



BUZZ FROM THE HIVE

A newsletter of the Ferndale Area School District

OCTOBER

“Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care”

2004

New Members to the Ferndale Area School District Family

Several new employees have joined the Ferndale Area School District family. We are excited to have them and look forward to what they will bring to our students!

Kathleen Kush, who lives in Windber, has been hired as one of our **K4 teachers**. She graduated from IUP twice! Once

with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, and later, with a master of education degree in early childhood education. She previously taught preschool and grade 5 at St. Benedict Catholic School.



Laura Miller, of Berlin, PA, will also be teaching in our **K4** program.

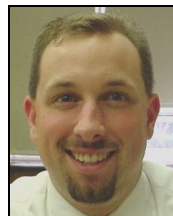
Mrs. Miller has a bachelor of science degree in education

with dual certificates in early childhood and elementary education. She is currently working toward a master's degree through Indiana Wesleyan University. Mrs. Miller's experience as

a preschool teacher/child care/home visitor with the Salisbury-Elk Lick School District will be a great benefit to Ferndale Area.

Our new junior/senior high school **learning support teacher** brings several years of experience from Independent Hill School in Virginia.

Christopher Theys is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan University. He is dual certified in elementary education and special education. Originally from Pennsylvania, Mr. Theys and his wife are excited to return to Western Pennsylvania.



Another new teacher at the junior/senior high school is **Jason Moore**, who has been hired to teach **social studies**. After graduating from Greater

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Welcome from the Superintendent

Dr. Christine Oldham

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to The Hive! We are excited to share with you the successes and plans of the Ferndale Area School District. In January 2004, the Ferndale Area School District Board of Education held a board conference to discuss the district's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Clearly, the district's strengths focused on the pride and commitment of its people... students, parents, staff, board members, and community. The same results were found as our teachers and administrators participated in discussions throughout the school year, as well as in an

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Gold Activity Card

Gold Activity Card

The Ferndale Area School District has always encouraged the community to attend our students' events. The Board has approved a policy that some residents may not be aware of—The Gold Activity Card.

The Gold Activity Card is available to any resident who is age 62 or older, a former member of the district's school board, any retired employee from the school, and those receiving SSA or SSI disability.

The Gold Activity Card allows a resident to attend free with one guest any home athletic contests (except PIAA playoff games), music concerts, plays, etc. Cards may be used for graduation ceremonies as long as the seats are reserved through the High School Principal's Office. Gold Activity Cards can be secured by providing proof of age, residence, or eligibility to the High School Principal's Office, 600 Harlan Avenue,

Ferndale Area School District
Gold Activity Card

Name: _____

This card entitles the above senior citizen and one guest to free admission to all Ferndale Area athletic contests and other school programs.

Ferndale Area School District

Board of Education

President

Mr. Ridley Banks—Dale

Vice-President

Mrs. Barbara Penna—Ferndale

Secretary

Mrs. Judith Virgin—Dale

Treasurer

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Board Members

Mr. Greg Blue—Middle Taylor

Mr. Joseph Corle—Ferndale

Mrs. Jo Ann Randolph—Lorain

Mr. Jeffrey Stewart—Dale

Mr. Robert Vamos—Brownstown

Administration

Ferndale Area School District

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-1507

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Christine Oldham

Business Manager

Mr. John Kowal

Ferndale Area High School

600 Harlan Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-288-5757

High School Principal

Ms. Kathy Nagle

Assistant High School Principal

Mr. Douglas Henry

Ferndale Area Elementary School

100 Dartmouth Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15905

814-535-6724

Elementary Principal

Mr. Edward Moran

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School Board Meetings

The Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Elementary School Board Room at 6:30 p.m. except for the months of May and December. Meetings are not scheduled for the month of July.

The Ferndale Area School Board has initiated a committee to explore how it can play an active role in educating the children of our community about the dangers of drug use. This committee has been established in response to the Board's concern over the alarming trend in drug use in Cambria County. A community meeting is being planned and will include a panel of local professionals that will be available to answer questions and address concerns. It is our hope that you will join us in campaigning against drug abuse.

Strategic Planning

On September 15, 2004 the Ferndale Area Board of Education approved the district's mid-point revision to its strategic plan. The plan was originally submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in September, 2001. PDE requires that districts submit a mid-point revision after the third year of the plan. The majority of Ferndale Area's revisions were written to reflect changes in requirements set forth by PDE. The areas updated include:

- English as a Second Language (ESL) Curriculum
- Gifted Education
- Graduation Requirements and Culminating Project
- District Assessment Plan.

