week in May!

We made a class book called: OSU vs. Michigan. Each student had to complete his/her own page with the sentence starter:

*I am an Ohio State
Buckeye Fan
because...*

*I am a Michigan
Wolverine Fan
because...*



- Daesy Camacho - I like the colors and because I like Ohio. I like how they dress.
- Ian Mundy - They are my 2nd favorite team because I like their quarterback.
- Haylie Kauble - I like Ohio and they got a good band.
- Robert Pennington - Ohio is my favorite state because they win.
- Christian Cole - Ohio State Rocks! Ohio State always wins.
- Austin Hackworth - I like Ohio better than Michigan.
- Michelle Zarazua - I like the colors.
- Dominic Solis - They can be fast. They never lose and Michigan stinks.
- Aubrey Foss - I was born in Ohio and I do not like Michigan.
- Evan Scheck - I like Brutus the Buckeye and the quarterback and AJ Hawk.
- Jacob Hendericks - I was born in Ohio. That's why I like Ohio State.
- Ben Smith - I like Ohio because I was born in Ohio.
- Adam Benner - I was born in Ohio.
- Alex Getz - They win a lot of games.
- Sierra Wilson - I was born in Ohio! I like the colors of Ohio. Good!
- Cody McClain - I love the state of Ohio.
- Shelby Smith - I was born in Ohio and I like the colors.
- Logan Tschanen - They are good friends to us. They win a lot.
- Taylor Cazares - It's cool and this is where I was born. Ohio is cool!
- Josh Rigsby - I was born in Ohio and I like to pick up buckeyes.
- Mr. Wheeler - When I was in 2nd grade, they dominated and they were close to home. As a family, we would watch or listen on the radio as we did yard work. My heroes were Archie Griffin, Pete Johnson, Brian Bachnagel, Cornelius Green, and Woody Hayes.
- Gage Clark - I am a Michigan Wolverine fan because . . . my whole family likes Michigan and some of my family is from Michigan.
- GO BUCKS!

- Mindy Newell



Miss Erin Barth, a USHS student, is working with Mrs. Newell's 2nd graders for 5 weeks each day for her Sentinel Education courses. Here she is helping to make turkeys for Thanksgiving.



Second Graders are practicing math facts by playing a card game called, "Making Twelve!"

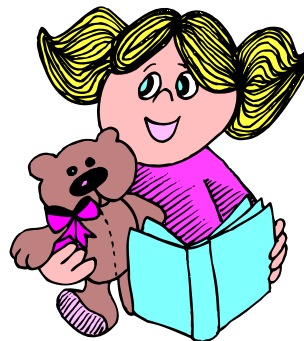
Read On Rams - Let's Book

The third, fourth, and fifth grade student players at East Elementary School teamed up to celebrate Children's Book Week and National Education Week on November 15-19.

Throughout the week a pictograph was displayed in the hall showing how many minutes were spent reading. We met our team goal by reading 15,000 minutes. Triathlon teams (one third, fourth, and fifth grader) read books daily written by Ohio authors.

Coach Spoors taught the players the Upper Rams Fight Song. Coach Cameron promoted team spirit by having the players make Ram pins to wear throughout the week. Coach Karg incorporated teamwork in her PE activities. Coach Naugle read *Casey at Bat* and a book she wrote called *Team Reader's Town*. *Team Reader's Town* was an interactive story between the reader and the audience. Coach Eystone read *Mr. Peabody's Apples* and *Dancing in the Wings*.

The game plans did not stop there. Thanksgiving turkeys were constructed and cookies were iced with the team colors of orange and black. All players listened to Coaches Barnes, Niederkoehr, and Herring read the story *Shiloh* and then got to watch the story on film while munching on popcorn. What an exciting week it was! - Julie Herring



Middle School Happenings

Hobby Day Topics

Beginning during the second term, students at USMS will be able to participate in the following Hobby Day activities. Hobby Day is a vital part of our middle school concept. Included is a synopsis of the value of Hobby Day.

