



# FOCUS ON FAIRLESS

Winter 2024

VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 2

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Fairless Community,

As we welcome the new year, I am filled with hope and excitement for the opportunities that lay ahead. A new year not only signifies a fresh start, but also serves as a reminder of the progress we've made, and all we aim to achieve together.

In the new year, the district will remain committed to our mission - "Educate and empower Fairless to SOAR to EXCELLENCE!" Embedded within this mission is our vision for Fairless—a community where families want to learn, live, work, and grow. Both statements are about fostering an environment where every individual can thrive, learn, and grow to their fullest potential.

In line with our strategic plan, we will continue to focus on five pivotal areas:

- **Learning:** We are committed to providing engaging, relevant, and rigorous educational opportunities. We strive for an environment where every individual becomes an expert learner, equipped with the skills necessary to navigate an ever-changing world.
- **Culture and Climate:** A safe, supportive, and successful culture is fundamental to our community. We are dedicated to fostering an environment where everyone feels secure, respected, and empowered to succeed.
- **Experience:** Every interaction within our community matters. We are devoted to ensuring that each member feels valued and respected, contributing to a positive and enriching experience for all.
- **Communication:** Clear and consistent two-way communication is the cornerstone of a thriving community. We are committed to fostering open dialogue, ensuring that everyone remains informed and has a voice.
- **Resources:** We recognize the responsibility of utilizing our community's resources transparently and responsibly. By doing so, we ensure that each resource contributes meaningfully to providing an exceptional education for every individual within Fairless.

As we step into the new year, let us embrace the fresh opportunities it brings. Together, let's continue our journey toward excellence, leveraging our strengths, learning from challenges, and celebrating our achievements. Our collective dedication and commitment will propel us forward in fulfilling our mission, realizing our vision, and achieving our strategic goals.

Thank you for your support, dedication, and trust in our shared mission. Here's to a year filled with learning, growth, and unparalleled success for every member of the Fairless community.

Wishing you and your families a joyful, prosperous, and fulfilling New Year!

Warm Regards,

Mike



### Lucinda J. Frailly Performing Arts Center

At a ceremony on December 1, 2023, we dedicated the grand opening of the Lucinda J. Frailly Performing Arts Center at Fairless High School.

The facility was named in honor of long-time Fairless teacher and founder of the Falcon Playhouse,

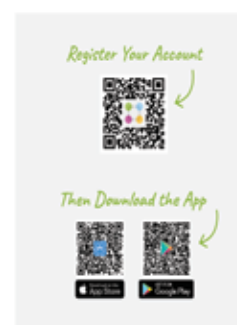
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### Our School is Using ParentSquare!

ParentSquare is a simple and safe way to connect and communicate.

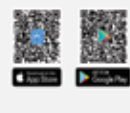
Register now so you can:

- customize email, text and/or app notifications,
- RSVP for classroom and school activities,
- sign permission slips, and
- securely receive important student documents.



Register Your Account

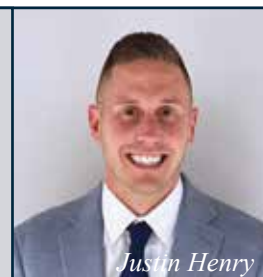
Then Download the App



ParentSquare

### Welcome Mr. Henry

On January 9, 2024, Mr. Justin Henry was sworn in as the newest member of the Fairless Board of Education. He replaces Mr. Jason Kirby, who decided not to seek re-election after eight years of service. Welcome Justin and thank you Jason for serving Fairless schools.





## STAY CONNECTED

### Fairless Local School District

#### Board of Education

Dr. Jody Seward, <i>President</i>	330-874-6118
Mrs. Hope Hill, <i>Vice President</i>	330-874-0425
Mr. Justin Henry, <i>Member</i>	330-807-7056
Mr. Ken Killian, <i>Member</i>	330-705-1044
Mr. Charlie Snyder, <i>Member</i>	330-879-0004

#### District Office

800 7th Street SE • Brewster, Ohio 44613  
330-767-3577

Mr. Mike Hearn	<i>Superintendent</i>
Mr. Mark Phillips	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs. Connie Horton	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Mrs. Jamie Askren	<i>Special Ed Director</i>
Mrs. Julie Weyandt	<i>Curriculum Director</i>
Mrs. Julie Miller (330-767-7071)	<i>Food Service Director</i>
Mrs. Val Wiles (330-767-4259)	<i>Transp. &amp; Facility Director</i>
Mr. Nate Held (330-767-7069)	<i>Athletic Director</i>

