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This upcoming week, families throughout the community will be taking a break from the hectic day-to-day activities of life and enjoying time together. This will include the annual Turkey Trot sponsored by the Chagrin Falls Booster Club, as well as family gatherings and time to reflect on the many reasons to give thanks. As superintendent of Chagrin Falls Schools, I am thankful to work every day with teachers, administrators, custodians, bus drivers, kitchen support and secretaries that understand the responsibility we have in providing the best possible educational experience for our students every single day. We feel fortunate to work in a community that engages and takes a serious interest in our school district. “We are Chagrin,” is a phrase that has been utilized for many years and truly represents this district. We are educators, staff members, parents and a community that comes together to provide a high quality educational experience that transcends the classrooms of our buildings.

We are in what has come to be known as the “lame duck” session for our legislatures. Often this is a time represented by less activity and preparation for those newly elected. However, education remains a focus and there are many bills being bantered about regarding the Common Core, Third Grade Reading Guarantee and potential time limitations relevant to state testing. There has been a wave of legislative changes that have impacted public schools over the last three years. Many of these changes have unintended consequences locally due to the pace of implementation mandated within the legislation. Recently, we have identified that the change in testing at the third grade level will negatively impact districts performance index score throughout the state of Ohio. In past years, students in third grade have been administered the reading Ohio Achievement Assessment in the fall and the spring. Obviously, the majority of our students score higher in the spring due to a full year’s worth of instruction. This year all of our students will take the fall Ohio Achievement Assessment and those students that score 394 or higher will then take the PARCC exam in the spring. Therefore, these students will not have the opportunity to demonstrate this growth over the course of the year which will negatively impact both the building and district performance index score. We will continue to share changes and implications for our district throughout the course of the school year.

The district held a community forum on November 17 to discuss facility challenges facing the district. This open Q&A was sponsored by the PTO and moderated by Mrs. Beth Embrescia, parent and community member. There was open and honest dialogue regarding a variety of topics very relevant to this planning process. The session was recorded to share with those that were not able to attend. This can be accessed at the following link: http://www.chagrinschools.org/FacilityMasterPlan.aspx. We have also posted a frequently asked questions document that responds to many of the questions that have been brought forward. In addition, we will be posting an article outlining the shift in education and how current facilities impact this change.

The district is currently conducting predesign work on two options relevant to our elementary schools:

1. Consolidation of grades pk-3, 4-6 with shared space at Gurney

We will continue the conversation with our community over the next couple of months. There will be a meeting on December 3 at 7pm in the Performing Arts Center that will focus on conceptual designs. We will also host two coffee and conversations on December 10 in Sands Community Room and December 12 in the Intermediate School Library from 9-10am.

Robert W. Hunt
Superintendent
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
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The Chagrin Falls Board of Education conducted two meetings in November. The work session was held on November 3 and included an update on secondary curriculum changes for the 2015-16 school year. The presentation was given by Director of Curriculum Becky Quinn, Chagrin Falls High School Principal Steven Ast and Business/Entrepreneurship Teacher Jay Schach. The proposal included the addition of AP Human Geography and AP Physics 2. Chagrin Falls High School has also been invited to be an initial school to pilot AP Capstone along with only one other school district in the State of Ohio. This capstone is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through AP courses and cultivate curious, independent, and collaborative scholars allowing for the personalization of learning. This will include two sequential courses: AP Seminar (2015-16) and AP Research (2016-17). Mr. Schach highlighted changes in the area of business instruction to include the following: transition from web design to ecommerce, entrepreneurial mindset and the entrepreneurial process. The entrepreneurship courses are aligned with content taught at Hiram College and students will have the opportunity to take these courses for college credit.

The Board of Education also approved a change order to the predesign services being completed by Stantec Architecture. The services now include predesign work on the following options:

1. New Pk-3, 4-6 with shared space at Gurney Elementary
2. New Pk-3 with a complete renovation of Chagrin Falls Intermediate School for grades 4-6
3. New Pk-3, 4-6 with shared space at Gurney – a renovation to the 1914 section of the intermediate school into central office and removal of the 1947 section for additional parking
4. New bus garage
5. Renovation of high school office and media center

All of these projects will be presented with costs to the Board of Education on January 20.