- Buffy Reinhart - Scrabble
- Mark Niederkohr - Chess
- Sharon Calvin - Cross Stitch (students may be asked to bring supplies)
- Carol Minehart - Folk Guitar
- Jason Zeller/Brent Fahle - Basketball
- Amy Wood - Paper Making (Stationary)
- Connie Davis - Crazy 8's
- Wendy Searfoss - UNO/Card Games
- Mary Rossel - Board Games
- Beth Richman - Card Games
- Becky Vaughn/Sandy Holly - Advanced Jump Rope
- Tom Zeigler - Digital Photography
- Pat Conrad - The Art of the Paper Airplane
- Mary Brocklesby - First Aid
- Lou Ann Murphy - Word Puzzles
- Allene North - Long Distance Bike Riding
- Carol McPherson - Scrapbook Pages (a small fee of no more than \$2 may be charged)
- Encore Team- Scrapbooking (again a small fee may be charged)**
- Bill Aubry - Fishing

- 8th Graders will be granted first priority
- All will have approximately 18-22 students
- **Boldface will be maxed at 50**
- *Italicized will be maxed at 40*
- Two sessions of hobbies will be conducted each nine weeks, giving students six hobby day units throughout the year
- A Hobby Day Fair will be held on the last Friday before the term ends to allow students to sign up for.

- Jim Wheeler



On Thursday, November 11, Union and USMS invited several veterans into school in honor of Veteran's Day.



Middle School Student Council

The middle school student council began the year with the student body electing the following representatives from each class: 8th grade - Vince D'Etorre, Kalee Frey, Kelsey Gibson, Katie Hurley, Matt Shick, Isaac Walton, and Abby Warfel; 7th grade - Emily England, Jordan Karg, Dylan Lohr, Hannah Reile, Jakob Searfoss, and Jenifer Snyder; 6th grade - Coty Gibson, Blake Harris, Jay Pelfrey, and Amanda Watkins. Congratulations!

Beginning in December, the student council members will be selling candy cane grams for \$1.00. The money earned from this sale will be used to shop for gifts for children chosen from the Salvation Army Angel Tree. We will also sponsor a hat and mitten tree outside the middle school office and donate the items collected to students within Union School who need them. Before Christmas break, we will hold a Christmas door decorating contest with each home base decorating their classroom door in a Christmas theme. The winning home base will receive a special treat, courtesy of student council.

- Wendy Searfoss

OSBA Conference

On November 9, Upper Sandusky Middle School and Union Elementary had the honor of hosting a student exhibit at the Ohio School Board Association's Conference. Principal Jim Wheeler was accompanied by guidance counselor Alison Cheney, teacher Connie Davis, teacher Amy Hinesman and of course, our main ACE, Lexa Cheney.



The exhibit allowed both schools to display information about ACES and Service Learning, both successful programs. And, thanks to Connie Davis and the USMS Cookie Company, Otis Spunkmyer cookies were also provided.

Go Bucks!

As everyone knows by now, Ohio State defeated Michigan at the Horseshoe, but a similar contest occurred in the hallways of Union/USMS during the week preceding the big game.

A competitive food drive was held. OSU fans dropped canned goods in the scarlet and gray box, while fans of that team up north, dropped canned goods in the maize and blue box. The final score in this battle was a blowout also, as Ohio State won the food drive 596-173.

All canned food went to the St. Paul Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

- Jim Wheeler

Middle School FCA

There's a new organization at the Middle School: Fellowship of Christians Athletes, also known as FCA. It is modeled after the high school group and is open to any 7th or 8th grade student.

The idea started a couple of years ago while listening to one of the "Sports World" speakers. For several years they have been sending speakers to our middle school and always give the message of how, as a professional athlete, they turned to drugs, alcohol, gambling or sex. And, after finding that those things weren't making them happy, they found Christ and turned their life around. Then they joined this group to go around making speeches, trying to get students to see that those things are not the way to go. They have all been wonderful stories and it's great for the students to hear that if they fall, there is a way out. But, is that the only message we want sent to our children? After a while it seems like we are telling them

that it is ok to do those things as long as you get out of it later. The idea started forming that maybe they should be told that they don't have to go that route. Where are the athletes that have never strayed from the "straight" life, the ones that relied on Christ the whole time? So, the middle school FCA has been started to show the students that they can be "normal" and lead a "straight" life all along.