If you would like to review the Ferndale Area Strategic Plan, feel free to contact any of the district administrators.



Futuristic Survey Results

Members of the Ferndale Area High School graduating classes of 1999 through 2003 recently had the opportunity to provide feedback to the junior/senior high school through the completion of an alumni survey. The group consisted of 235 alumni members. Over the course of the entire study, 95 questionnaires were returned representing 40.4% of the sample group.

Alumni were asked to rate academic programs and other areas of interest using a one-to-five scale with five being the highest rating. The following is a summary of the results in terms of quality.

- Learning Skills: 2.99-3.97
- Overall Instruction: 3.84
- Guidance Services: 3.37
- Library Services : 3.72
- Athletic Program: 4.05
- Student Government: 3.94
- Extracurricular Clubs: 3.82
- Band: 3.35

Additionally, a clear majority of the respondents indicated that he/she felt treated with respect by the administration (76.9%), by the teachers (89.8%), by other students (81.1%) and by the secretarial staff (83.3%). Respondents also rated the overall quality of FAJSHS at 3.98 with the largest percentage of respondents assessing the overall quality as generally positive.

Four-year old Kindergarten Program

We, at the Ferndale Area School District, are excited to begin a four-year old kindergarten program for the 2004-2005 school year. Forty students are participating in the initial year. Two classrooms have been established to provide this type of instruction. The rooms are staffed by two early childhood specialists, Mrs. Laura Miller and Miss Kathy Kush. Two instructional aides will assist in the delivery of instruction. Class size has been limited to twenty, thus providing a ratio of ten students to one adult.

The program will focus on early literacy skills. Students will be exposed to print rich environments that will establish reading skills necessary for success in today's schools.

The Ferndale Area four-year-old kindergarten program is unique in a number of ways. Students will attend class four days a week, Monday through

Thursday. On Fridays throughout the school year, parent trainings will be offered at the elementary school. These trainings will give parents ideas and strategies to improve student learning through activities done in the home. The teachers and instructional aides will visit each home three times throughout the year. These visits will allow the teacher to spend "one-on-one" time with the parent to discuss the educational progress of the child and establish individual goals for the remainder of the instructional year.

The creation of the four-year-old kindergarten program highlights Ferndale Area's commitment to children. This program will promote the social, emotional and educational growth of our children, ultimately supporting the district's mission statement, "Big Enough to Challenge, Small Enough to Care."

Ferndale Area School District Report Card 2003-2004

The Federal Law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), requires that school districts report state test results and the professional qualifications of teachers to the public. Just as our students receive a report card, we offer to you this "Report Card" for the Ferndale Area School District.

High School Graduation Rate

The 2003 high school graduation rate for the Ferndale Area School District is 91.49%

Attendance Rate

The attendance rate for grades K-6 is 96.10%

Teacher Professional Qualifications

The Ferndale Area School District's professional personnel are all highly qualified teachers (100%).

Commercial Standardized Test Usage

<u>Test Name</u>	<u>Used in Grade(s)</u>
Terra Nova	Grades 4, 6, 7, 9, 10
Self-Directed Search	Grade 7
In View	Grade 10
PSAT	Grade 11 (optional for Grade 10)
ASVAB	Grade 11 (and 12 if they wish to take it again)
SAT/ACT	Grades 11 and 12
AP Exam	Optional for students Taking AP Distance Learning Classes.
	Typically Grades 11& 12

State Assessment Information—Disaggregate Data

The state requires each school district to disaggregate Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test data for several groups of students. The groups include: race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, migrant status, limited English proficiency, and economically disadvantaged.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

The PSSA ranks student achievement in reading, math, and writing by using the following rating system: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is defined as the progress needed to bring all children to the "proficient level" by the year 2014. In order for a district to make AYP, each school within the district (the elementary, middle school, and high school) must be analyzed and any disaggregated group (race, ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, disability status and limited English proficiency) comprised of 40 students or more, must be scored separately. In order to make AYP, the scores must be above the levels stated below:

- At least 45% of the students must score at the proficient or advanced level in reading.
- At least 35% of the students must score at the proficient or advanced level in math.
- At least 95% of the students in each group listed above must have taken the test.
- (As of yet, no baseline scores have been determined for adequate yearly progress in writing.)