#### High School

800 7th Street SE • Brewster, Ohio 44613  
330-767-3444

Dr. Chad Merritt	<i>Principal</i>
Dr. Tammy Bixler-Zalesinsky	<i>Assistant Principal</i>
Mrs. Kim King	<i>Secretary</i>

#### Middle School

11836 Navarre Road, S.W. • Navarre, Ohio 44662  
330-767-4293

Mrs. Cindy Class	<i>Principal</i>
Mrs. Brenda Jennings	<i>Secretary</i>

#### Elementary School

12000 Navarre Road, S.W. • Navarre, Ohio 44662  
330-767-3913

Mrs. Lori Neuenschwander	<i>Principal</i>
Mr. Dan Nero	<i>Assistant Principal</i>
Mrs. Dawn Buckridge	<i>Secretary</i>

Fairless Local Schools, a nonprofit organization. News releases, story ideas, comments and suggestions should be addressed to [Focus On Fairless](#), Fairless Local Schools, 800 7th Street SE, Brewster, OH 44613.

Fairless Local School District does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age or disability.

*Continue from page 1*

Lucinda J. Frailly, by the Fairless Local Schools Board of Education. Frailly set a standard for the performing arts at Fairless. Her legacy of sold-out crowds, expectations of excellence, and integrating the arts into all aspects of the school community are the standard in which the Fairless performing arts programs aspire. More importantly, she impacted generations of students who attribute success in life, to lessons learned from Ms. Frailly. When we speak of “Soaring to Excellence,” as our Mission, Lucinda Frailly made this her life’s work and is a role model for all our students.

The first Falcon Playhouse performance in the Lucinda J. Frailly Performing Arts Center was *A Christmas Spectacular* which featured the Canton Ballet’s Scenes from the Nutcracker. The performance was sold out. Read more about the event on page 3.



## Brideweser Stadium

The Fairless Board of Education has approved a project to complete renovations in Brideweser Stadium. This work will focus on safety and accessibility improvements. In developing the scope of the project, the stadium was reviewed by a structural engineering firm to ensure that we will get decades more service from the facility. The board consulted with, and sought feedback from members of the Athletic Complex Team who originally built the stadium in the early 1980’s, the Fairless Athletic Booster Club leadership, the Fairless Administrative Team, coaches, and parents in developing this plan. Work will commence soon and should be completed in Spring. The scope of work will focus on the home grandstands and include:

- Addition of ADA accessible ramps.
- Widening of the entrance bridge.
- Addition of aisleways and handrails.
- Improved access to the press box.

*Continue on page 4*

## MISSION

Educate and empower Fairless to SOAR to EXCELLENCE!

## VISION

Fairless is the community where families want to learn, live, work, and grow.

## VISION AREAS



### Learning

Ensure engaging, relevant, and rigorous educational opportunities where all become expert learners.



### Experience

Provide a positive experience where all feel valued.



### Culture and Climate

Ensure a culture that is safe, supportive, and successful for all.



### Communication

Provide clear and consistent two-way communication in which all remain informed and have a voice.



### Resources

Ensure responsible and transparent use of the community’s resources to provide an exceptional education for all.



# District News

## Fairless Local Schools Calendar 2024-2025

<u>August</u>	
15-19	Teacher Day – No School
20	First Student Day
	Grades 1-6, 9
21	Grades 1-12
<u>September</u>	
2	Labor Day
25	Early Release
<u>October</u>	
2	PT Conf Evening
4	PT Conf All Day
10	PT Conf Evening
14	Teacher Day – No School
25	End of 9 weeks (46 days)
<u>November</u>	
28-29	Thanksgiving Break
<u>December</u>	
2	No School
23-31	Christmas Break
<u>January</u>	
1-3	Christmas Break
16	End of 9 weeks (45 days)
16	End of semester (91 days)
20	Martin Luther King Day
29	Early Release
<u>February</u>	
5&13	PT Conf Evening
17	Presidents Day
<u>March</u>	
20	End of 9 weeks (42 days)
21	Teacher Day – No School
24-28	Spring Break
<u>April</u>	
18	No School
<u>May</u>	
26	Memorial Day
29	End of 9 weeks (43 days)
	End of semester (85 days)
30	Last Student & Teacher Day
30	Early Release

