

Strongsville Schools Happenings

District Happenings

Strongsville Kick*It

Strongsville City Schools is excited to support all of our city's Pediatric Cancer fighters, survivors, and their families by attending and participating in Team Strongsville's Kick-It fundraiser! This kickball tournament is powered by Eli's Army and Team Strongsville and will honor Strongsville student Eli Asmar, as well as other cancer survivors. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this event will go to Pediatric Cancer Research. Admission to the event is free, but there will be nominal charges for food and \$5 wristbands will be sold for unlimited jumps in the bouncy house. For more information go to [Strongsville Kick-It](#).

When: Sunday, October 4th, 2015

Time: 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Where: Youth Park 21255 Lunn Road, Strongsville, OH 44249

Online Safety and Cyberbullying Prevention Methods

As a district, we are committed to helping our students become good digital citizens, and to help facilitate that process, we are using [Learning.com](#). Please see the two links below for information developed by Learning.com to help you speak to your child about Online Safety and Cyberbullying at home.

[Online Safety Guide for Parents](#)

[Cyberbullying Guide for Parents](#)

Upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences Reminder!

Fall parent/teacher conferences will once again be held in the evening and will take place on October 7th and 15th. Parent/teacher conference hours are as follows:

High School: 3:20 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.

Middle School: 4:05 p.m. - 7:05 p.m.

Elementary School: 4:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Preschool: 3:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Strongsville's PBIS Plan

As part of the Ohio Improvement Process, Strongsville City Schools has developed and implemented a district-wide plan for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Throughout each building in the district, we are focused on the components of our adopted belief of "PRIDE." By demonstrating to students what it means to be **P**repared, **R**espectful, **I**nclusive, **D**etermined, and **E**ngaged in all aspects of school,

such as, the classroom, the cafeteria, the bus, etc., we are teaching desired behaviors. Students who are caught by staff or peers exhibiting these desired behaviors are rewarded through building recognition programs. For example, at Muraski, students are earning spirit sticks, which they add to key chains they have on their backpacks. At Center, students are provided with donated items like gift cards or candy bars. In the end, it is about duplicating the positive, treating one another with respect, and establishing an inviting and safe culture throughout the district.

Curriculum Update

Fall Assessment in the Classrooms

SCS teachers work hard to offer a high quality education that meets the needs of all of our students. Part of this process involves assessing students to determine their level of skills and knowledge and determine where intervention and enrichment needs to happen. At the beginning of the year there are multiple assessments given for these purposes, as teachers need to see what students know and remember from the previous year(s) and how best to meet their current needs. The majority of these assessments are also mandated by the State of Ohio for data collection purposes. *None of these fall assessments are entered as grades.* Despite the time it takes to administer these tests, the information gained is invaluable for teachers to better target each student at his/her instructional level. Fall assessments include the following:

- ❑ **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA):** All kindergarten students are administered the KRA within the first few months of the school year. This assessment measures a child's school readiness in the areas of social skills, mathematics, science, social studies, language and literacy, and physical well-being and motor development. Parent reports will be generated and sent home to families later in the school year from the Ohio Department of Education.
- ❑ **AIMSweb:** Each student grades K-6 is assessed in reading and mathematics through AIMSweb diagnostic tests given by their classroom teachers. These assessments show student skill level in these areas and are used to monitor student growth in these skill areas throughout the entire school year. These results are shared with parents at conferences.
- ❑ **Guided Reading Assessment:** Students in grades K-6 are given informal assessments and meet individually with their reading teacher to determine the appropriate instructional guided reading level. This helps teachers to know exactly how to develop lessons and provide instruction to reach every child at his/her individual reading level.
- ❑ **Student Learning Objectives (SLO):** Students PreK-12 are given SLO assessments within the first weeks of the school year to determine the starting or base knowledge level in a grade/subject or course. These are then given again later in the year to determine how much growth a student has made in the grade level/subject or course. On this post-assessment, students and parents are made aware of the grade earned on the assessment.

Construction Update

There has been a lot happening for our middle school and high school construction projects. At the high school, we have installed three new air handling units, as well as some dual duct terminal units. Also, insulation on several lines of duct work has been replaced. Light fixture framing has been completed in the 100/300 area and construction of new metal stud walls has been completed and drywall has begun. The technology installation has started throughout the entire 100/300 wing. Finally the brick veneer at the auditorium has been replaced and the elevator shaft has been completed. Next month we hope to continue detailing the roof coping and complete work on air handling units and ductwork installation. The temperature controls wiring and related work will be on-going as well as installing ceiling grid, light fixtures, and ceiling tiles. The contractors will begin to work on the ceiling grid and detail work in the auditorium.

At the middle school, the building continues to take shape. The third floor masonry is almost complete and the classroom framing is moving quickly through the second floor followed closely by the installation of mechanical systems and plumbing. The auditorium stage floor has been poured and the walls are going up quickly. Finally, the roof decking on the third floor of the instructional wing has been welded into place. The auditorium will be excavated in the next couple of weeks and the application of the vapor barrier will continue as the masonry is completed. Brick veneer will continue behind the vapor barrier applications. The project is going well and the contractors are taking full advantage of the great weather we have been enjoying.