During the meetings there will be high school and college students and some adults to talk about how they handle their situations and the problems and trials they run into. Hopefully, we can send more students into the high school, college, and adult life with ways to accomplish their goals without turning to drugs, alcohol, gambling or sex. They can go into situations equipped with how to handle tough times.

The Middle School FCA will meet once a month just to share ideas, problems and listen to others that have been there.

- Sharon Calvin

High School Events

USHS Athletic Department Report

The 2004 Upper Sandusky High School fall sports season was extremely successful with several of our teams having excellent seasons. The varsity golf team capped a great season by winning the NOL golf championship. The varsity football team won their first eight games of the season on their way to a 3rd place finish in the NOL. They also made their fourth consecutive state playoff appearance. The varsity girls tennis team finished with a 14-4 record and a 3rd place league finish. The varsity girls soccer team earned an 8-7-2 record in just their second year as a varsity sport. Our varsity football cheerleaders continue to be one of the best squads around.

The USHS winter sports season is well underway and excitement is filling the air. Our boys and girls basketball teams have high expectations and are battling for NOL titles. Our varsity swim team has a record 22 dedicated swimmers making the trip to Bucyrus for practice three times a week. The wrestling team has been working hard with 30 team members and is looking forward to a fine season. Our varsity basketball cheerleaders are very talented and excited about another outstanding year.

Please come out and support our winter sport teams at Upper Sandusky High School. Thank you for your tremendous support of Upper Sandusky High School Athletics and being the most loyal fans in the NOL!

- Brad Ehrman

Note From The Guidance Office

Ninth grade students were given the CDM Career Decision Maker as part of their career development. These individual surveys involve making decisions about school subjects, work values, abilities, future plans, and interests. After students made decisions about these five areas, they summarized the information onto a folder and searched for a job to match their decisions. The results of this survey will be matched with results from The Career Game, which was given in the 8th grade.

Recommendations for People to People were made involving students from the 9th to 11th grade. This is a student

ambassador program focusing on leadership and education. The students who were nominated may choose to attend the summer 2005 Leadership Summit in Spokane, Washington.

A nomination was also made for The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This program involves an opportunity to honor students for outstanding volunteer service.

- Barb Norman - Guidance 9/10

DECA District 3 Competition

On October 7, the Upper Sandusky High School marketing students competed in the DECA District 3 competition at Ohio Northern University. More than 125 students from 14 DECA chapters in western Ohio competed in a variety of marketing-related events.

Of the 15 USHS students who competed, nine won trophies, including junior Joanna Walton, third place, job interview; seniors Rachael Mitten, third place, marketing math test; Sasha Collins and Sara Oates, third place, entry level employment team; Sarah Schifer and Beth Thiel, fourth place, supervisory management team; Allysia Smalley, fourth place, marketing test; Jordan Vaughn, fifth place, job interview; and, Tim Hall, fifth place, male public relations.

Also competing at ONU were Junior Brittany Raisor and Senior Wes Parsell (marketing math test); and Seniors Christina Slavey and Jordan Thiel (marketing test); Danica Ochier-Simonis (female public relations); and Marcus Thiel (parliamentary law).

- Wayne Thomas



Ohio Graduation Test (OGT)

This school year is an important one for Ohio schools. There are new academic content standards, new tests and an overall shift to further involve teachers, parents and other citizens in education.

Educators and state policy-makers believe Ohio students will rise to higher expectations. They also believe that receiving a diploma signifies that students have mastered high school level work. The new tests measure content learned through the end of the 10th grade and are aligned to the new academic content standards. The new graduation tests replace the 9th grade proficiency tests beginning with the graduation class of 2007.

This year's 10th graders will be the first class required to pass the new Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) to receive a diploma. In March 2005, 10th graders will begin taking the OGT for graduation in all five test areas (Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies). Like the 9th grade proficiency tests, there will be multiple opportunities for students to pass all five assessments that make up the new graduation tests. The tests will include multiple choice and constructed response questions (short answer and extended response). Alternate assessments will be available for students with significant disabilities.