Calamity Day Make-Up Schedule:  
1<sup>st</sup> Day – June , 2024 – consecutive  
weekdays as needed

- Teacher Day – No Students
- First & Last Student Day
- No School
- Teacher Exchange Day - No School
- Early Release

Teacher Days – 185  
Student Days – 177

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September 2024						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
October 2024						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
November 2024						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
December 2024						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
January 2025						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
March 2025						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
April 2025						
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27	28	29	30			
May 2025						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June 2025						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
July 2025						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Continue from page 2

- Removal and replacement of all wood with tongue and groove aluminum that features slip resistant decking. All wood in good condition will be salvaged and used for maintaining the visitor's grandstand.
- All railings and guardrails will be replaced and brought up to current code
- Any concrete support piers in need of maintenance will be repaired.
- Paving of the gravel area from the home grandstands to the restrooms and concession stand.

These projects will be paid for using permanent improvement funds that the district has been saving over the past several years which were earmarked for stadium and facility improvement.

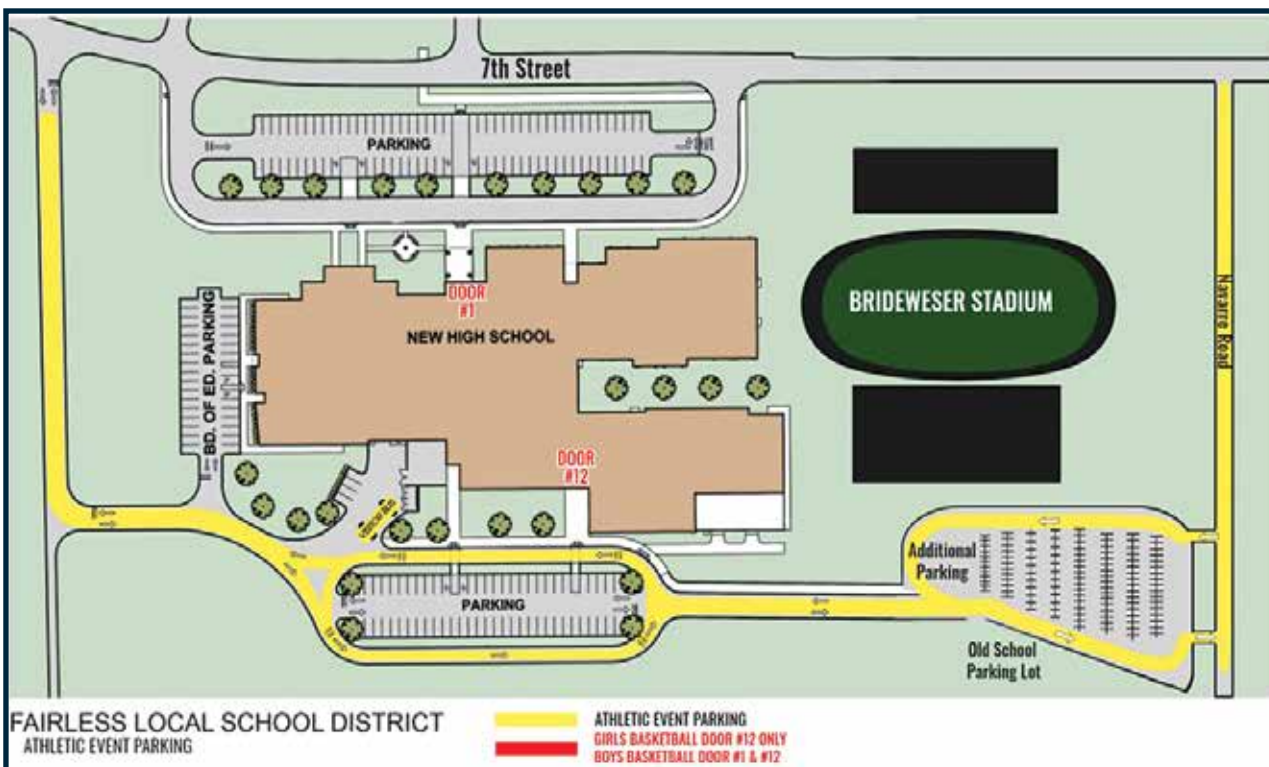
For over forty years, Brideweser Stadium has been a venue that has hosted athletic competition, musical and dance performances, graduations, pep rallies and so much more. The Athletic Complex Team volunteers built the Fairless Community a great facility which has stood the test of time. With these investments, we ensure that this rich part of our community heritage is maintained and able to serve our athletic and event needs for decades to come.

