

Strongsville Schools Happenings

District Happenings

Dates to Remember

It is hard to believe, but December 18, 2015 marks the end of the second quarter/first semester. Our high school students will be taking their first semester exams December 15th - December 18th.

Winter break for students will be held December 21, 2015 to January 3, 2016. District offices remain open over the break, excluding December 24th and 25th, as well as December 31st and January 1st.

Public Hearing to Review 2016-17 and 2017-18 Calendars

On Thursday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m., the Board of Education will hold a public hearing to review the proposed 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic calendars. At this meeting, a representative of the calendar committee will be presenting the details of the proposed calendars to the Board. In addition, those in attendance will have the opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the proposed calendars. These academic calendars will be voted upon by the Board of Education at their January 21, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Strongsville Administrative Offices Move to Former Zellers Elementary

Over the past month, the district's administrative offices have begun the move to our new *Strongsville Administrative Office* building at the former Zellers Elementary School. As you may recall, the repurposing of Zellers to administrative offices has allowed the district to consolidate our two current offices; Pupil Services and the Board Building. Food Services, Buildings and Grounds, Student Registration, Student Services, Business Services, and the Curriculum Department have already moved. The rest of our departments will continue to move in the next few weeks and conclude mid-January. All phone and fax numbers will remain the same, but our new address is 18199 Cook Road. A special thank you to our small, but mighty crew of maintenance staff and grounds crew that are moving all of the boxes and furniture in both buildings.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Gift Wrapping

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be gift wrapping at Southpark Mall to raise money for the Stephanie Scholtz Scholarship. This scholarship is given to graduating Strongsville High School Seniors who receive special education services. Please stop by the gift wrapping station on the second floor outside of JC Penney to have your holiday gifts wrapped and make a donation to the Stephanie Scholtz Scholarship. SEAC will be gift wrapping on the following dates and times. We look forward to seeing you and appreciate your support!

- Thursday, December 3rd; 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 5th; 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- Saturday, December 12th; 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 14th; 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 19th; 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 21st; 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 22nd; 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 24th; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Curriculum Update

State Testing Results

With the change to new state assessments last school year, our 2014-15 state testing results were significantly delayed. Over the past few weeks, the District received results from both the AIR (Science and Social Studies) and PARCC (ELA and Mathematics) assessments. For students who took AIR tests in grades 4, 5, 6, 8, and high school last year, individual student results were recently sent home. PARCC results for last year's testing in grades 3-8 and high school will be sent home within the next month, once they are received from the state. Overall, out of 21 possible areas, the only indicator that SCS did not meet was the score for High School American Government. This is due to the fact that the upperclass students opted out of taking this test, as it did not count toward their graduation requirements. The official state report cards for each district in Ohio will be released in January. While we realize there are many additional ways to gauge success of the District, these test results are something of which we can be proud.

Center Student Council Gives Back

The Ehrnfelt Senior Center's Lending Library has just received a tremendous donation, and we have Strongsville's Center Middle School to thank. The members of Center's Student Council decided to have a book drive for senior citizens of the community. The middle school students collected 184 books from family and staff. These gently used, hardback and paperback books included both fiction and nonfiction titles. The students, led by Advisors Sharon Baker and Monica Manning, were so proud of their accomplishment. These new books will be incorporated into the current collection.

Finance Update

As a reminder, student fee notices were distributed to all parents/guardians in September and October. The deadline for payment of fees is today, December 4th. If you have yet to pay your student fees, please submit payment. If we do not receive payment, your parent/guardian PASS account will be deactivated on Friday, December 18th. If you have already paid your 2015-16 student fees, thank you for your timely payment.

Construction Update

The fall of 2015 has been a tremendous period of change for the Strongsville City Schools in terms of our construction and renovation projects. Our high school staff and students have adjusted to the 66 newly renovated classrooms and the 33 carts of chromebooks (990 units) that are being used daily in most classrooms. The staff is using the interactive projectors and updated computers to engage in amazing lessons through a new way of delivering educational content to our students. There is definitely a higher level of excitement and enthusiasm at our high school.