Students may graduate and receive a diploma without passing all five tests of the OGT if they meet the following requirements:

- Pass four of the five tests and have missed passing the fifth test by no more than 10 points;
- Maintain a 97% attendance rate through all four years of high school;
- Must not have had an expulsion in high school;
- Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 out of 4.0 in the courses of the subject area missed and have completed the curriculum requirement in the subject area missed;
- Have participated in any intervention programs offered by the school;
- Must have had a 97% attendance rate in any program offered outside the normal school day;
- Obtain letters of recommendation from each teacher in the subject area not yet passed.

The law is clear. Parents, classroom teachers, and school administrators must be involved in developing the new tests. Involvement ranges from reviewing and developing actual test questions, to reviewing the questions for fairness, to recommending the passing scores. Students were involved in field-testing the test questions last year, and will be again involved in field-testing test questions this year.

Teachers and administrators are working hard to be sure students are ready for the new and challenging tests. If you have questions about the new Ohio Graduation Tests, check the Ohio Dept. of Education's Website at www.ode.state.oh.us (click "Topic," then "Proficiency" OGT is on left under Menu) or call 1-877-772-7771.

- James Clifford

USHS Special Forces

In September Special Forces of USHS made 130 badges for the local cornhuskers celebration. More recently, they constructed 321 Spirit Badges for Andra Bell's Lady Ram basketball fundraiser. Please see Ms. Bell or any Lady Ram player if you haven't received yours yet.

If you have a need for 2½ or 3 inch badges for any occasion, feel free to contact Special Forces for any size order at (419) 310-2699.

In addition to learning work skills, profits are used for community training and special activities. - Dorothy Fuller

Jr./Sr. Guidance

The Guidance Department thanks the following people and businesses for their donations and support during the high school parent/teacher conferences:

Matt Moreau (OSU Marion), Susan Konves (MTC), Barbara Norman (9/10 grade counselor), Brad Ehrman (HS AD), Natalie Young/Kathy Kimmel (Ram Gear), Marty's IGA, Renaissance West Salon, The Upper Cup, Sunburst Tanning, A Cut Above, The Pour House, Lynn's Kountry Kreations, Schuster's Flowers, The Corner Store, AJ's Heavenly Pizza, East of Chicago Pizza, MJ Mugsy's, The Village Restaurant, We Luv Yogurt, Woody's, Barnes & Associates, and Headlines & Co.

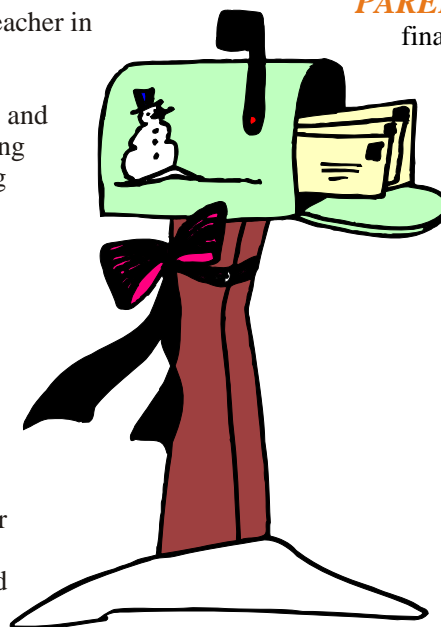
The FAFSA forms are available in the guidance office. These are the forms seniors will need to fill out for financial aid. Local scholarship booklets will be available soon for those seniors wishing to apply for local scholarships. See the booklet for instructions and deadlines.

A total of 19 colleges sent representatives to the high school thus far to talk with interested juniors and seniors. This is an excellent way to find out a little about the colleges. Some colleges waive the application fees for the student if they visit with a rep!
- Lisa Hutton

PARENTS OF SENIORS: There was a financial aid information presentation on Thursday, December 9th in the HS cafeteria. The presentation was a very informative session. Some parents of juniors also attended.

As always, feel free to call me to discuss ideas and options!