The Chagrin Falls Board of Education wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
JOIN SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT HUNT FOR “COFFEE AND CONVERSATION” REGARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR DISTRICT’S FACILITIES

Wednesday, December 10
Sands Community Room

Friday, December 12
Intermediate School Library

9:00-10:00am

For those parents and community members who cannot attend evening meetings, we have scheduled these coffees during the day. The district is committed to giving every opportunity possible to our community to be engaged in this important process.

Table 1 compares actual monthly receipts to the monthly estimates and to prior fiscal year actual receipts. General fund revenues spike in the 1st and 3rd quarter as a result of real estate tax collections.

Table 2 compares actual monthly expenditures to monthly estimates and to prior fiscal year actual expenditures. Expenses are typically fairly evenly distributed throughout the fiscal year.

Table 3 compares estimated and actual monthly ending cash balances demonstrating compliance with Board of Education cash balance policies.

Table 4 is a cash flow summary comparing revenues to expenditures each month.
Thomas Serviovanni is quoted in Leaders for Learning as saying, “Viewing leadership as a group activity linked to practice rather than just an individual activity linked to a person helps match the expertise we have in a school with the problems and situations we face.” The works of Rick Dufour, Robert Marzano, and Wayne Hulley additionally support the idea and practices of incorporating shared leadership structure within a school’s organizational framework. The Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District began exploring and studying this notion during the 2013-14 school year with the hope of turning theory into practice. With community and staff input, shared leadership even surfaced as a focus area for the district’s five year Strategic Plan. Therefore, under the direction of Mr. Robert Hunt, Superintendent, the District Leadership Team (DLT) comprised of teachers, counselors, school psychologists, and principals from every building, plus a Board member, and district level administrators was formed. Becky Quinn, Director of Curriculum, led the charge and guided DLT members to better understand shared leadership and the important role each member would play in the future of the CFEVSD. We attended conferences together, read relevant research, and deeply studied two books in order to prepare us for the 2014-15 school year and beyond.

To grow the capacity of our shared leadership structure and increase our productivity and communication, the work now needed to stretch to the building level and teacher level. In August, the DLT engaged the assistance of a highly respected consultant in the area of leadership, Mr. Bill Holko, to aid us in our efforts. His facilitated sessions helped us to identify the purpose for our work, which wraps around three fundamental ideas: help all students achieve high levels of learning; cultivate a collaborative culture through the development of high-performing teams; and focus on data and results. Using these as our guiding principles, the DLT branched out to form Building Leadership Teams (BLT) and Teacher Based Teams (TBT) and a comprehensive system for communicating between and among all teams was enacted through the use of technology. All teams are currently working toward the achievement of two quantifiable district data goals, which were developed by the DLT and based on the district’s local report card, as well as improving school culture for the betterment of student achievement. Teams meet regularly and share the responsibilities of creating the agendas, facilitating the meeting discussions, and communicating outcomes. To date, we’ve tackled such topics as the school district calendar, providing meaningful professional development, data analysis of student scores, and addressing state initiatives like student growth measures as part of the teacher evaluation system. We are pleased with the work, thus far, and plan to refine our processes. Additionally, each team will use the district’s Strategic Plan to provide direction for shared leadership as it relates to innovating and monitoring our continuous improvement.

The five-year Strategic Plan states that by June 2019, we will maximize the potential of every student through personalized learning opportunities. As this goal relates to shared leadership, our direction is clearly defined and we have started the work of developing the DLT, BLT, and TBT process. During second semester of the 2014-15 school year, we will use a shared leadership structure to explore personalized learning and technology integration for the purpose of personalized learning. Furthermore, we wish to provide leadership opportunities to our students, as well as our staff. The Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives, Mr. Chris Woofter, will lead a team over the next several years through researching existing high-functioning leadership programs to learn about their structures and training programs, as well as their student leadership-related extra-curricular offerings. We will identify and implement a leadership development program for students entering grades six to twelve in order to foster leadership skills and build confidence in our future leaders. Should our inquiry yield potential opportunities for our students, changes to extra-curricular offerings will occur.

