



Freedom Middle School PTSA Newsletter

May/June 2015



Principal's Message...

Hello all,

I wanted to take a quick moment to thank-you for supporting our students and P.T.S.A. by reading this edition of our Newsletter. We **greatly** appreciate your time and support to help **OUR TEAM** excel *forward*. Over the last few weeks, our students have been hard at work completing their 2015 P.S.S.A. Exams. I can personally attest that our students tried their very best and that we are excited for OUR results so that we can continue to plan future instruction and curriculum needs for all students. While the PSSA's should not be viewed as a comprehensive picture of a student or school's success, these tests do offer us all an opportunity to highlight student and school strengths while also serving as a measure of potential areas of growth for both students and our school alike.

Starting with our 5th and 6th grade's successful Spring Concert on May 6th, May has been a very exciting time of the year at Freedom Area Middle School. On May 13, our 8th grade went on a field trip to Heinz Field to tour the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pitt Panthers game day facilities and also enjoyed a relaxing meal at the Point (Special **THANKS to OUR PTSA** for funding this trip!). Many of our 7th graders also went on a three day trip to Wallops Island, VA with Mrs. Patosky on May 20. In 6th grade, our teachers have been hard at work for the sixth grade's annual CSI Days from May 19 – 21. At the 5th grade level, our students have been reading *Macaroni Boy* in preparation for their May 21st trip to Pittsburgh's Strip District. For all Middle School students, Mr. Matsook and Mrs. Smithmyer also held an all-day Health & Wellness Day on May 15th and have also planned our annual Olympic Day for May 29. Finally, OUR Middle School Band rocked out OUR auditorium at their annual Spring Concert on May 19.

Another important announcement that I would like to make is that three of OUR Middle School teachers have been recognized by the Prevention Network as Beaver County Distinguished Educators at the Golden Apple Gala. Mr. Heisler, Mrs. Zeigler, and Mrs. Boyd were honored at the Golden Apple Gala as Beaver County Outstanding Educators. Furthermore, **Mr. Heisler was recognized as the first runner up for Beaver County Teacher of the Year** in the middle level division (grades 5-8). If your child has any of these teachers, please consider sending them a congratulatory email or phone call! I would also like to ask you to consider attending our PTSA meetings. We have a great group of parents who are dedicated to helping our kids and teachers excel. A special thanks is also in store for anyone that sponsored a student at our first ever READATHON-AKINDA-SORTA-SOMETHIN. Thank-you for your support!

Thanks for reading and I hope to meet you soon at a PTSA meeting!

Frank A. Hernandez

Principal
Freedom Area Middle School

President's Message ...

Welcome back, Fine Freedom Folks, to the pages of the FMS PARENTS Newsletter!

Looking back at the past year that started with my having little (okay, no) experience at volunteering, and faced with a learning curve resembling 9th Street, us FMS PARENTS threw down the best we could, and Freedom students benefitted handily from our time & efforts & \$\$\$!

And boy-oh-boy did we learn a lot from our Readathonakindasortasomethin' when the teachers & staff took the ball from us PARENTS & ran with it! Next year, with much trial & error behind us, we're taking it to another level of fun & fundraising with Thinkathon.....Oh, and certainly more 'free' fitted t-shirts.

Speaking of next year.....it sure looks bright with Principal Hernandez's infectious enthusiasm & history of success at the helm, and I am stoked at what next year has in store for our kids & community at large.

With the summer to prepare for the next school year, I'm thinkin' our learning curve this time is more like a straight cruise up Freedom Crider Road. (though 40mph is sooooo slow....just sayin')

I am hopeful more of Yinz Fine Freedom Folks will be able to volunteer & add your ideas & thoughts to the mix.

Till then, we will keep in touch with a summertime Newsletter via the good ole United States Postal Service, and here's to a safe & long summer!