## Canton Ballet Performs at Fairless

The Canton Ballet held a special performance of the *Nutcracker* at the Lucinda Frailey Performing Arts Center on December, 1 2023. It was a special night as we opened the theater to the Fairless community in style!



Members of the Silver Wings performed a variety of songs before the *Nutcracker*. Members of the jazz band and Falcon Playhouse also performed in front of a packed theater. It was a special night for our students, parents and community, and a great way to usher in the holiday season.



## Parking for Events at Fairless High School

The access road and sidewalk connecting Brideweser Stadium's parking lot to the new high school is now done and able to be used. This lot can be used as overflow parking for any event at FHS, FMS, or even FES as the Safe Routes to School sidewalk connects Brideweser Stadium with the middle and elementary school. Please be sure to only park in designated lots as grass is still being established and at our first few events several vehicles became stuck and damaged newly seeded areas.





# High School/Alumni News



## Five Falcons Soared to NYC

FIVE Fairless students were selected to participate in the Great American Marching Band, during Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. Senior **Brent Hrynko** (Trombone), and Juniors **Logan Barkan** (Trombone), **Grace Miller** (Flute), **Josh Miller** (trumpet) and **Cayden Thornberry** (Trumpet) were among 185 elite musicians, selected from around the country. Not only did they represent Fairless, but Stark County and Ohio!

Each student had to prepare a full-length solo audition, as well as complete several marching components and submit via video to be evaluated by collegiate adjudicators.

Taken from the Macy's Great American Band website: "The band is under the direction of Dr. Richard Good, of Auburn University. This staff is also assisted by several talented music educators from across the country who serve as section instructors for the winds and percussion and assist in teaching the music, Herald Square drill and parade formation.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is internationally recognized as the official start of the holiday season and world-famous as a uniquely American entertainment extravaganza.

Once again, this prestigious band will take an honor position among the gigantic helium balloons, impressive floats carrying celebrities, and the nation's top marching bands. Stepping-off from Central Park, the Band will be cheered by the 3 million spectators lining the parade route. Arriving at Macy's Herald Square, the Band will perform for celebrity hosts, a grandstand audience, and more than 50 million TV viewers watching the broadcast live on NBC."

Make sure to follow us via Twitter @floqband and on Facebook: Fairless High School Marching Band!

Thank you for your continued support!

### DISTINGUISHED FAIRLESS FALCON AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Achievements:

Professional Career:

Community Service:

Military Service:

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure: Anyone may submit nominations to the selection committee by written form. Form must be legible in order to be considered. Please send to Superintendent's Office, Fairless Local Schools, 11885 Navarre Rd. SW, Navarre, OH 44662. Nominations should be received by March 31, 2024.

*Additional page may be attached if needed.*



# Senior Sports

## BASKETBALL AND WRESTLING



**Zoey Steele** drives to the hoop during a recent girls basketball game. The girls basketball team has been playing hard and continues to win games while competing in the PAC-7.







The cheerleading team performs during halftime of the boys basketball game.



**Gio Moore** and **Daniel Soehnlen** (above) strategize during a game. **Gio** and **Carson Colucci** (right) defend the basket against Manchester. The boys basketball team is led by a strong senior class and continues to play hard each game in a competitive PAC-7 league.



## ON THE MATS

The wrestling team brought the hardware home after competing in the Russ Ward Invitational tournament. The wrestling team has shown an increase in participation, and we are excited to see them compete in the PAC-7 and Division III tournaments.







*Sixth-Grade Choir*



*(l to r) Leah Fleck and Grace Hollstein*



*Ensemble*



*Vinton Lambert, Macy Kammer, Roger Lambert*

## Holiday Kick-Off Concert

The Fairless Middle School Choirs performed their Holiday Kick-Off Concert on Saturday, December 9. Held in the Lucinda J. Frailly Performing Arts Center at Fairless High School, the choirs performed a combination of both traditional and secular holiday selections. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (grade 6), *Winter Wonderland* (grade 7) and *Sleigh Ride* (grade 8) were just some of the holiday favorites shared. The concert also featured a variety of soloists and small group performances as well as several guest instrumentalists. Sharing their talents were **Isaac Renner** (grade 10, percussion) and **Kenzie Gatschet** (grade 9, flute).