Through our use of a shared leadership structure to guide the district in making decisions that will increase student achievement, develop high functioning collaborative teams, and focus on results, the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District is visionary. We follow Dufour and Marzano (2011) in believing that no single person can unilaterally bring about substantive change in an organization and we intend to cultivate leaders among all stakeholders.
The Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools’ Business Advisory Council had its first meeting of the school year on October 23 in the Performing Arts Center lobby. The theme of the meeting was “Relevance for College and Career Readiness.” After a welcome by Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives Chris Woofter, each business/organization had the opportunity to introduce him/herself and share one fact about the business. Superintendent Robert Hunt reviewed the strategic plan and new Quality Profile. Afterward, Business Teacher Jay Schach provided an overview of the business/entrepreneurship program at Chagrin Falls High School. Technology Director Mike Daugherty shared the exciting news about the district’s Chromebook rollout to students in grades 3-12 thanks to the Straight A Fund monies received this past summer. The meeting concluded with updates from the Chagrin Valley Arts Center, Chagrin Arts, and the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce on successful partnerships with our district since this past spring.

During the parent information nights this summer, several Internet filtering options for Chromebooks were discussed.

The district has been experimenting with some additional filtering options that provide parents with greater control. It is simple to configure and password protected. The software is loaded onto each individual Chromebook, which allows customized access for each student to be set.

If you would like this additional filtering option, please use the form below to request that it be enabled on your student(s) Chromebook. The IT department staff will add the software to their Chromebook and email directions on how to configure it.

As a reminder, no content filter is 100% accurate. It is recommended that appropriate Internet usage is discussed with your student.

You can find useful information for those conversations at Common Sense Media https://www.commonsensemedia.org/

You can complete the home content filtering form at http://bit.ly/FilteringForm.
Chagrin Falls High School will be presenting “An Evening of Comedic One-Act Plays” by David Ives at the Studio Theater on the High School Campus Thursday, November 20 through Saturday, November 22 at 7pm and Sunday, November 23 at 2pm.

One of America’s premier contemporary playwrights, David Ives is probably best known for his evenings of one-acts, collected as All in the Timing and Time Flies. Five of the 6 One-Acts performed by the High School are from Ives’ All in the Timing- originally presented as six one-act plays that premiered in 1993 and ran for 606 performances. All in the Timing won Ives the Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award for Playwriting. His work is characterized by unique situations that float at the far edge of the social map and quickly drift off into uncharted territory.

The updated collection contains 14 one-acts, including Arabian Nights which is the sixth play being presented by the talented students of Chagrin Falls.

Whether it is three monkees pounding away at typewriters until they eventually happen upon Hamlet, the conversational minefield that occurs when a couple first meet, the crazy comedic fictitious language of Unamunda, or the crisis of a celebrated composer in a bakery, Ives’ mastery of language and wordplay, existentialist perspectives on life and meaning, and the complications involved in romantic relationships all shine through in this highly entertaining, very funny evening.

The six one-acts being performed are Sure Thing, Words, Words, Words, The Universal Language, Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread, The Philadelphia, and Arabian Nights.

Tickets are available at www.chaghrinschools.org
The Chagrin Falls Alumni Association inducted five graduates to the Chagrin Falls Schools Achievement Hall of Fame on October 23 during a ceremony held at the Tanglewood Club. This was the 12th class to be inducted and includes Dr. Bruce Campbell '72, Dr. Thomas Martinko '74 (Col. Ret.), Dr. James Thobaben '74, David Kravitz '75, and Dr. Christine Schomisch Moravec '75.

