

Strongsville Schools Happenings

District Happenings

Important Dates to Remember

February 4th at 7:00 p.m., Administrative Offices

There will be no school on February 15th due to President's Day.

Parent Teacher Conferences February 3rd and February 11th

High School from 3:20 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

Middle Schools from 4:05 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

Elementary Schools from 4:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Preschool from 3:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

60 Seconds with the Superintendent

This week we highlight a first grade class at Surrarrer Elementary and Media Assistant Mrs. Cebula on the implementation of Learning.com. Click [here](#) to view our recent edition of 60 seconds with the Superintendent!

Board of Education

Last night, the Board of Education approved the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years' calendars. They are available for viewing [here](#) and on the district website.

Information on Snow Day Procedures

Winter is finally in full swing throughout northeast Ohio! We want to make sure families are aware of the procedures that will be followed should the district cancel school for the entire day or implement a two-hour delayed start. Click [here](#) for snow day information with regard to how and when we make the decision to close schools. Additionally, click [here](#) to view procedures for a two-hour delayed start due to inclement weather.

Walkthroughs for Buildings Set to Close

We would like to invite the community to visit the Board of Education building at 13200 Pearl Road one final time on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. At this community walkthrough, visitors can take pictures and share memories with friends and former classmates.

The schedule for Drake, Albion, and Center has been established, as well. On Tuesday, April 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., we will hold a walkthrough at Drake Elementary School. The next week on Tuesday, April 12th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., we will walk through Albion Middle School and finally, on Tuesday, April 19th we will walk through Center Middle School from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Strongsville Schools "Excellence in Athletics" Fundraising Effort Receives \$100,000 Donation

Strongsville City Schools announced a second lead gift in the ongoing "Excellence in Athletics" fundraising effort. The Pat Catan Family is donating \$100,000 to purchase a new state-of-the-art scoreboard for use at Pat Catan Stadium. The Catan family has a long history of supporting Strongsville City Schools, including past donations to build Pat Catan Stadium.

"My family and I are thrilled to donate the funds needed for a new scoreboard," said Mike Catan. "Our goal has always been to have the best facility possible for the children of Strongsville. I appreciate the current school board's efforts in making sure this remains a first class facility!"

The Catan donation supports the "Excellence in Athletics" campaign, a group of local volunteers who are raising private funds to install synthetic turf at Strongsville Middle School and Pat Catan Stadium, as well as upgrade athletic facilities. The volunteers hope to raise funds this year so the turf is ready for the 2016-17 school year. The private fundraising effort offers corporate naming rights to stadium areas such as the field, end zones, scoreboard, locker rooms, and spectator stands sections.

"The Catan family's commitment to Strongsville City Schools is a huge asset for both our District and for our entire community," said Superintendent Cameron M. Ryba. "We are fortunate and very thankful for their ongoing support and dedication to supporting our district and our students."

For more information about available sponsorship opportunities, visit strongnet.org/excellence.

Strongsville Education Foundation Update

The Strongsville Education Foundation is awarding grants for innovative projects in 2016. Last year, the Foundation awarded nearly \$10,000 in support of its mission to support outstanding achievement for all students served by the Strongsville City Schools. Last year's awards are listed below and the 2016 grant application can be found by clicking [here](#) under "programs". Since its establishment in 1984, the Foundation has raised and distributed more than \$500,000 to support student achievement.

2015 Grant Award	Program/Project Name	School
\$312.00	Comprehensive Counseling	All Elementary
\$362.11	Self-Reflection with Clay: Moving Forward to 7 th Grade	Muraski

\$260.00	Science to Go – Cleveland Museum of Natural History	Whitney
\$1,882.84	Guided Reading Program and Aides	Surrarer
\$3,500.00	Technology for Early Learning	Strongsville Early Learning Preschool
\$3,500.00	Strong Bodies Strong Minds	Albion

Head Start Basketball Night

Come join Head Start Basketball and watch the Strongsville Mustangs Boys Basketball team take on Medina High School on Tuesday, January 26, 2016. The freshman game starts at 4:30, JV at 6:00, and Varsity at 7:30. Click [here](#) to view the flyer and print the coupon to receive one free student admission with a paying adult. Everyone that attends the game will receive a coupon good for one free session of HITS, basketball group skills training, held year round at Hoop Guru in Hinckley (\$15 value).

Register Now for Boys & Girls Youth Lacrosse

Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the US and Strongsville has had youth teams since 2008. Spring registration is open now, with indoor practices starting in February. Our outdoor season begins in late March and runs through May. There are team opportunities for boys 2nd-8th grade and girls 4th-8th grade. Visit <http://www.strongsvillex.com/> for more information.