## Power of the Pen

The seventh and eighth grade Power of the Pen teams are doing a great job so far this year. At their after-school Monday meetings, they write stories then share feedback. A few of their story prompts this year were “A Better \_\_\_\_\_,” “Cold,” and “Free.” Six seventh-graders and six eighth-graders on the team competed in the district tournament at Mount Union on January 5. The top 50% of finishers at the district will be competing in the regional tournament at Lake Elementary School on Saturday, February 24. Team members:

Seventh grade: **Leighton Brown, Leah Fleck, Grace Hollstein, William Ickes, Hunter Miller, Gabe Renner, Hailey Roeder, Wes Smith, Savannah Thompson, and Ashton Vincent**; eighth grade: **Adaline Borojevich, Bridget Newtz, Adelyn Peterson, Madison Starrett, Sylvia Twaddle, and Madelyn Vigil**.

Good luck, Falcons! The team is coached this year by seventh-grade teachers Julie Feucht and Kylee Leifer.



*Khloe Fantone, Anthony Singer, Harper Hamilton, and Brinley Freeman pose with their globes.*



*Sam Gilkerson*



*Brinley Freeman*



*(l to r): Emma Zimmerman and Khloe Fantone*

## Creating a Globe

While learning about geography in sixth-grade social studies, students had the opportunity to create a globe! They had to label various points, including the continents, oceans, poles, lines of latitude, longitude, and international dateline.

## SOAR

The middle school began the new school year with a SOAR (Safety, Ownership, Attitude, and Respect) store. At the store, students can exchange SOAR stickers they have earned for following positive behaviors on the SOAR matrix. Some of the items students could purchase included candy, books, t-shirts, and water bottles. Other items were coupons to wear a hat for a day or have lunch with the principal.

Students who earned a high number of stickers were able to participate in a hot chocolate bar which included whipped cream, sprinkles, marshmallows, chocolate shavings, and more!

## Elf the Musical

Seventh-grade students were able to attend *Elf the Musical* at the Canton Players Guild thanks to a generous donation from the **Massillon Eagles FOE 190**. Students had an excellent experience at the live performance! The donation also allowed us to treat the students to lunch at Kent State Stark Campus.

## “Oh, What Fun It Is” Lip Sync Battle

Prior to winter break, the sixth-graders presented some of their favorite songs to classmates, in hopes of being this year’s “Top Lip Sync Winner!” Students performed a variety of Christmas and Christian songs, as well as current 2023 hits. In addition, there was Christmas trivia and dancing, and fun was had by all! It was a wonderful time for students to share their talents and creativity. Winning unanimously was **Sam Gilkerson** singing *Call Me Maybe*!



# Middle School News



(l to r): Teresa Madzia, Annie Scheetz, Kylee Lantzer, Teagan Dowdy

## Countries of the World Celebration

In eighth grade writing, the students wrote informative essays on countries of their choosing. They covered things like history, culture, marriage, family, religion and other important facts. They also made posters of their respective countries. The project finished with a feast, and students had the opportunity to bring authentic food from their country for all to try. A good time was had by all.



Kenzley Graybill and Morgan Miller  
show their poster and props.

## Christmas Around the World

The students in Mrs. Knop's class "traveled around the world" through research, to learn about Christmas and New Year traditions and customs practiced in other countries. Each student then took their newly acquired information to create a visual for the class and presented the interesting and unique customs. The effort put forth by the students, and creativity displayed, was absolutely amazing! Way to go sixth-graders!

## Career Day

Career Day was held on December 1. Guests from a variety of backgrounds were able to talk to the students about many different careers and schools. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event memorable for our students!



Guests from the Amish Country Theater, Johnny Glessner and Ken Groves.



Students at the Lincoln Memorial



Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

## Eighth-Graders Visit our Nation's Capitol

For the first time in eight years, eighth-graders had the awesome opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. in October. They visited the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air Space Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, the Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials, and the Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, MLK, World War II and FDR Memorials. They also went on a guided tour of Gettysburg and the United States Capitol. This was the first overnight trip for many students, and they really enjoyed the opportunity to spend two nights in the hotel with their friends. After returning home, students raved for weeks about how much fun they had, and can't wait to take another trip.



(l to r): front - Aeriana Quinteros, Middle: Teagan Dowdy, Catalina Martinez, Madelyn Vigil, Adaline Borojevich, Alayna Conley, Adelyn Peterson; back - Ila Warstler, Bridget Newtz, Nova Day, and Sylvia Twaddle.