Please remember to join us at the October 23, 2015 middle school walk through so you can see the progress firsthand. This event will run from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

“Ask the Superintendent”

Thank you for the submissions to the “Ask the Superintendent” column. Due to the amount of information already slated for this update, responses to these questions will begin next week. If you have questions to submit, email your school-related questions to spetrie@scsmustangs.org.

Athletic Updates

Football Update

The football team is currently 2-1 and begins Greater Cleveland Conference action this Friday when they take on Shaker Heights (3-0). The team is led by senior captains Zack Kahn, Vince Galassi, Alex Zacharyasz, Conner Mundy, and Ryan Robertson.

Soccer Update

The boys soccer team is currently 3-2-3 and has begun conference play. The top goal scorer so far is Jared Anderson with 5 goals on the season. The girls soccer team is 2-1-2 and has been playing the top competition in the area. Standouts for the team so far have been Katie Sidloski, Megan Patrick, Julia Ostrowski, and Vanessa DiNardo.

Volleyball Update

The volleyball team is 7-5 overall and 4-1 in the conference. The schedule has been the toughest in years. Top performers so far have been Noelle Reinhart, Grace Mackovjak, and Bailey Ortiz.

Cross Country Update

The boys and girls cross country teams have finished at the top of the team standings several times during invitationals already this year. The top performers for the girls have been Lyla Graham and Megan Bowman. Remember to come out and support the Cross Country team at the Fleet Feet Invitational held at the high school campus on September 26.

Golf Update

The girls golf team is 3-6 overall and 2-5 in the conference. The top performer so far has been Alyson Wohleber who is fifth overall in the conference. The boys golf team is currently 1-2 in their dual meet schedule and has also been competing in many team invitationals. Top scorers so far are Alec Brendza and Josh Hodges.

Tennis Update

The girls tennis team recently went 3-1 in a 4 match stretch and the team is getting ready for the fast approaching post-season. The sectionals begin the first week of October.

Lastly, a special thank you to the Marching Band and Cheerleaders for their tremendous support of the athletic program this fall. School spirit has never been better! Remember to follow the Mustang athletic department on Twitter @scsmustangs.

Alumni Update

1995 Class Reunion

November 28, 2015 is the class of 1995's twenty year reunion. The reunion will be held at Michaud's at 6:00 p.m. For details please contact Jes Otterbacher (Caine) at 573.356.4915, jaotterbacher@yahoo.com or Kelly Wuensch at 216.870.1472. You can also reach the class of 1995 on Facebook, SHS 1995 Class Reunion.

Congratulations to Strongsville Graduate Shriya Srinivasan!

Shriya is an alumni of the Strongsville High School class of 2012. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University in just three years with a Bachelor of Science and Engineering in Biomedical Engineering. Shriya will be attending Harvard and MIT's joint

program in medical engineering and medical physics this fall. During her time at CWRU, she performed research in chemotheranostic nanoparticles and published multiple papers. She also started her own dance company, CWRU Rasa, and went on a national tour this past summer with her first production, "Anubhava-The Experience".

Upcoming Community Events

Fall Book Sale at Strongsville Library

Friends of Strongsville Library will have its Fall Book Sale September 19th - 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Library. Lots of books for all ages, audio visual materials, magazines and more will be offered at the sale.

Wibit Weekend and Talk Like a Pirate Day

From 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. head over to the Ehrnfelt Rec Center for a Wild Wet Weekend on the inflatable Wibit obstacle course. The inflatable will be in the pool Saturday, September 19th from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 20th from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Daily wristbands are \$8.00. On Saturday, which is National Talk like a Pirate Day, if you get caught talking or dressing like a pirate, you can win prizes. There will be games at the top of every hour and light refreshments will be served. Non-member guest fees apply.

Breakfast on the Covered Bridge

The Strongsville City Club will host the 30th annual Breakfast on the Covered Bridge from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., September 20th on the Ehrnfelt Covered Bridge on Whitney Road at Valley Parkway. Advanced tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for kids 10 and under and are available at the Rec Center or through the City Club. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids. There is no parking in the Metroparks, but there is a quick and free shuttle from the RTA Park-and-Ride lot on Pearl Road. Visit the [City Club's website](#) for more information.

Day at the Chalet

Arts in Strongsville presents "A Day at the Chalet", a free festival of the arts, from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on September 20th at the Cleveland Metroparks Chalet on Valley Parkway. There will be activities and entertainment for all ages and interests. Kids can make pottery, decorate bakery, paint on canvas, try sand art, and much more. Entertainment includes the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band, jump rope team, Motor City Gold dance troupe, and more. Park at the RTA Park-and-Ride lot on Pearl Road and take the free shuttle to the event.

Olmsted Performing Arts

Olmsted Performing Arts is presenting the musical "Legally Blonde" September 25th through the 27th at 6941 Columbia Road, Olmsted Falls. For more information or to purchase tickets please call 440.235.6722 or email opatickets.com.