STOW-MUNROE FALLS CITY SCHOOLS

Issue #11
Feb. 9-15, 2026

# From the SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK



Dr. Felisha Gould, Superintendent - Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools




## TEACHING THAT SAVES LIVES: STUDENT HERO RECOGNIZED

In December, Echo Hills student, Ryan Baranowski, demonstrated bravery and quick-thinking, and this week we had the honor of celebrating him right in his classroom.

After learning about fire safety at school from Firefighter Mel, Ryan recognized the smell of something burning in his home. Trusting what he had learned, he immediately alerted his family. Within minutes, they discovered a phone charger draped across a bed that had begun to melt and burn. Thanks to Ryan's awareness and fast action, a potentially devastating fire was prevented and his family stayed safe.

Ryan was surprised during class when Firefighter Mel, representatives from the City of Stow Fire Department, Mayor Pribonic, and school staff presented him with a Heroism Award plaque in recognition of his outstanding courage and presence of mind.

Firefighter Mel was also recognized for her dedication to educating students about fire safety. Ryan's story is powerful proof that her outreach and classroom lessons truly save lives.

We are incredibly proud of Ryan and deeply grateful to Firefighter Mel for helping keep our students informed, prepared, and safe.

## CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING SCHOOL LEADERS

On Thursday, Feb. 5, we were proud to celebrate three outstanding educational leaders from the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District at this year's Summit ESC Education Celebration, an event that honors dedicated professionals who bring learning to life for students across Northeast Ohio.

**Traci Kosmach - Lifetime Achievement Award**
With 25 years in education, Traci Kosmach has built a career in leadership philosophy grounded in love. As principal of Riverview Elementary School, she has shaped a school culture where students and staff feel seen, valued, and cared for.

**Mike Eckart - Teacher of the Year Award**
Mike Eckart's classroom is where math meets mentorship. While he teaches his students to solve equations and apply geometry to real life, he also focuses on developing critical thinking, confidence, and perseverance.

**Emma Walkinshaw - Rookie of the Year Award**
Already making a lasting impression in the classroom, Emma Walkinshaw is shaping confident, capable communicators. She helps students strengthen critical thinking, communication, and self-advocacy - skills they rely on long after graduation.

Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to these three incredible educators for their passion, commitment, and lasting impact on students, families, and our school community!





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## SMFHS PRODUCTION OF *CLUE* - FEB. 13, 14, 15

The Stow-Munroe Falls High School invites you to their production of *Clue*. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, *Clue* is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist!

Tickets can be purchased on the HomeTown Ticketing App, on www.myfot.org, or at the door. Concessions, 50/50, and more will be available at the show. *Image for the show (left) was made by one of our very talented actors, Rachel Senderoff.*

## Important reminders!

- A special meeting of the **Board of Education** will be held on Monday, Feb. 9 at the District Office at 6 p.m.
- **Boys Varsity Basketball** takes on Hudson High School at home on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.
- **Parent & Community Focus Group** will be held on Feb. 11 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Lakeview Intermediate School - *all are welcome, no RSVP is needed!*
- **Girls Varsity Basketball** plays at Medina High School on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- **SMFHS' production of Clue** on Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m.
- **Girls Varsity Basketball** takes on Jackson High School at home on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m.
- *Reminder:* **No school** on Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of President's Day.

## JOIN US IN WEARING ORANGE FOR DD's INCLUSION DAY ON MARCH 2

Monday, March 2 is Inclusion Day! Join us in wearing ORANGE to kick off Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.




Orange shirts are available to purchase now by clicking here. Proceeds will support the Stow-Munroe Falls High School Unified Sports program. Orders are due Sunday, Feb. 15. Shirts will be available for pickup after Feb. 26.

## YOUR VOICE MATTERS - ATTEND OUR FOCUS GROUP

You are invited to participate in our upcoming Focus Group on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Lakeview Intermediate School. ***Everyone is welcome. No RSVP is needed!***




This will be a relaxed, guided conversation led by an outside facilitator. We want to hear what is working well in our schools and how we can continue to improve.

## TURKEY BOWL SOCKS & SNACKS CLASSROOM DRIVE

Now through Feb. 18 classrooms are collecting donations of socks and snacks. The classrooms with the most donations will earn the opportunity to compete in the upcoming Super Turkey Bowl - a unique bowling game where a frozen turkey replaces the ball! Winners will receive cash prizes up to $1,000 for their classrooms.

## INTRODUCING NEW FOOTBALL HEAD COACH, DAN LARLHAM

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Dan Larlham as our new Head Football Coach! Coach Larlham will begin leading the program immediately, bringing extensive experience, leadership, and a strong commitment to student athletes.



Coach Larlham brings 22 years of coaching experience along with 18 years of classroom teaching experience. He has been part of the Stow-Munroe Falls High School's football program since December 2023, serving as Associate Head Coach, overseeing both the offensive and defensive units, and mentoring quarterbacks and linebackers.

Prior to joining SMFHS, he coached football at several high schools across the region, including St. Vincent-St. Mary, Cuyahoga County Christian Academy (CVCA), and Walsh Jesuit. Coach Larlham holds a Master of Arts in Physical Education from the University of Akron and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Baldwin Wallace University.

I can't wait to see the amazing things our football team will accomplish next season, and I encourage you all to join me at the games to support Coach Larlham and our talented student athletes. Go Bulldogs!