**Dr. Bruce Campbell** has been a career diplomat for the United Nations with a focus on reducing poverty and addressing humanitarian suffering. He has worked in Honduras, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Ghana, Nepal, Eritrea, Zimbabwe and Vietnam. During the time of Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon, Dr. Campbell was director of a 40-bed hospital for Palestinian refugees. His next post was directing a medical program for Afghan refugees, which provided clinical services to 1,100 patients a day. Dr. Campbell also worked for the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands as a technical advisor and consultant. He went on to be Chief Technical Advisor for the Ministry of Health in Ghana for four years and in Nepal for seven years. One of his proudest achievements was helping oversee a program that saw the sharpest decline in HIV prevalence in the history of the epidemic in Zimbabwe. After 30 years abroad, living in nine countries, Dr. Campbell is now the Director of United Nations Population Fund - Technical Division in New York City, where he leads a team of more than 90 professionals who provide policy and technical advice to six regional and 129 country offices.

**Dr. Thomas Martinko** had a lengthy and decorated career in the military before heading two different departments of pediatrics and at prestigious universities. Dr. Martinko earned the rank of Colonel of the Medical Corps of the US Army and was deployed overseas on several occasions including stays in Honduras, Germany, and Afghanistan. During his service he was awarded...
the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, Joint Services Commendation Medal, the Order of Military Medical Merit, the Combat Patch, the Afghanistan Service Ribbon, the Government War on Terrorism Ribbon, and the Armed Forces Reserve Ribbon. Dr. Martinko is currently an Associate Professor and Director of Adolescent Medicine in the Division of General Pediatrics at the University of Florida, which are positions he previously held at the University of South Alabama. Additionally, he has devoted many hours to youth programs, is a Eucharistic minister, and was keynote speaker of the 2014 Chagrin Falls Memorial Day Program.

Dr. James Thobaben is a professor and Dean of the School of Theology and Formation at Asbury Theological Seminary. He currently oversees Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, managing the decanal accreditation process for the institution. His academic fields are bioethics, social ethics, and sociology of religion. His special research interests are disability issues (especially traumatic brain injury related), social benefit from and concern with genetically modified non-human organisms, the spiritual and cultural meaning of pilgrimage, ecclesial architecture, and rural life. As well as working full-time at Asbury, he serves as the pastor of a small, rural church, is a part-time professor in the University of Kentucky, College of Public Health, an adjunct professor at Trinity International University, and operates a small tree farm. For both academic and spiritual reasons, Dr. Thobaben has twice walked the Camino de Santiago de Compostela and several of the long pilgrimage routes in Great Britain. Prior to assuming his current position, he was vice president of a physical rehabilitation facility centered on the treatment of those with traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries. His academic degrees are from Oberlin, Yale, and Emory.

Dr. Christine Schomisch Moravec is a Staff Research Scientist and Director of Basic Research in the Kaufman Center for Heart Failure at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Schomisch Moravec is also one of three Associate Directors of the Bakken Heart-Brain Institute and holds secondary appointments in the Department of Molecular Cardiology and the Center for Integrative Medicine. She also runs the human heart tissue bank at the Clinic. Dr. Schomisch Moravec was named an Established Investigator of the American Heart Association. In addition to her research work, she holds academic appointments at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and at Cleveland State University. Dr. Schomisch Moravec serves as Chair of Graduate Studies within the Lerner Research Institute and President of the Board of Directors of the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair, a regional science fair held each spring for 600 students from the Cleveland area. Dr. Schomisch Moravec has been invited to present her research at national and international meetings and conferences. She has also earned the Outstanding Educator Award from the Lerner Research Institute at the Cleveland Clinic.

Photo:
Chagrin Falls Achievement Hall of Fame inductees (Left to Right) David Kravitz ’75, Dr. James Thobaben ’72, Dr. Thomas Martinko ’74 (Col. U.S. Army - Retired), & Dr. Bruce Campbell ’73. Not Pictured - Dr. Christine Schomisch Moravec ’75.
Chagrin Falls teachers Ellen Jones and Lisa Todaro have made it through the challenging task to become National Board Certified Teachers – twice.