- Lisa Hutton



Student & Staff Recognition

Mrs. Chris Lininger's Senior Honors English classes wrote an essay with the theme "My Most Inspiring Teacher" as part of a series of writing assignments. This newsletter will feature two more essays to recognize/honor students and teachers. A total of 37 students submitted essays for recognition.

The following essays are the next two selected for recognition. The first is written by John Wood honoring his most inspirational teacher, Mrs. Teresa Harris. The second essay is written by Danielle Young. She is honoring her teacher, Ms. Erin Hurley.

The Teacher of Life

By: John Wood

Cu is for copper and I is for iodine. Two examples of elements that are so ingrained in my memory I can't forget them. Mrs. Harris is a teacher that I have had for three years. She has a teaching style that encourages learning in everything. In her class, I learned a multitude about science as did my classmates. Mrs. Harris not only taught us about science, but she prepared us all for life beyond the walls of Upper Sandusky High School.

Mrs. Harris taught my Biology class my freshmen year. As it turned out she taught the most challenging class of that year for me. My sophomore year in I.C.P. proved to also be challenging as did Honors Chemistry. Though her classes sometimes proved to be difficult, I always came to understand the subject matter. She made us work to understand what she taught and that is how she taught us all about life, by showing us we have to work for what we want. What we all wanted was an A. Every A that she gave was earned and that taught us how to work.

Mrs. Harris' classroom was always synonymous with learning. No student can enter her classroom and then leave it without learning something about both science and life. Mrs. Harris came across as someone who wants all to succeed. She made us work to succeed. Mrs. Harris made it difficult for all, to prove that one has to work in order to reap the rewards. If I learned nothing else from her, I learned how to work long and hard in order to reach success.

Mrs. Harris has been one of the best teachers that I have ever had. She taught me to set high goals and how to work to achieve them. She inspired me to go into a career of science and agriculture. I will always use many pieces of information that she taught me. I, along with my classmates, learned innumerable amounts from her. The knowledge I gained from her I will use for the rest of my life. Mrs. Harris is a teacher who teaches real world knowledge and that is what makes her a real teacher.

An Open Ear and a Helping Hand Can Change Lives

By: Danielle Young

Leo Buscaglia once stated that it's "too often that we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." These words have a great deal of importance in expressing how much of an influence one person has had on my life. In my eyes, the most inspirational person to me would have to be my high school English teacher, Miss Hurley. In the years of grade school, middle school, and high school, I have never had a teacher who has made a point of letting her students know that she is always there for them. She adds excitement and enthusiasm to teaching and in the classroom. She is also a very confident and well-rounded individual, all the qualities of a good role model.

Miss Hurley brought so much enjoyment to her classroom that every day I looked forward to going to her class. The way she

related to her students always made class fun and exhilarating. Miss Hurley may be my favorite teacher, but she was also by far the hardest. I feel that she teaches at a higher level than high school. She's very serious about her grading and her work. She is a teacher that prepares her students for the future, college, and the real world.

Another reason that Miss Hurley is an inspiration to me is because she is a well-rounded person. She knows what she wants in life and has set many goals for herself. It's not everyday that you can talk to a person and have them tell you that they love their job. She loves coming to work and being able to do what she is passionate about. It is the one thing that she has worked so hard for.

During my freshmen and junior years, Miss Hurley's English class had an infinite effect on me. Miss Hurley is a great teacher and has affected many areas of my life. I learned not only the subject of English, but also about my own life and what the future holds in store for me. She always made a point of reassuring her students that she always had an open door. If a student needed to talk about not only school work, but any other personal issues such as family problems, school, friends, or relationships, she would always be there with an open ear and a helping hand. That gesture allowed me to have the courage to go talk to her about things I was struggling with. I went to her because I knew that she would be there for me. She was someone I could trust and someone that cared.

Miss Hurley has been there for me through thick and thin. She was always there when I needed someone to talk to, and still is. She has taught me to never give up and that things only get better as time goes by. She helped me to figure out who I am and to recognize the many opportunities that lie ahead of me. When I am asked who I look up to, who has changed my life, or who my inspiration is? One name comes to mind. It is my high school English teacher, Miss Hurley.