Students Tested - PSSA 2004		
Grade	Students tested in Math	Students tested in Reading
5	61	61
8	53	53
11	53	53

Adequate Yearly Progress	Number of Schools Identified	School Names
Warning	N/A	N/A
School Improvement 1	N/A	N/A
School Improvement 2	N/A	N/A
Corrective Action 1	N/A	N/A
Corrective Action 2	N/A	N/A

District Assessment Information

	READING GRADE 5		MATH GRADE 5	
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2003	2004	2003	2004
Advanced	24%	26%	26%	39%
Proficient	48%	31%	37%	25%
Basic	21%	33%	27%	25%
Below Basic	6%	10%	10%	11%

	READING GRADE 8		MATH GRADE 8	
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2003	2004	2003	2004
Advanced	23%	43%	14%	23%
Proficient	50%	40%	47%	49%
Basic	15%	13%	27%	25%
Below Basic	12%	4%	12%	4%

	READING GRADE 11		MATH GRADE 11	
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2003	2004	2003	2004
Advanced	21%	36%	29%	21%
Proficient	60%	42%	35%	36%
Basic	17%	15%	25%	25%
Below Basic	2%	8%	12%	19%

District/State Comparison — 2004 PSSA Scores

Grade 5 Reading	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
Student Population	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
All Students	26%	34%	31%	28%	33%	19%	10%	18%
Male	34%	31%	29%	28%	24%	20%	12%	21%
Female	10%	38%	35%	29%	50%	18%	5%	15%
Students with IEPs	10%	8%	20%	15%	70%	22%	**	55%
Economically Disadvantaged	18%	17%	41%	25%	32%	24%	9%	33%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

Grade 5 Math	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
Student Population	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
All Students	39%	37%	25%	25%	25%	18%	11%	20%
Male	44%	38%	22%	24%	22%	17%	12%	20%
Female	30%	35%	30%	26%	30%	19%	10%	20%
Student with IEPs	30%	11%	20%	16%	20%	20%	30%	53%
Economically Disadvantaged	44%	19%	26%	23%	15%	23%	15%	36%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

Grade 8 Reading	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
Student Population	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
All Students	43%	33%	40%	36%	13%	15%	4%	16%
Male	36%	30%	44%	35%	12%	16%	8%	19%
Female	50%	36%	36%	37%	14%	14%	**	12%
Student with IEPs	**	5%	**	18%	**	21%	**	56%
Economically Disadvantaged	43%	14%	36%	33%	18%	22%	4%	31%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

This report card has been designed to comply with requirements associated with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1111(h). Contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-535-1507 for additional information.

District/State Comparison — 2004 PSSA Scores

Grade 8 Math	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Student Population								
All Students	23%	24%	49%	34%	25%	20%	4%	22%
Male	24%	25%	48%	33%	28%	19%	**	23%
Female	21%	23%	50%	35%	21%	21%	7%	20%
Student with IEPs	**	3%	**	13%	**	19%	**	65%
Economically Disadvantaged	21%	9%	46%	26%	29%	25%	4%	39%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

Grade 11 Reading	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Student Population								
All Students	36%	27%	42%	34%	15%	17%	8%	22%
Male	32%	25%	42%	33%	16%	17%	10%	25%
Female	41%	28%	41%	35%	14%	18%	5%	19%
Student with IEPs	**	3%	**	12%	**	16%	**	69%
Economically Disadvantaged	27%	9%	45%	25%	14%	21%	14%	45%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

Grade 11 Math	Advanced %		Proficient %		Basic %		Below Basic %	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Student Population								
All Students	21%	25%	36%	24%	25%	20%	19%	31%
Male	23%	26%	35%	24%	26%	19%	16%	31%
Female	18%	23%	36%	25%	23%	21%	23%	31%
Student with IEPs	**	2%	**	7%	**	12%	**	78%
Economically Disadvantaged	14%	8%	32%	15%	27%	20%	27%	56%

**Indicates fewer than 10 students in a group.

This report card has been designed to comply with requirements associated with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1111(h). Contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-535-1507 for additional information.

As a parent of a student in the Ferndale Area School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. No Child Left Behind federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers.

- Whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any instructional aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplementary instructional material, used in the instructional program shall be available for inspection by the parents or students, in accordance with Board policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments. Parents and students (age 18 and over) have a right to access information about the curriculum, including expected student learning outcomes, instructional materials and assessment techniques.

If you would like to receive additional information about any teachers or paraprofessional aides who work with your child, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-535-1507.

No student shall be required, without written parental consent for students under eighteen (18) years of age or written consent of emancipated students or those over eighteen (18) years, to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of student or parents.
- Mental and psychological problems of the student or family.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
- Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

However, such survey, analysis or evaluation may be conducted on a voluntary basis, provided that the student and parent have been notified of their right to inspect all related materials and to opt the student out of participation.