The great things that have happened are about to be magnified as we deliver the phase three and phase four improvements to the students and staff over the holiday break. Auxiliary gym I has been completely recreated with a fresh look. The old floor has been repaired and sanded down to the natural light shade. With new basketball lines, a fresh floor finish, and new LED lights, this gym is an awesome space for our kids. The auditorium is coming along nicely with a new lighting system, new sound system, and acoustical ceiling installed. The old orchestra pit has been covered by a stage extension that is safer and adds to the stage. All of the seating has been replaced, the entire auditorium has been painted, and new step lighting is being installed. This will be a showplace for years to come. Finally, the 100/300 classrooms are almost complete and the planetarium has been remodeled with new seating, new paint, and a new floor. The changes at the high school will continue as the athletic areas and music areas are renovated during the spring of 2016. We are looking forward to fantastic changes and upgrades that will happen soon and are excited to show these improvements in the monthly construction updates reported at our Board meetings.

The middle school construction progress is impressive to say the least. The three-story educational wing has been completed on time and is under roof. The auditorium foundations are poured and the basic outline is shaping up. Drywall is going up on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the educational wing, along with the final pieces of the cafeteria roofing system. The building should be completely enclosed by the first of the year which will allow for finishes to be completed through the winter.

We are on schedule and under budget with both major projects. Our construction advisory committee and our Board continue to work tirelessly to ensure the project has a positive outcome. Please check our webpage for the monthly powerpoint presentations and all other construction related news.

Alumni Update

Congratulations to Strongsville alum **Jacob Pfeil**. Jacob earned his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biochemistry and a minor in Mathematics. He speaks three languages; English, German, and Chinese. He accomplished this with the distinction of magna cum laude honors at Denison University. As a perennial dean's list member,

Jacob also received the Denison Alumni Award, the American Commons Club Scholarship, the Arthur Bawden Award in Chemistry, and the Forbes B. Wiley Memorial Mathematics Award. Currently, Jacob is a Ph.D. student in Bioinformatics at the University of California.

Upcoming Community Events

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

Teen Volunteer Group

The Just 4 U Student Friends, a teen volunteer group at Strongsville Branch Library, will be meeting on Saturday, December 5th from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m at the library to create simple decorative pinwheels that will assist the latest Students Rebuild Challenge. [Students Rebuild](#) is a non-profit group that gives teens the opportunity to do a simple craft that will raise funds for charitable work around the world. For every pinwheel the students make, the Bezos Family Foundation will donate \$2, up to \$400,000, to the International Rescue Committee's Healing Classrooms program. The program helps Syrian children from conflict areas recover from crisis and grow into happy, healthy adults. Students ages 10-18 are eligible to participate. To register for this program, go online at cuyahogacounty.org or call Jan Chapman, Teen Librarian, at 440.238.5530.

Breakfast with Santa

On December 5th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center will host a family style breakfast with pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, orange juice, coffee, and milk. Children can make a holiday craft, get a free photo with Santa, and enter a raffle for a door prize. A limited number of tickets are on sale at the rec center front desk. The cost is \$5 for ages 1-2 and \$8 for ages 3 and up.

Coding Club at the Library

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on December 7th, the Strongsville Library will host its monthly coding club for kids ages 11-18. The event features a different project each session, including creating apps and games. Register by calling (440) 238-5530 or visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org.

A Holiday Tradition-The Nutcracker

Northern Classical Ballet and Ana Lobe Ballet Academy present *The Nutcracker*. The shows will take place on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 12th at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Baldwin Wallace Kleist Center for the Arts. Visit www.showtix4u.com for tickets. Click [here](#) to see the flyer for the event. Click [here](#) for information on how to meet the characters backstage before the December 12th show!

Check out Strongsville City Schools on social media!

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