David Jansen
FMS PARENTS PREZ

***Please take note of & patronize the generous sponsors of those 422 Readathonakindasortasomethin' T-shirts Freedom Middle School students received for that special day:

Sorbaras Cranberry SHOP 'n SAVE
a Gray Day Training Specializing in Ground Manners
generations PHOTOGRAPHY AND SPECIALTY GIFT SHOPPE
GROOM-IT Pet Boutique
Sims Lanes



National Junior Honor Society News

17 Students Inducted

The newly established National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at the Freedom Middle School inducted their first 7th and 8th grade students. The following students were honored at the induction ceremony on November 4, 2014:

7th Grade

Dylan Chandler	Cole Skuse
Casey Collins	JoAnn Sharpless
Adam Hessler	Madison Snavely
Matthew Levenson	Hallie Spielman
Leah McNear	Baylee Stewart
Cade Skuse	

8th Grade

Claudia Huggins
 Robin Kaufman
 Melissa Keith
 Isabella Krall
 Samuel Romutis
 Myla Sharpless

The NJHS is based on 5 distinct pillars that all members must display. All inductees must maintain a GPA of 3.9 or higher, along with exemplary Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Citizenship, and Character. Ms. McKim is the NJHS advisor and plans to work with the High School NHS to assist with service projects like Toys for Tots collection, etc.

Activities Sponsored by the National Junior Honor Society

Crazy Hat Day

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) ran the Crazy Hat fundraiser prior to winter break and raised \$99 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Many donors didn't even wear a hat. The NJHS thanks you for your generosity!

Give and Get

The NJHS ran the Give and Get drive this past winter in order to raise much needed food items and supplies for the Unionville Methodist Church food pantry and Crossroads Homeless Shelter. A total of 394 items were raised in two weeks,

Readathon... Helpers

Several NJHS students volunteered to make book-shaped cookies to reward those students who dressed as their favorite character for the Readathon. NJHS also helped out several teachers with their literacy activi-





Freedom Area Educational Foundation Hall of Fame

The Freedom Area Educational Foundation (FAEF) will hold their annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on September 19, 2015 at the Columbian Room in Wexford. THE FAEF Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the Hall of Fame Class of 2015 - Mike Arbutina (*posthumous*), Jeff Bishop, Elder Vogel, and Len Waitkus. The evening will be a celebration of the accomplishments of the new inductees and will also include the presentation of our 2015 Student Scholarship recipients. For further information concerning the Hall of Fame and tickets for the event, please visit the FAEF website - <http://www.freedomareaeducationalfoundation.org>.

The FAEF was established to benefit the students of the Freedom Area School District. Its purpose is to enhance and enrich the quality of the educational and/or extra-curricular experience beyond what is typically expected of taxpayer funding. The FAEF sponsors additional activities and events throughout the year and funds both student scholarships and teacher grants.

Be on the outlook for our next exciting fundraising event - The Golf Ball Drop - information about this exciting event will be at upcoming district events.



2014-2015 Merit Scholarship Awardee

The PTSA has selected Luke Kiefer to receive the Freedom Area PTSA Inc 2014-2015 Merit Scholarship. Luke ranks 3/113 in his graduating class. Luke received the \$1000 check on May 18th at the PTSA meeting. He will be attending Edinboro University in the Fall of 2015 and he will be majoring in Applied Media Arts with a focus in Animation. We are so happy to aid Luke with his college expenses. We wish him the best of luck at Edinboro University!





May/June 2015



Beaver County Golden Apple Awards

Mr. Heisler, Mrs. Zeigler and Mrs. Boyd were nominated as outstanding educators in Beaver County. Mr. Heisler won the Middle Level Educator of the Year first runner up Award. Congratulations to our fabulous teachers!



Summer Adventures in Reading

Hey Freedom MS students!

The PTSA will once again be sponsoring the Summer Adventures in Reading Program to encourage you to maintain the reading skills that you've worked so hard to acquire.

This summer **your mission is to read** books, magazines, or newspapers.

To participate, just keep track of how long you read. You can use the log sheet found on the reverse side of this letter.

Just by reading, you will be eligible for some *really fun activity* in September.

A BONUS: You can use the books that you read this summer for AR points in the fall!

So don't be lazy ALL summer; do some **reading!**

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Dubovi

PTSA Summer Adventures in Reading



Rip, Clip, Send . . . Rip, Clip, Send

Send in your Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels! Keep saving them this summer for next school year!