The Gurney Elementary teachers received word late last month that each passed all the requirements to renew the certification. They are the first Chagrin Falls’ staff to go through the renewal process. Lisa earned her initial certification as a middle childhood generalist in 2004. Ellen earned hers as an early childhood generalist a year later.

Both say the process was time-intensive, especially on top of their hours in the classroom, but well worth the effort. The first time required well over 200 hours of work, including four written entries focusing on professional accomplishments and specific lessons, and a six-section assessment, taken at a testing center. Re-certification required between 30-40 hours of work.

“The entries for our re-certification focused on how we have grown professionally since our initial certification. For both certifications, we were required to videotape two lessons and reflect on our teaching practices and how they impact student learning. Both processes focus on how you are making an impact on learning,” Ellen said.

Both see the certification as a huge professional accomplishment that helped them to “push ourselves as educators.”

“It has more clearly focused the way we think about our students and what methods we use to improve their learning,” Lisa said. “This personal reflection takes place daily in our teaching practices and also through continuing to develop professionally. Through the National Board Process, we learned the importance of continually reflecting on our practices and modifying our instruction to do what is best for our students and their learning.”

To other teachers considering applying for NBCT, they stress that it is a huge commitment, but one that is “highly enlightening and worthwhile. We think any teacher would benefit from completing the process.”

Gurney Principal Rachel Jones summed it up, “I am so very proud of these teachers!”
Dr. Rachel Jones, principal of Gurney Elementary in the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools, was named the 2014 Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators (OAESA) Distinguished Principal of the Year.

OAESA annually recognizes one middle school principal and/or one elementary school principal as Ohio Distinguished Principals of the Year.

These principals represent Ohio in the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Distinguished Principal program in Washington, D.C.

In addition to representing the state at the national conference, the recipients serve as leaders in our state by presenting at workshops, taking speaking engagements, participating on committees at the state level, and they receive a monetary award that may be used entirely at the principal’s discretion.

Jenna Williams, the daughter of Robert and Kathryn Williams, was named the 2014 Chagrin Falls High School homecoming queen.

Jenna was escorted by Tyler Thompson. Jenna is a member of cross country, swimming, track, and band. She participated in the spring musical and is looking forward to the fall play. After graduation, Jenna plans to attend college, where she hopes to study biochemistry.

She enjoys listening to music, going to concerts, getting Mitchell’s ice cream with friends, volunteering with “It’s a Tree Foundation” and is active in pet rescue.
On October 15, seniors from Chagrin Falls High School traveled to Ohio City where they donated their time and man/woman power to help a lending hand to community organizations that help provide for the less fortunate.

Seniors were introduced by Kerry McCormack, Director of Community Affairs, for Ohio City Incorporated, and given a brief history of Ohio City along with an overview of what activities they would be partaking in. After meeting in Market Square, across the street from the Cleveland West Side Market, students departed and walked to various community service activities that included working at Kentucky Gardens, Franklin Circle Christian Church, the Urban Community School, the West 47th Street Garden and other beautification projects. Rick Werner, who helps manage the Kentucky Gardens said, “Thanks to the efforts of these Chagrin Falls’ students, we were able to get all of the Donation/Market Garden plots ready for the winter. That work will pay off for the Garden’s continued ability to support itself through Market sales next year as well as the Garden’s continued ability to contribute to the food programs at St. Pat’s and St. Herman’s.”

This was the first year that Chagrin Falls Seniors worked outside the local community and ventured to Cleveland. The school district is planning on continuing their partnership with Ohio City Incorporated for the future.
When the Chagrin Falls Board of Education recognized top-scoring students who took college entrance exams in June, the list included current seventh-grader Robert Snider, 12, who took the ACT in December 2013 as a sixth grader.

Robert was one of 69 Chagrin Falls students in grades 4-9 who took EXPLORE, ACT and SAT tests last year through Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search. NUMATS is a testing program that enables gifted and talented students the opportunity to take tests that are normally only available to students at higher-grade levels. About 20,000 students from across the nation participated.