## Junior Leaders Service Grant Awarded to Eighth-Graders Who Want to Make a Difference

The Junior League of Stark County awarded members of the eighth-grade Student Council and Student Leadership Academy \$2,000 for their grant proposal, Big Sisters. These young ladies plan to empower girls in grades 4 and 5 by inspiring them to get involved in their school and community. The money will be used to host a catered event which will provide students with information about opportunities available to them. Students will visit booths with members of cheer, band, choir, soccer, volleyball, track, dance, 4-H, basketball, playhouse/drama, softball, scouts, and swimming to make them aware of what our community has to offer. Our eighth-grade students will present to the Junior League in May and thank them for helping us to inform our younger Falcons.







## Kindergarten

Mrs. Leitch's Kindergarten class enjoyed reading by the fireplace with their third grade book buddies in Mrs. Pfeiffer's class.



## Second Grade

Second-graders really enjoyed making Santa crafts after reading the book *How to Catch Santa!* by Alice Walstead.

## REGISTRATION



### NEW 2024-25 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Fairless Preschool Screening for  
NEW Students

**March 1, 2024 & April 12, 2024**

Available in Final Forms on  
**February 1, 2024**

Open to children *turning 3 or 4 by August 1, 2024.*

*To schedule and appointment,  
please call 330-767-7083.*

### 2024-25 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

available in Final Forms on  
**February 1, 2024**

Open to children *turning 5 by August 1, 2024.*

Screenings will take place in May by appointment.

*More information will be posted closer to the event.*



## First Grade

First-graders created Christmas trees out of ice cream cones.



# Elementary News



## Third Grade

Third-graders teamed up with their high school basketball buddies to compete in various Christmas activities.



## Fourth Grade

FES fourth-graders ran the North Pole post office again this year. Students, pre-K to grade 5, had the option to write letters to Santa and have them mailed. The fourth grade postal workers helped with stamping and letter distribution.



*Math classes*



*McKinley Museum*

## Fifth Grade

Mrs. Kornish's math classes recently played Make It Close: Extreme Christmas Version during math time. Not only did the game allow them to practice their estimation and multi-digit multiplication skills, they also competed for loot bags full of fun prizes!

Fifth-grade students traveled to the McKinley Museum recently and enjoyed participating in the Discover World Tour and Planetarium Show.



## Read by the Fireplace

Elementary students enjoyed the annual "Read by the Fireplace" activity on our decorated stage. Classes were encouraged to bring books and listen to holiday stories by the fire, all while enjoying the lights and decorations hidden behind the curtains.