Read-a-thon-a-kinda-sorta-somethin'

The Read-a-thon-a-kinda-sorta-somethin' was held on Friday, May 1st at the Middle School. The goals for the day long literacy event included:

Introducing students to various reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, and drama activities that will expose them to a variety of genres through the use of hands-on, multi-sensory, and cross curricular activities.

Raising sufficient funds to meet the Freedom Area Middle School PTSA budget.

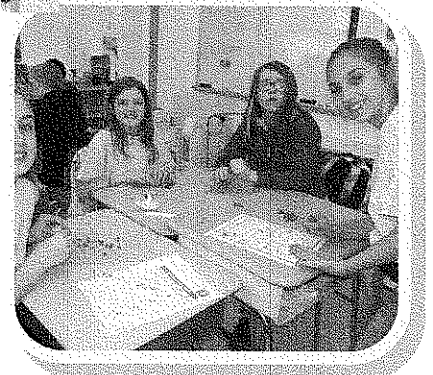
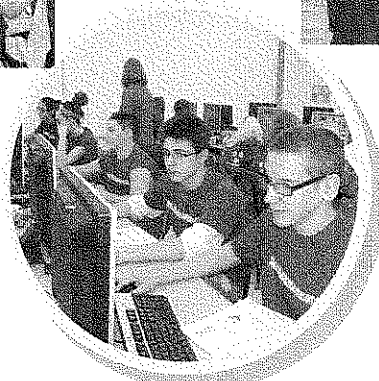
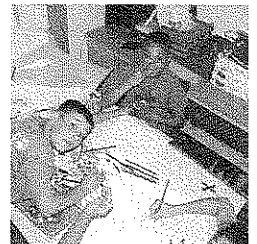
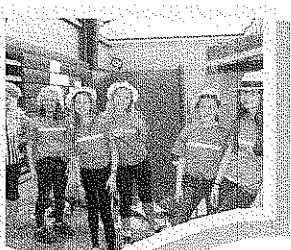
The first goal was met in that the teachers did not disappoint and planned many exciting activities. Here is a sampling of what the students did: Sixth graders read directions to knit a bookmark and dissected owl pellets, eighth graders learned the art of free-style rapping and how to measure the height of a tree with string and rulers, fifth graders read magazines and designed book covers while seventh graders had a scavenger hunt and search the world for Carmen Sandiego.

The day closed with a play performed by the high school Performing Arts Class for the entire middle school.

To date, the event has raised approximately \$4,000. It's not too late to make donations at DepositAGift.com or to send a check to school. All money raised pays for field trips, assemblies, classroom supplies and other fun stuff for our kids!

Thanks to all of the teachers, parents and students for participating!

Pics from the Readathonakindasomething



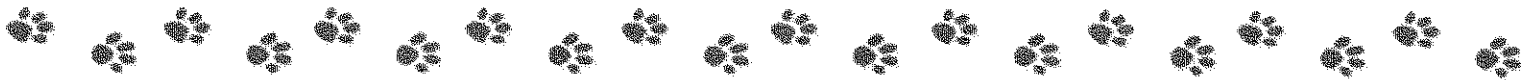


May/June 2015



Kid Care Award Winners

Congratulations to this year's Kid Care Award winners, custodian Nancy Schwab and substitute teacher/coach John Mohrbacher. Both were recognized during the May school board meeting and received a plaque and a gift. The PTSA also recognized middle school principal Mr. Hernandez and PTSA President David Jansen during their May meeting. **Thank you** to everyone who goes above and beyond for the students at FMS.



So Why Help the PTSA?

Many parents get burned out volunteering for the Elementary PTAs and want to take a break when their kids get to the Middle School. BUT there is still a need for parent volunteers for the Middle School PTSA because our fundraising supports a lot of great programs and activities for our kids and teachers. **Please help us by volunteering to chair a committee or attending our meetings.** Here is a short list of some things that the PTSA supports/funds:

- Field trips
- Busing for field trips
- Be a Bulldog program items
- Summer Adventures in Reading
- Senior Scholarship
- Requests from teachers as needed
- Community Service Award
- Arts in Education
- Dances
- Faculty Appreciation Luncheons

- Olympic Day
- Assemblies
- Education Tools as needed
- Administrative Appreciation
- Scholastic Incentives i.e. ice cream socials, etc.
- Birthday/Get Well Cards for faculty/administration
- Special Appreciation Awards as needed
- PTSA Insurance
- PTSA National dues



Congratulations

Girls in eighth grade are eligible to tryout for the Big Red Marching Band's front units. This year Robin Kaufman was selected to be on the drill team and Melissa Keith will replace her sister Michelle as feature twirler. Selena Bittenbender, Hailey Deaner, Heather Cleek and Raven Olson are the newest members of the flag line.