Many of the Chagrin Falls’ students did well, but Robert and his parents, Cynthia and Brian Snider, were invited to attend an award ceremony in September that recognizes the top 1-2 percent of NUMATS test takers. Robert’s score on the reading section of the ACT, a 33, tied for third among all sixth-graders who took the test.

“The experience was really great, especially being at Northwestern University,” he said. “It showed I have strength in reading. Before I thought I was equal in math and reading.”

He does not know how he placed in the other three sections of the ACT. The math section of the test included areas he has not yet studied, he said. Chagrin Falls Schools’ Curriculum Director Becky Quinn said participating in NUMATS helps students know where they stand academically and begin preparing for the future. The program also provides parents and students electronic access to information and assistance.

“NUMATS not only helps our brightest students frame the learning which still needs to take place prior to graduation, but also compares their performance to other gifted students across the country… students who they may eventually compete against for scholarships and/or for acceptance into the most prestigious colleges and universities,” said Quinn.

Robert is currently taking all the accelerated courses available in seventh grade, and plans to take the ACT and SAT again this year.

“I would tell people who are going to take it, it was less intimidating than I thought it was going to be,” he said.

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- Becky Quinn, Curriculum Director, Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
CHAGRIN FALLS EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS
HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS
It was the loudest sound one young man had ever heard—the simultaneous blasting of 480 ship horns heralding the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima. That is just one of the memories shared by area veterans in the documentary One Mission: Chagrin Falls, produced in 2010 by CF resident Todd Lyle.

The veterans share their tales of service that span from the battlefields of WWII, the jungles of Vietnam and the burning oil fields of the Gulf War, to the desert sand of Iraq and the harsh mountains of Afghanistan. The stories, some shared for the first time in the film, are emotional, raw and sometimes surprising, but all center around the same mission, the defense of freedom.

On November 11, during “One Mission: Redux,” Chagrin Falls Schools’ students and residents had two opportunities to hear the stories. Students gathered during a morning assembly to hear a panel discussion including three of the veterans featured in the film: WWII veteran Aaron Fox of Auburn, Vietnam veteran James McEnaney of Chagrin Falls, and Iraq veteran James Alumni of South Russell. Student Tyler Thompson, son of a U.S. Marine officer, introduced the veterans. A 10-minute segment of the documentary also was shown.

At 7:30pm residents, senior citizens and veterans attended a showing of One Mission at the Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Center.

On October 23, Google Education Evangelist Jaime Casap visited the campus of Chagrin Falls Schools to witness first-hand the progress our district has made with 1:1 technology. He talked with our teachers and saw how both our students and staff learn, engage, create, collaborate, communicate, and think critically using technology, especially with the new Chromebooks.
Devon Riegel has been selected as the Chagrin Valley Rotary Club High School Student of the Month for November 2014.

A senior at Chagrin Falls High School, Devon excels in many areas, especially those involving creativity and the arts. This year she was named a National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and Tiger of the Semester. She also earned the CFHS Art Purchase Award, Scholastic Silver Key Award for original short story, and in 2012, earned the Scholastic Gold Key Award for original visual art.

Devon is a current member of the CFHS Jazz Band, and a four-year member of the Select A Capella Pop Choir and the Marching Band, for which she served as field commander this year. On stage, she has performed with CFHS drama program in “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Aida,” “Seussical the Musical,” “David Ives’ One Acts,” and plans to audition for “Cinderella” in the spring. Other extracurricular activities include Key Club, International Club, Philosophy Club and Art Club.

Her creative endeavors continue outside of school, including writing and publishing original songs, playing flute with the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, taking lessons in voice, flute, piano and drums, giving lessons in guitar, and membership with of the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers. In addition, she is the primary owner of Little Sparks Designs LLC, which produces original designs on screen-printed t-shirts.

Devon has not yet decided on her future plans, but has applied to eight colleges across the country. She is interested in the music industry, songwriting, neuroscience, and law.

