

## Strongsville Schools Happenings

### District Happenings

#### Homecoming

We're getting ready for the big Homecoming football game tonight vs. Euclid at 7 pm. Go Mustangs! There will also be an exciting announcement from the District at halftime. We hope to see you there to hear our exciting news!

Congratulations to the following senior girls who have been nominated for the 2015 Homecoming Court!



Olivia Abdallah, Ashley Axford, Haley Brengartner, Marissa D'Amico, Rebecca Wells

#### Important Dates

Don't forget that the district will hold its fall parent/teacher conferences the evenings of October 7th and 15th. There is no school on October 16th for NEOEA day.

#### Finance Update

At the September 17th Board of Education meeting, Treasurer George Anagnostou presented the five-year forecast. The five-year forecast reflects recent state funding

cuts and the pending elimination of Tangible Personal Property (TPP) funds – a \$2.8 million reduction in 2017 and \$3.6 million each year thereafter. Even with the state funding reductions, Strongsville Schools has a balanced budget projected for the next three school years.

To achieve this result, Strongsville Schools proactively cut expenses, found efficiencies, and saved resources:

- Since 2009, there are 186 fewer positions than 2016, a 20% decline.
- Moving from fully insured to self-insured medical saved \$1.8 million in 2015.
- The building plan eliminated six buildings and repurposed another, saving operating costs.
- Employees now contribute more to healthcare costs.

The district is committed to the goal of financial prudence.

## **Alumni Update**

Congratulations to Strongsville Alumnus, Thunder Tech CEO, Jason Therrien. Jason attended the private John Carroll University upon graduating from Strongsville High School. He earned his BSBA in Management, Logistics, and Business Technology from the Boler School of Business at JCU. “I come from a proud Strongsville entrepreneurial oriented household, learning the value of family,” said Jason. Jason is the creator, president, and CEO of Thunder Tech Business Marketing Company. His clients include ebay, Ford, Lube Stop, Cedar Point, and Great Lakes Brewing. He has won many awards including Inc. Magazine’s top business recipient, Weatherhead’s top 100, Crain’s Cleveland top business power, Who to Watch in Technology, and Inside Business Magazine’s top 100 tech leaders. Congratulations Jason!

## **Construction Update**

### **Middle School**

The recent good weather allowed us to make great progress. The new middle school is really taking shape, and excitement is building for the 2016 completion date. The exterior structure is nearly built, the roofing for the western half is underway, and the eastern half will begin soon. We expect full building enclosure around Thanksgiving. The gymnasium, kitchen, and administration areas are ahead of schedule and already have a finish coat of paint. In addition, last night the School Board voted to approve the name of the new middle school to be “Strongsville Middle School”.

### **Come see the progress at the new middle school!**

Strongsville Schools will be hosting the second community walkthrough of the new middle school’s construction progress. The walkthrough will be Friday, October 23rd

from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at 13200 Pearl Road. Please park behind the annex and follow the signs to the construction entrance.

## **“Ask the Superintendent”**

Below are some of the questions you submitted to Superintendent Ryba. Submit your questions for Superintendent Ryba and he will respond in a future edition!”

### **When did the high school begin doing morning announcements and how are they being viewed in class?**

Morning announcements at SHS began the week of September 9th. Students and staff are viewing the announcements in classrooms based on a daily link to our YouTube channel with the announcements for the day. The announcements are also posted on the SHS website which can be found [here](#).

### **When will the whole website be updated? There is still a lot of old information and considering the money spent for a PR firm, it should be fixed by now.**

The website conversion process is very involved for a district our size, due to the vast number of separate pages at every building. Our communications firm assisted us with finalizing a new web template, analyzing existing content to determine which pages were no longer needed, as well as providing direction on the organization of the headers and subheadings on the new site. Our internal staff has the hefty responsibility of making all of the other page conversions. These updates take time and are being worked through in a systematic manner with administration and our webmasters.

### **Why, with a variety of other tools available to communicate with students and parents, is Twitter being used? When you sign up for the app, it states it is for mature 17+ users.**

The district and building administration are using a variety of social media platforms to effectively communicate with our parents and community. Various demographics have social media preferences, such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Vine, etc. We have decided to focus our social media communications through Facebook and Twitter. In some secondary classrooms, Twitter is being used as a communication option with students. The district has developed social media guidelines to provide direction for the use of communication tools such as Twitter. It is not our intent to make the use of a social media platform mandatory to receive communication, but to have varied options that meet the communication preferences of our targeted audience.

## **Athletic Update**

Congratulations to Strongsville Graduate Kelsey Bittinger who was named the MAC Female Scholar-Athlete of the week! Bittinger, an applied physics major with a perfect 4.0 GPA, was named to the all-tournament team at the Sacramento State Invitational after posting 48 kills [4.36 per set], a .342 hitting percentage, and 18 digs [1.64 per set] in Kent State volleyball's three recent matches. The MAC Scholar Athlete of the week honor is presented weekly to a

MAC male and female student-athlete who each have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better and perform well during the week's competition.

Boys' Soccer receives NSCAA Team Academic Award. The National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) recently announced its 2014-2015 High School Team Academic Awards, which are presented to programs posting a team grade-point average of 3.25 or higher. The Strongsville boys' soccer team was one of 146 boys' teams to be recognized, marking the first time in school history the team has received such recognition. Head Coach Tobey Cook's team earned a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.53 in 2014-2015.

## **Upcoming Community Events**

### **A Taste in Strongsville**

On October 8th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm, the Rotary Club of Strongsville presents A Taste in Strongsville at Petitti's Garden Center. Guests can sample food from 25 local restaurants and taste wine and craft beer. Tickets are \$85; or purchase a \$150 ticket that includes a one-hour private cocktail party in the Diamond Room sponsored by Sheiban Jewelers, featuring passed appetizers, premier food from Johnny's, premier wines by Duckhorn, and a top-shelf martini/Manhattan bar. Proceeds benefit area food banks and other Rotary projects. Buy tickets at [tasteinstrongsville.com](http://tasteinstrongsville.com).

### **Kids Garage Sale**

On October 17th, reserve a table to sell your gently used maternity, baby, and kids' items at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center, or just come shop more than 50 tables of toys, clothes, small furniture, and accessories. Early bird shopping starts at 9 am for \$3 (please have extra change) or shop from 10 am to noon for free.