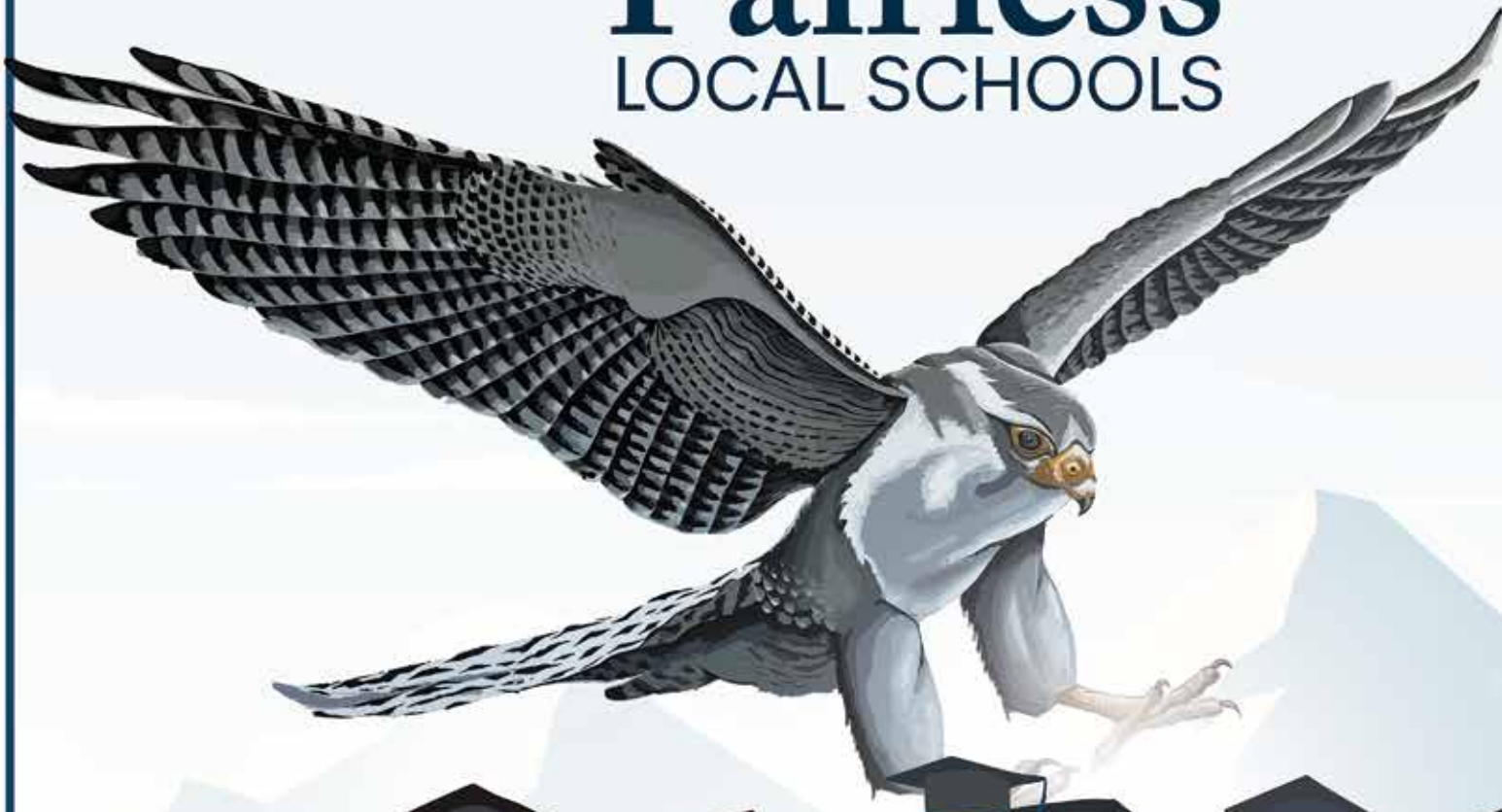
## Buddy Benches at FES!

Soaring fifth-graders, **Owen Best** and **Wyatt Rittenhouse**, started a petition to get Buddy Benches on the playgrounds. This idea came from one of the 7 Mindsets lessons they had in fourth grade. They presented their proposal to Mrs. Neuenschwander, the Board of Education and the PTO at meetings last year. The benches arrived this fall. Before the benches were placed on the playgrounds, the boys talked to each grade level during lunch periods explaining the purpose of them. The boys have done a great job helping students understand how to include others at recess, especially if they are sitting on a bench. We are all so excited with how nice they turned out and that our students are now using them!



# Fairless

## LOCAL SCHOOLS



### ACADEMICALLY PREPARED

#### Foundational Knowledge

Graduates will have an academic experience that achieves high expectations for each student's individual development.

#### Well-Rounded Content

Graduates will have access to a range of options for co-curricular and extracurricular activities that reflect students' interests, goals and learning profiles.



### RESILIENT INDIVIDUAL

#### Adaptability

Graduates will use their skills, knowledge, and experiences to identify possible solutions for complex problems.

#### Growth Mindset

Graduates will embrace challenges and be persistent in their learning.

#### Motivated

Graduates will show an eagerness to ask questions and explore beyond what is required; discovering, learning and understanding.



### FEARLESS LEARNER

#### Critical Thinking

Graduates will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills, problem solving competencies, and technology proficiency.

#### Innovative

Graduates will be self-directed learners, who are flexible with their knowledge and learn as they go, adapt to the situation, and use critical thinking skills.

#### Curious

Graduates will ask thoughtful questions, dig deeply into issues, and consider multiple perspectives when tackling problems and developing new processes.



### PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATOR

#### Intrapersonal Skills

Graduates will assume developmentally and age-appropriate responsibility for learning through effective decision-making, goal setting, and time management.

#### Effective Communication Skills

Graduates will clearly, concisely and truthfully articulate their thoughts in verbal and written formats while respecting the targeted audience and other points of view.

#### Collaborator

Graduates will work well with others by respecting differences and actively listening in order to practice cooperation and compromise in problem solving.



### CARING CITIZEN

#### Service Learning

Graduates will engage in community service experiences to help meet societal needs.

#### Ethical

Graduates will act with integrity and take responsibility for their actions and decisions.