The Middle School Career Speakers Program will bring professionals from all walks of life to talk about their careers during the second half of students’ lunch periods. Each speaker will give a general description of the job, describe a typical day or week, talk about the education, training, and skills needed, and share about his or her own career path and reasons for choosing it.

The program kicked off with John Updyke, a 1982 Chagrin Falls High School graduate and state qualifier in wrestling. Now owner of Mad Jack’s Grill & Pub in Aurora, he spoke to the students about careers in the restaurant and hospitality business.

All seventh and eighth grade students will be able to hear each speaker. That is a change from previous Career Day programs, which brought various speakers to the school for one day, scattered among several classrooms. Students chose which speakers to hear, but many were disappointed because they could not see everyone they wanted.

Instead, the new speakers program will be an ongoing program, with speakers scheduled every few weeks throughout the school year.

A new program at Chagrin Falls Middle School may help students find the answer to the old question “what do you want to be when you grow up?”

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Instead, the new speakers program will be an ongoing program, with speakers scheduled every few weeks throughout the school year.
Published local authors and other writers converged on Chagrin Falls Intermediate School Nov. 7 for an all-day Writing Forum.

The day began with a keynote speech by Shelley Pearsall of Akron, author of five intermediate level books, including her latest, “Jump Into the Sky.”

Other local writers spoke during five 35-minute sessions, including Chagrin Falls’ authors Daniel Porter, (‘Til the Streetlights Come On: Lessons Learned from Neighborhood Games,) Sandra Philipson, (the Max and Annie series,) Neil Markey (Woof,) Mara Purnhagen, (Past Midnight and three other young adult novels,) and Jessica McKendry (From the Ashes.) Editor Ellen Kleineman and reporters Tony Lange and Sue Reid from the Chagrin Valley Times, attorney Shawn Acton, PR manager Christine Thome, and interns from the Chagrin Falls High School Write Place also shared about their writing experiences.

In addition to showing examples of their own writing, Principal Rebecca Holthaus asked the experts to talk about the writing process and the importance of continuously practicing writing skills.

“We decided that we wanted to also invite professionals who write a great deal so our children can make connections to the real world,” she said.

The students also received journals to use during the day during the mini sessions, “Sacred Writing time,” and a final activity.
Book Club at Chagrin Falls Middle School

Book Club meets once a month in the Middle School Library. Students love to come to Book Club where they gather to eat lunch and enthusiastically discuss great young adult books! Book Club is open to all seventh and eighth graders and new members are always welcome. Mrs. Lori Guerrini, Teacher-Librarian, facilitates Book Club meetings.

GURNEY ELEMENTARY
AN INVESTIGATION ON DECOMPOSITION

Third-graders in Mr. Brad Jones’ class at Gurney Elementary participated in a hands-on science lesson in the rocks and soils unit for science. The class completed the lab in the woods behind the school.

The students recreated the recycling process that creates soil by placing natural material that is decomposing into a bag and then synthesizing the decomposition process for organic material such as leaves, pieces of rotting tree trunks, etc. and the weathering process for inorganic material, like rocks and soil.

The focus of this lesson was to show the students that soil is made through a natural recycling process.

“All living things depend on healthy soil as a basis for their food chain. It is a valuable resource and it takes nature about 100 years to create and reclaim lost topsoil,” said Jones.

Students used their hands to crush the natural materials to speed up the decomposition and weathering process and after a few minutes, they had a bag of healthy, nutrient rich soil.

The class then took the bags of soil and dumped them into Gurney’s preschool garden.

At the end of the lesson, students were able to describe the soil composition process and identify the organic and inorganic material found in soil. They could also explain the importance of healthy soil.
Scholastic Book Fair at Chagrin Falls Middle School

Chagrin Falls Middle School is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair at the school December 3-5. Students will be visiting the Book Fair during their Language Arts classes at which time they may purchase books.

“Our Scholastic Book Fair is part of a reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read,” said Lori Guerrini, MLS, B.S. Ed, library media teacher, Chagrin Falls High School/Middle School. “Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. Like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they’ll get.”