Alumni Update

Congratulations to Strongsville alumna Claire Jackman! Claire is a sophomore majoring in organismal biology and minoring in mathematics and psychology. She has been elected secretary of the Saint Vincent College Student Government Association Executive Board for 2016. Active in student government, she has served as a freshman and sophomore class senator and facility management office committee chair. She is a member of the Tri-Beta biology honor society, dance team, and Catholic Relief Services. A member of the Dean's List, she has been named to Alpha Lambda Delta honor society and Alpha Chi honor society. She has served as a tutor for the biology department and as a student recruitment assistant for the office of admission. She participated in a campus ministry service trip to China and Taiwan during the summer of 2015. She said she sought the office "To further my involvement with the Student Government Association and use my personal skills and drive to help SGA achieve its mission. I want to make our presence on campus known to inspire dialogue between the students, SGA, and the administration." Jackman said she chose to study at Saint Vincent because of its personal interaction between students and faculty, liberal arts, a welcoming community, and a beautiful science center. After her graduation in the spring of 2018, she plans to attend graduate or medical school.

Upcoming Community Events

Have a community event to share? Email spetrie@scsmustangs.org and we will try to include the event in a future edition of the Strongsville Schools Happenings!

Kids Garage Sale

February 6, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Reserve a table at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center to sell your gently used maternity, baby, and kids items. Or come and shop more than 50 tables of toys, clothes, small furniture, and accessories. Early Bird shopping starts at 9 a.m. for \$3 admission or shop free from 10 a.m. to noon.

Dad Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 13th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Gentlemen (dads, granddads, caregivers, uncles), we invite you to accompany the most lovely little girl in your life to an evening you'll remember forever. Dancing to music, eating pizza, taking a keepsake photo, and a carnation for your date, will fill your evening with unforgettable fun. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk of the Rec Center. Ages 5 and up. To view the event flyer please click [here](#).

Southwest General Hospital Safe Sitter Class

For boys and girls 11-14 years old to learn CPR, choking rescue, first aid, and home safety. Remaining classes are scheduled for February 15 and March 25. Call (440)816-8036 to register. View the event flyer [here](#).

February 2016 Events at the Strongsville Branch Library

Registration is required for most events. Please call (440)238-5530 to register or for more information. All events sponsored by our Friends of Strongsville Branch Library. Customers may also visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org to register and to see more library event information.

Year-Round Storytimes!

Cuyahoga County Public Library offers story time sessions year-round for children Birth to Age 5. Our current story time sessions are in full swing. Please call the library for more information about our winter story time sessions.

Young at Heart. Tuesday, February 2nd from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A book club for adults who love Children and Teen books. Meets the first Tuesday evening of every month. Please register in person to pick up a copy of the book. Our next discussion will be on the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

LinkedIn Advanced. Monday, February 8th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

This class will provide advanced users with more detailed information about their LinkedIn Profile and how to create a positive presence. The workshop will also expand on how to manage settings, utilize connections to network, join groups, and more. This workshop is aimed at current LinkedIn users that understand the basics and can navigate the site. Registration is required and begins 30 days prior to the first class.

Just 4 U Student Friends Meeting. Ages 10 – 18. Saturday, February 13th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join the Just 4 U Student Friends and volunteer at the library! We meet once a month on Saturday at 2 p.m. to help with special library projects or community projects. We have a lot of fun, so join us! Please stop by the library for an application form.

Upcycle a T-Shirt! Teens in Grades 5 – 12. Tuesday, February 16th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Bring in a clean old t-shirt from home and we'll show you how to create a brand new upcycled pillow. Then decorate it to make it really special. Pillow forms and decorations will be provided. This is a great no-sew project.

Wednesday Evening Book Discussion. Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

New Members Welcome! Our next discussion will be on Wednesday, February 17th. This month we will be discussing *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Copies of the book will be available to pick-up at the circulation desk. Registration for this program is not needed. Just read the book and join us for an evening of great discussion!

Whoos Ready for School? Kindergarten Readiness – Story Play. Ages 4 – 5 with a Caregiver. Friday, February 19th from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Help your preschooler make the transition into their first year of school. Explore hands-on activity stations as we explore story play and building literacy skills. Registration begins on Friday, February 5th at 9:00 a.m.

Monday Afternoon Book Discussion. Meets the 4th Monday of each month at 2:30 p.m. New Members Welcome!

Our next discussion will be held on Monday, February 22nd. This month we will be discussing *Ruby: a Novel* by Cynthia Bond. Copies of the book will be available for check-out at the circulation desk. Join us for great conversation!

Travel Affordably. Tuesday, February 23rd from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Join Joe Daugirdas as he shares how to travel affordably, including how to find inexpensive 7 day cruises. He will include how to find the best deals on flights, rental cars, hotels, buses, and trains. Plus, learn how to get the best deals at your destination including saving with restaurants, entertainment, recreation, and more.

Kiwanis Read Around the World. Family Event. Saturday, February 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Join us for a reading celebration and activities sponsored by the Strongsville Kiwanis Club! Each child attending may choose a current book to take home and members of Kiwanis will be available to read books to them. The St. Joseph and John Builder's Club members will perform a Puppet Show. Face Painting! Light Refreshments.

Minecraft Challenge II. Grades 4 and up. Monday, February 29th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Come take the Minecraft Challenge Part II on the iPad! Join us for another building challenge and you could win a prize. Grades 4 and up. Registration is required.

Check out Strongsville City Schools on social media!

Follow SCS on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#)