Parents have the right to inspect the material and opt out the student from participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students.

Each year, more than 800,000 school-age children in the United States experience homelessness. The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 includes a provision to make sure that homelessness does not cause these children to be left behind in school. Homeless children should have access to the education and other services that they need to meet the same challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held. The Ferndale Area School District is required to provide activities for, and services to, homeless children, including preschool-age homeless children and youths, enabling them to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school or preschool programs. The law states that, pending resolution of a dispute about school placement, a school district must immediately enroll a homeless student in the student's school of origin or other school selected on the basis of the child's best interest and provide a written explanation of the rights of appeal to the parent or guardian of the student.

In compliance with local, state, and federal laws, to protect students, staff, and others from the safety hazards of tobacco, the Board prohibits possession or use of tobacco in any form by students, staff or others (community):

1. in buildings owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
2. on property owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
3. on buses, vans or other vehicles owned by, leased by or under the control of the School District;
4. at any school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events (day or night);
5. when a student represents the school (i.e. work study program, seminars, school visits, field trips, or any similar event).

Policies are available for review at the Superintendent's Office located at 100 Dartmouth Avenue, the Elementary School Office located at 100 Dartmouth Avenue, and the High School Office at 600 Harlan Avenue, or on the Ferndale Area School District website at: www.fasdk12.org

MORNING DELAYS, SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, AND EARLY DISMISSALS

The Ferndale Area School District will announce any changes in the schedule on the following stations:

WJAC (850 AM)	WNTJ (1490 AM)	WYSN (1330 AM)	WQKK (92.1)
WKYE (95.5 FM)	WGLU (99.1 FM)	WMTZ (96.5 FM)	WCCL (101.7)
WJAC CH. 6	WWCP CH. 8	WTAJ CH. 10	

We will notify the stations as early as possible when a change in the schedule is necessary. Be sure to note the length of the delay.



Meet the Board Night

The Board Members are hosting a "Meet the Board Night" before the regularly scheduled October 20, 2004 Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Gymnasium.

The Ferndale Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Ferndale Area School District employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities, should contact John Kowal, Business Manager, Administrative Office, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905, telephone: (814) 535-1507.

New Members *(Continued from page 1)*

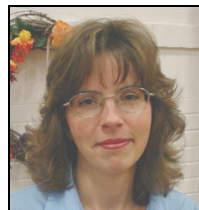
Johnstown, Mr. Moore received his bachelor's degree from UPJ. He has teaching certificates in both social studies and English. An avid sports fan and musician, Mr. Moore has also coached softball.



Lynn Bennett, of Brownstown, will be joining the K4-12 staff as the district's **speech teacher**.

Mrs. Bennett holds a bachelor of science degree in education, as well as a master of science degree from IUP. She has been employed by Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 as a speech therapist for the last six years.

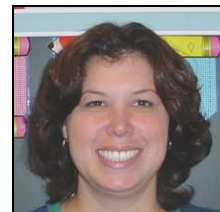
Lori Robertson, of Lorain and a graduate of Ferndale Area, joins the elementary staff as a **learning**



support instructional aide.

Mrs. Robertson has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from UPJ. She has been substitute teaching in the district for several years.

Another Ferndale Area graduate has been hired as a **K4 instructional aide**. **Rachelle Hrabosky**, of Brownstown, has bachelor's degrees from UPJ in elementary education and psychology. She has also been substituting in the district.



Summer Science Camp

This past summer, five faculty members participated in the TEAMS program (Teaming Educators for Applied Math and Science learning) sponsored through a Title II grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Federal Government. Ron Wilson, Christian Evans, Amanda Williamson, Lesley Miller, and Amy Kopriva attended the two week summer camp at St. Francis University. St. Francis University faculty member, Dr. Rose Clark, along with Sarah Keller and Kristy Wickenheiser, both St. Francis University undergraduate education students, will be visiting Ferndale Area throughout the coming school year to conduct various experiments with both the seventh and eighth grade students.

The purpose of the summer camp and school visits is to encourage the integration of science and math standards across the curriculum. To achieve this goal, the Ferndale Area faculty members worked with St. Francis representatives to develop two new modules which focus on forensic science as well as ecology. In the spring of 2005, the eighth grade students will utilize their newly learned skills to survey a section of a local stream among other activities.

The TEAMS program grant provided \$6,000 to each of the thirteen participating school districts for the purchasing of new laboratory equipment and supplies.