School families and residents also can purchase books online through Dec. 5 at http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/chagrinfallsmdsch. Orders placed online will be sent to Chagrin Falls Middle School and delivered to students by December 19.

All profits from the in-school and online book fair benefit the Chagrin Falls Middle School library.

Book Club Field Trip

Middle School Book Clubbers had an awesome time on an October field trip to Perry High School for Author Extravaganza. Students listened to panel discussions by award-winning young adult authors and had opportunities to meet up with the authors.

“Our Scholastic Book Fair is part of a reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read.”

- Lori Guerrini, MLS, B.S. Ed, library media teacher, Chagrin Falls High School/Middle School.
GURNEO ELEMENTARY KICKS OFF
ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK!

Follow Along!
AND CHECK OUT OUR GUEST CHAPTER READERS!
http://chocolatefactoryosob.weebly.com/

THANK YOU PTO FOR OUR CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY BOOKS!

THANK YOU DADS CLUB!
THE PERFECT GATES CREATE THE PERFECT OPENING FOR THE ALL SCHOOL READING OF CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY!

THANK YOU PTO VOLUNTEERS FOR CREATING MR. WONKA’S FACTORY AT GURNEY ELEMENTARY!
November 18, 2014

Greetings to you, the lucky finder of this golden ticket, from Mr. Willy Wonka!

Tremendous things are in store for you!
Many wonderful surprises await you!

I do invite you to come to my factory and to my guest... you and all others who are lucky enough to find my golden tickets!

In front of the gates you will find Enough Wonka Bars for each student. Each student shall open their Wonka Bar and discover if they are lucky enough to receive a golden ticket and be able to enter my factory!

Once all of the golden tickets have been discovered, a silent signal must come over everyone to signal that it is time for me to come out and greet all of the lucky finder of my golden tickets!

In your wildest dreams you could not imagine that such things could happen to you!

~Mr. Willy Wonka

Everyone has a golden ticket at Gurney to enter the gates of the Willy Wonka Factory!

Gurney Library is now the Chocolate Room! A chocolate waterfall, river, and suction tube. Don’t get stuck in it!
The Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools intends to use a variety of avenues to communicate to the district stakeholders. The list below outlines the various methods to connect with the district through social media.

**DISTRICT WEBSITE**
Visit us on the web at www.chagrinschools.org

**FACEBOOK**
Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CFEVS

**TWITTER**
Join the conversation on Twitter. Use #CFEVS. You can also follow the school district administrators:

- Robert Hunt
  Superintendent
  @Hunt_EdLeader

- Rob Winton
  High School Asst. Principal
  @robertdwinton

- Christopher Woofter
  Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives
  @ChrisWoofter

- CFHS Counselors
  @cfcounselors

- Mike Daugherty
  Director of Technology
  @MoreThanATech

- David Wessel
  Middle School Principal
  @CFMS_Principal

- Rebecca Holthaus
  Intermediate School Principal
  @RebeccaHolthaus

- Steve Ast
  High School Principal
  @steven_ast

- Dr. Rachel Jones
  Gurney Elementary Principal
  @DrJ_cfprincipal

- Charlie Barch
  District Athletic Director
  @ChagrinAD

**E-NEWSLETTER**
Would you like to be notified via email of what’s happening in the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District? Register to receive our E-Newsletter. Go to the homepage, www.chagrinschools.org. In the lower right hand corner, click the “E-Newsletter” icon to begin the registration process. Once there, click the link that says Create an Account. Fill out the forms and choose your selections. When you are finished, click the submit button and you are registered. Please note, you can login with the account you just created and edit your preferences at any time.

**DISTRICT ALL CALLS**
Our district uses an automated calling system to send out important messages such as school closings, school delays, or other valuable information when necessary. This service is only for the parents of district students. Parents will be eligible to receive these calls when they enroll their students. If you are a parent in the district and you are not receiving the automated calls, or if you need to change the number that these calls go to, please contact Pupil Services at (440) 247-4564.

**AUGUST 2014**

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

**OCTOBER 2014**