Teacher Recognition Program

The Upper Sandusky High School Student Council, in conjunction with the high school administration, has started a teacher recognition program. They want to recognize a teacher every quarter that goes the extra mile. The award is being called the Upper Sandusky High School Student Council Distinguished Teacher and the first quarter recipient is English teacher, Miss Erin Hurley. The student that nominated Miss Hurley stated, "She is a very enthusiastic teacher who makes English fun. Her class is my favorite class of the day and you can tell she cares about her students and is always ready to help if you have problems." Miss Hurley is also the varsity girls soccer coach and coaches 7th grade girls basketball at the middle school. She received a certificate and dinner for two from the Pour House restaurant. Mr. Clifford and Mr. Stotts are also going to "comp" her one class period by teaching her class for her. Nominations for the second quarter will be accepted through January 14th and students, teachers, and parents are welcome to nominate a teacher they feel is deserving of recognition.



Pictured are: Emily Orians, Katie Johnson, Miss Hurley, Ashley Miller, Abby Weaver. Miss Hurley poses with the student council representatives after being presented her certificate in class.

District Highlights

Communication Tools

<http://www.uptersandusky.k12.oh.us/>

Since 1997, efforts in providing the most up-to-date information to the public has been a top priority of Upper Sandusky's own web staff. The school's first information to go global was during the beginning months of the 1997-1998 school year, with details involving the high school sporting events. It has since then exploded into an informational tool for the entire district. With too much information to be detailed in a story, one needs only to visit the site to appreciate the hard work and efforts the web staff has given to better the schools.



The web staff and the year they joined the team consists of Tim Pohlman (1997), Penny Case (1999), Cindy Constien (1999), Nancy Sauer (1999) and Tom Ziegler (1998). The efforts of the web staff are supported by Jim Frye, district technology coordinator.

If you have information you would like posted, please submit the information via email to one of our web staff members.

- Jim Frye



Parent Access Update

Upper Sandusky parents and students of Upper Sandusky High School and Middle School have begun taking advantage of a new communication tool between teacher and parent called Progress Book Parent Access. An informational letter was mailed to parents of children in grades 6-12 that contained information related to user name and password for proper usage. As of mid-November, approximately 650 accounts have been activated (62% of all accounts).

If you are a parent of a child in grades 6-12 and for whatever reason did not receive an informational letter, please

contact our District Technology Coordinator, Jim Frye, by email at jim_f@treca.org, or call him at the high school at (419) 294-2308.

The URL to access Parent Access is: <https://data.treca.org/parentaccess>, and can also be accessed from the district website at <http://www.uptersandusky.k12.oh.us>.

The district is planning and preparing to make Progress Book Parent Access available for grades K-5 for the 2005-2006 school year.

- Jim Frye

Online District Events Calendar

The district continues to provide up-to-date information related to school events from the district website at (<http://www.uptersandusky.k12.oh.us>). In the pop-up window, or, from the main page, is a link to the Events Calendar. Current calendars available are:

- East Elementary
- Elementary Lunch Menu
- High School
- High School Athletics
- High School Menu
- Marseilles Elementary
- Middle School
- Middle School Athletics
- South Elementary
- Union Elementary
- Union Lunch Menu



You can see all district events, personalize a calendar for only events you are interested in receiving, and print calendars of any combination. These events can and will also show if/when any of these events are cancelled or postponed (look for a small red c or p in front of the event).

- Jim Frye



District Renews Educational Search Engine Partnership

Upper Sandusky Schools has renewed a service that allows all teachers, students, and parents connected with grades 6-12 with a powerful search engine tied directly to education. The search engine, netTrekker, can be found at <http://www.nettrekker.com>.

To become a user, you must first create a user name and password and align your account with either Upper Sandusky High School or Upper Sandusky Middle School. To start this process, click on "Register" and follow the window prompts and complete the steps. NetTrekker has won several national education awards and print media awards. We hope you take advantage of this powerful tool and all that it offers.

