

## Strongsville Schools Happenings

Happy Labor Day! Please remember that Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> is an early release day and there is no school on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Labor Day holiday. We hope you have a relaxing and safe holiday weekend.

### Follow us on Social Media

As we move to increase the District's use of social media, please follow Strongsville City Schools on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), as well as [YouTube](#) where we post photos and other informational updates!

### Introducing "60 Seconds with the Superintendent"

To continue building our communications efforts, Superintendent Cameron M. Ryba is introducing a video series, "60-Seconds with the Superintendent" to share with staff, parents and community members upcoming district happenings. To view videos, click "[60 Seconds with the Superintendent](#)" on our main webpage. There will be a new video every Monday.

### Introducing "Ask the Superintendent"

We are excited to introduce our new "Ask the Superintendent" column! Email your school-related questions to [spetrie@scsmustangs.org](mailto:spetrie@scsmustangs.org) and look for answers in our next e-blast. Superintendent Ryba will answer several questions each edition.

### Online Learning Tools

In order to enhance our learning connection, **elementary students** have logins to access the following online tools both at home and in school:

[RAZ Kids](#)- Hundreds of interactive, leveled eBooks to make reading fun. With Raz-Kids, students can practice reading anytime, anywhere, and teachers can track progress along the way. The site also features motivational incentives and awards that students can earn.

[MobyMax](#)- A unique, individualized learning process for each student that allows them to work at their own level in Math, Science, and Reading. MobyMax is praised by students and teachers for its all-purpose solutions.

For our **middle level students**, teachers are using the following sites to support learning in their classrooms. Students should be accessing both at home on a regular basis:

[Quia](#)- This site provides study guides and practice tests to help students prepare for assessments, particularly in social studies, science and art.

[Achieve 3000](#)- This site is designed to help students with reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. Students are initially assessed and the program then provides articles to read

based on their reading level. The articles connect directly to what teachers are teaching in the classroom, reinforcing literacy throughout the curriculum.

## **Alumni News**

Congratulations to Strongsville graduate **Robyn Kammer**! After graduating from Strongsville High School, Robyn attended the University of Dayton where she was a member of the Dayton Marching Band, Jazz ensemble, Dayton Pep Band and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Robyn graduated with honors and earned a Bachelor of Music in music education K-12. Robyn was a music intern at the American School of Bombay Mumbai, India and currently teaches music at the Grand Cayman International School in the Grand Cayman Islands.

## **School Construction Updates**

The new interactive whiteboards and Wi-Fi are up and running at the High School. Students are thrilled with the new technology, Principal Mark Smithberger said, "The new interactive whiteboards are allowing students access to new technology they have not previously had. Students and staff are enjoying this new addition". [Click here](#) to watch a short video about new technology at the High School.

## **Board Update**

At the September 3rd Board meeting, the Strongsville Schools Board of Education reviewed the Fiscal Year 2016 operating budget. Overall, the \$70.3 million dollar 2016 budget is slightly less than 2015. The Board of Education highlighted cost savings measure that allowed the District to adopt a flat budget despite increases in the cost of operations. Cost savings initiatives include:

- Reducing staffing by 20%, there are 186 fewer District positions than 2009;
- Moving from fully-insured to self-insured medical plans, saving \$1.8 million in 2015;
- Eliminating six buildings and repurposing space since 2010;
- Implementing Ohio Online Learning Program to keep students in the District, a projected savings of \$200,000.

The District is also controlling costs through comprehensive department spending reviews and the new Treasurer's thorough budgeting and reporting process. These efforts identified additional efficiencies and savings opportunities. It is important to note that the 2016 budget does not reflect recent state funding cuts, as those cuts will take effect next year. The recent state budget saw elimination of TPP funding leading to a cumulative loss of over \$6 million over three years.

## **Fall Athletics are in Full Swing**

The fall athletic season is off to a great start for the Mustangs. All teams have started their seasons and our community should be very proud of the students-athletes representing Strongsville this fall. Your support is greatly appreciated! The fall sports schedules are posted [here](#) and we hope to see at our fall events cheering on the Mustangs! Please follow the SHS

Athletic Department on Twitter. For scores, schedules, news, highlights, ticket information and more, connect with us [@scsmustangs](#).

### **Thank you to Team Strongsville and Strongsville High School**

On August 28th, the 3rd annual TEAM STRONGSVILLE Tailgate took place in front of Catan Stadium before the first home football game against Avon. There were many vendors on hand providing free samples and treats for everyone. What a great event for our students, staff, and community to come together for this positive start to the football season.

### **Thank you to our Athletic Booster Club**

A big thank you to the Athletic Booster Club for their support of Mustang Athletics! The Booster Club raises over \$60,000 every year to support our Athletic Department. We couldn't have the athletic programs that we do without their support. Please consider joining the Booster Club and volunteering for their events by emailing [shsathleticboosters@gmail.com](mailto:shsathleticboosters@gmail.com).

### **Strongsville joins the Greater Cleveland Conference (GCC)**

The Strongsville athletic program joined a new conference this year, the Greater Cleveland Conference (GCC). We are excited to meet this new challenge and to compete with the conference teams: Brunswick, Elyria, Euclid, Medina, Mentor, Shaker Heights, Solon and Strongsville. Please note that the conference is not handing out senior citizens passes, but all senior citizens can still attend SHS Athletic events free-of-charge. Just show your Golden Buckeye card, AARP membership, or simply identify yourself as a senior citizen.

### **Upcoming Athletic Events**

- September 17—Strongsville Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet, 6 pm at the Rec Center.
- September 26—Annual Strongsville Cross Country Invitational, 10 am at Strongsville High School.
- October 2—Homecoming Football game vs. Euclid, 7 pm at Pat Catan Stadium.

## **Community Events**

### **Household Hazardous Waste Round-up**

Drop off your pesticides, cleaners, motor oil and other wastes at the Strongsville Service Center, 16099 Foltz Parkway September 8-12 from 8 am to 4pm on weekdays and from 8 am to noon on Saturday. No latex paint is accepted. [Click here for more information](#).

### **Raggedy Ann's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

Celebrate Raggedy Ann's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Strongsville Library on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. The celebration includes stories, games and crafts. Bring your own Raggedy Ann or Andy to the party to share the fun. Register at the library by calling (440) 238-5530.

## **Share Your School News!**

Great things are happening every day in the Strongsville City School District, and we want to know about them. Click here to submit your *school* news through our [publicity form](#).