Rip, Clip & Send



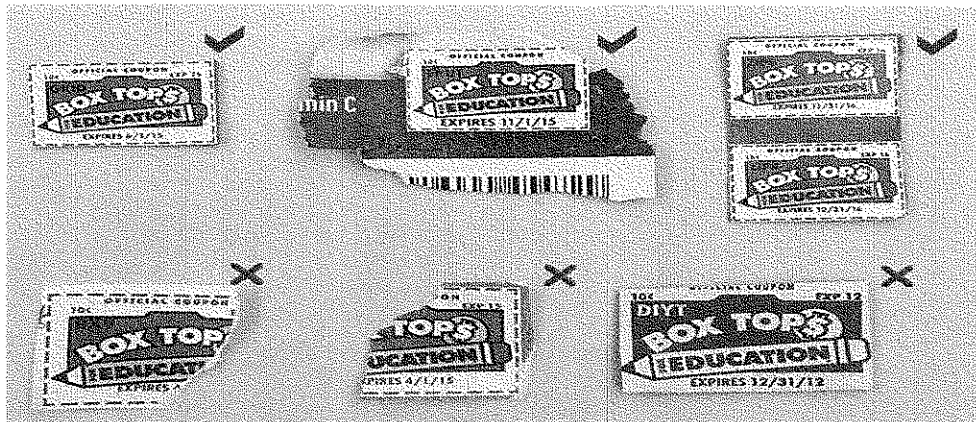
Box Tops for Education®
Let's earn money for our school!

Don't forget to keep collecting those box tops over the summer and turn them in the first week of school in September! Our goal for this school year was \$1,000 which unfortunately we didn't meet. If everyone Rips & Clips their Box Tops and sends them to school in the *handy-dandy* envelope, I'm sure we can meet this goal next year!

History of Earnings

2014-2015	\$401.10 as of 5/25/15
2013-2014	\$235
2012-2013	\$470
2011-2012	\$68
2010-2011	\$382

When submitting box tops, please check the expiration date to make sure it's valid and make sure the entire box top is visible. See following examples:



The PTSA uses this money to buy much needed items for the teachers and classrooms. Money earned through Box Tops can fill gaps in our school budget and help fund essential items like computers, books, supplies, etc. Simply clip the Box Top (valued at 10¢) from hundreds of General Mills, SC Johnson, Kimberly-Clark, Nestle, and Avery-Dennison products. Some popular products that we probably all use include General Mills® cereal, Pillsbury®, Yoplait®, Ziploc®, Kleenex®, Huggies®, Juicy Juice®, Hi-Liter® and more.

Visit www.btfe.com to learn more about Box Tops for Education & the webpage listed on the *handy-dandy* Envelope.





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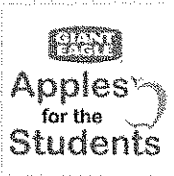
Campbell's® – Labels for Education®

Clip, Rip & Send the UPC labels to help the Middle School earn points that can be redeemed for Art, Athletic, and Academic merchandise!

Last year, the school purchased the following items with the Campbell's Label points we earned during 2013-2014: playground ball, footballs, soccer balls, soft throw down bases, and a heavy duty electric pencil sharpener.

Based on prior earnings, with your help utilizing the *handy-dandy* envelope, the PTSA goal is to raise more than 15,000 points for the 2014-2015 school year by *Ripping & Clipping* your labels and *Sending* them to school. As of 5/25/15, we've earned over 1,300 points.

Over \$114 million in merchandise has been distributed to schools across America through the 39 year history of this program. Visit www.labelsforeducation.com to learn more about the Labels for Education & the webpage on the *handy-dandy* Envelope.