For more information, visit:
www.iu08.org/departments/curriculum/teams/index.html.

Ferndale Area School District is a Smoke-Free District

It is the policy of the Ferndale Area School District that all buildings, property (including sidewalks and parking areas), outdoor fixed seating areas, vehicles owned or contracted and other designated areas of the Ferndale Area School District are designated to be tobacco free environments.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Student Voices

In true democratic spirit, the Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors has welcomed the addition of three student representatives. Seniors Michael Matus and Emily Johnston, along with junior Shawn Toth will serve on the Board as non-voting members beginning this school year. The students were selected after an application and interview process was conducted last spring.

Designed to be a learning experience in public service, the students have various responsibilities as school board representatives. In addition to attending the meetings, the students will give monthly reports to the Board regarding student activities and issues of importance to the student body. They will report back to the student body through

postings on an informational bulletin board in the school cafeteria.

They will attend the annual convention of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, which will be held in the fall in Hershey, and maintain a portfolio of work throughout their terms. For their participation as school board representatives, the students will receive one half of an academic credit in social studies.



Representatives Johnston and Matus said of their appointments, "As school board representatives, we can help address concerns of the student body with first hand experience. In addition, the School Board will be able to see how its decisions affect the environment at Ferndale Area."

Yellow Jackets Around the World

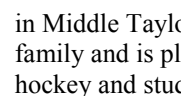
Since the late 1980's many teenagers from Western Europe, Scandinavia, and several from the Orient and South America have spent a school year at Ferndale Area High School. These young people have been afforded the opportunity to experience life in a very friendly small school and small town setting. Over those years approximately 70 foreign exchange students have participated in the full range of Ferndale Area High School involvements including the academic program, athletics, and other extra-curricular activities such as theatrical productions and music programs.

Those exchange students have lived with families in each of the five sending areas of the FASD – Ferndale, Dale, Brownstown, Middle Taylor, and Lorain. The benefits of the exchange student program have accrued not only to those foreign students in regard to the "once in a lifetime" experience but the FASD community and the host families have benefited as well in terms of learning about other cultures and countries. Perhaps the greatest lesson learned generally has been not how different the cultures and various countries are – but how similar in fact American teenagers and those from around the world truly are.

This 2004-05 school year 4 exchange students will have the chance to become "full-fledged" Ferndale Area Yellow Jackets!



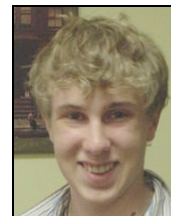
Joost, from the Netherlands, is living with the Barbarich family in Dale and is looking forward to playing basketball.



Tuomo, from Finland, is living in Middle Taylor with the Rager family and is planning on playing hockey and studying history.



Felicitas, from Germany, is living with the Jones family in Middle Taylor and is wanting to experience American life with her host sisters, Cassie and Alexandra.



Brede, from Norway, is another Middle Taylor resident this year living with the Mikolic family. He is kicking for the football team and is planning on playing hockey with his host brother Ryan.



Most likely this year will be another great year for both the Ferndale Area School District and the new Yellow Jackets!

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ferndale Area School District is to be **“Big Enough To Challenge”** all students, but **“Small Enough to Care”** about each student. To accomplish this mission, the Ferndale Area School District will strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment for excellent teaching and learning experiences where students prepare for a life of continual learning, and acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to solve problems, communicate effectively and be a responsible citizen.

We're on the web!
www.fasdk12.org

Welcome *(Continued from front page)*

alumni survey conducted in June. Surely the positive PSSA results that are reported in this newsletter are a reflection of Ferndale Area's commitment to succeed!

As a result of the board visioning conference, the Ferndale Area School District Board of Directors established three goals for the district. This newsletter is a direct result of the first goal, developing a communications plan. In addition to fall and spring newsletters, we hope to improve communications through promotion of the district website, improving parent visibility in the schools, publishing athletic schedules, and meeting with staff and community members. The board members are hosting a “Meet the Board Night” before the regularly scheduled October 20, 2004 Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Gymnasium.

We are so pleased that goal number two, settle the teachers' contract, was achieved in June 2004. Both sides had to “give and take” to reach an agreement. It was in the true spirit of negotiations that we reached a five-year agreement everyone could live with.

The third goal, developing partnerships, will continue to be a work in progress. Our intent is to build partnerships with colleges/universities, community organizations, and other school districts.

As you can see, it comes down to people. People working together to be the very best they can be... the best community members... the best board members... the best staff... the best parents... ultimately creating the best students.

Ferndale Area School District
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