- Jim Frye



Cancellations.com

Cancellations/Delays Info Available From District Website

As the winter season is upon us now, the district is providing another way to receive information related to cancellations and delays due to weather.

At the district website (<http://www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us>) is an icon linking you to a free service called Cancellations.com. When you click on this icon, you will be taken directly to our page listing closings and delays for Upper Sandusky Schools. This information is posted as soon as the district makes the decision to cancel or delay. You can also subscribe to the service for free, which will send you an email anytime a cancellation or postponement is announced.

We hope you find this service useful as it helps you stay more informed.
- Jim Frye

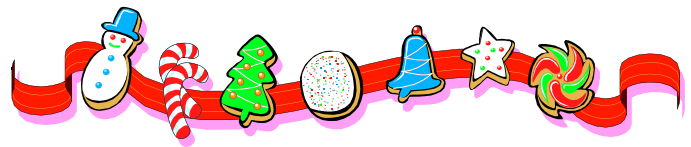
Parent Mentor News

I hope the 2004-2005 school year is going well. The purpose of the Parent Mentor Program is to offer support to families of students in Special Education.

The Parent Mentor can:

- Provide information about Special Education Services;
- Listen and answer your questions;
- Provide a lending library of books and videos which include information on Attention Deficit Disorder, Autism, Learning Disabilities, and much more; and
- Attend IEP and IAT meetings as needed.

The Parent Mentor Project serves Carey, Mohawk, and Upper Sandusky Schools and is operated under a grant from The Ohio Department of Education. Contact Paula Frey, Wyandot County Parent Mentor, for more information at (419) 294-3445.
- Paul Frey



WEATHER DELAY/CLOSING PROCEDURE

ONE HOUR DELAY means everything is set back one hour for all students. Students should be at their bus stop or pick-up center one hour later than usual. All classes will begin at 9:00 a.m.

TWO HOUR DELAY means report to bus stop or pick-up point two hours later than usual. Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL TO CHECK ON SCHOOL DELAYS OR CLOSINGS. Open phone lines are needed to receive input from bus drivers and law enforcement agencies so 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
 WYNT (Upper Sandusky) 95.9
 WFIN-WKXA (Findlay) 1330/100.5
 WXML (Upper Sandusky) 90.1

WTVG TV 13
 WDIF-WMRN (Marion) 94.3/107
 WBVI (Findlay) 96.7
 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., with announcements broadcast over the local radio stations.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

SPECIAL EVENTS

December

- 19 High School Christmas Concert - 2:30 p.m.
- 20 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 23 *Christmas Break Begins - No School*

January 2005

- 3 *Christmas Break Ends - Back to School*
- 3 Music Parents Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 6 RAM Boosters Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 8 East School Recycling - 8:30 a.m.
- 10 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 14 End of Nine Weeks/End Semester
- 17 *M.L. King, Jr. Day - No School*
- 21 Union Book Fair
- 22 High School Solo/Ensemble Contest
- 22 Marseilles School Recycling, 8:30 a.m.

February

- 3 RAM Boosters Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Music Parents Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 12 East School Recycling - 8:30 a.m.

Thank You
for Supporting

*Our Students,
Our Schools,
Our Future!*



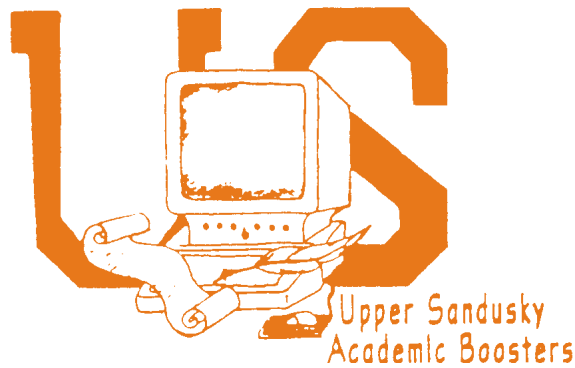
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Become a Member of the Upper Sandusky Academic Boosters

2004-2005

Membership Categories

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

You can help support this organization by joining the Upper Sandusky Academic Boosters.

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

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Upper Sandusky Academic Boosters.

Name _____

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

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