Giant Eagle® - Apples for the Students®

Help us earn money for the Middle School by enrolling your Giant Eagle Advantage Card®. You simply shop, scan your Advantage Card and support your school!

Visit www.gianteagle.com/schools/apples-for-students to enroll your Advantage Card right away and help us earn money for the school.

As of 5/25/15, we've earned 237 points and last year, we earned 279 points for the Middle School. Please make sure you enroll your Advantage Card for the Middle School to help us earn more points! As of now, we only have 123 supporters registered for the Freedom Middle School. Let's try to reach 150 supporters over the summer so we can earn more than 500 points next year. The school purchased some heavy duty pencil sharpeners with the points we earned last year.

Giant Eagle has supported area schools through the Apples for the Students program for more than 20 years and has donated more than \$25 million in educational equipment (computers, software), A/V equipment, and playground equipment to schools.





Freedom Middle School PTSA Newsletter

May/June 2015



PTSA Board

President- David Jansen **Vice President-** Amber Tavern **Treasurer-** Cathy Wright **Secretary-** Sally Jo Smith

PTSA Committees

The following is the list of PTSA committees and the chairperson contact information. If you are interested in chairing or helping out with one or more of the committees, please contact any member of the board or come to the next PTSA meeting.

Art in Education- This committee is responsible for the Reflections contest. They are responsible for getting the entry forms and information to the kids and setting up an unbiased vote on the entries at the school level. They then make sure the winning entries get to the next level for judging. **Chairperson:** David Jansen. **Contact Information:** jansensan@yahoo.com.

Book Fair- This committee is responsible for setting up the book fair, having the teachers preview the books with snacks, finding volunteers to work during the book fair, and clean up. The book fair is usually held in the Fall during Open House and again in the Spring. **Chairperson:** Allison Huggins. **Contact Information:** allihuggins@gmail.com.

Box Tops- This committee is responsible for collecting and submitting Box Tops, Campbell's labels, and Apples for Teachers. **Chairperson:** Lori Pail. **Contact Information:** lori.pail@yahoo.com.

Community Service- This committee is responsible for getting entry forms out for the Kid Care Award, collecting nominations, setting up a vote on the entries with the PTSA committee chairs, and presenting the award at the last PTSA meeting. **Chairperson:** Becka Hessler. **Contact Information:** jrhessler@gmail.com.

Dance- This committee is responsible for planning dances throughout the year, selling tickets at school and at the door, getting chaperones for the dances, etc. **Chairperson:** Christina Stockdill. **Contact Information:** stockdillc@yahoo.com.

Faculty Appreciation- This committee prepares a luncheon for the faculty for teacher appreciation week and purchases gifts for Administrative Professional's Day. **Chairperson:** David Jansen. **Contact Information:** jansensan@yahoo.com.

Olympic Day- This committee's main responsibility is to purchase water and snack for Olympic day at end of the school year. Volunteers help hand out the water and snack to the kids. **Chairperson:** Lori Pail. **Contact Information:** lori.pail@yahoo.com.

Membership- This committee helps to encourage people to join the PTSA, thorough purchasing a membership, and collects membership dues. **Chairperson:** Chris Mercier. **Contact Information:** cmercier75@comcast.net.

Newsletter- This committee gathers articles from committee chairs and types up a monthly newsletter to give to school secretaries to be put on website. **Chairperson:** Dana Daley. **Contact Information:** dana_daley@yahoo.com.

Senior Scholarship- This committee works with the guidance counselor at the high school to pass out information about the scholarship to the seniors, collects essay entries from the senior class, sets up an unbiased vote with the PTSA committee chairs, and presents award at the last PTSA meeting. **Chairperson:** Dawn Shane. **Contact Information:** dshane31@yahoo.com.

Summer Adventures in Reading- This committee is responsible for passing out information to kids before school lets out for them to track summer reading, collecting these forms at the beginning of the new school year, and sets up a party to reward the kids who participated after school resumes. **Chairperson:** Carol-Lynn Dubovi. **Contact Information:** dubovitcl@aol.com

Sunshine Committee- This committee's responsibility is to send out cards to faculty and staff for things like having a new baby, hospitalization, death in family, etc. **Chairperson:** Mary Ann Wagner. **Contact Information:** mawagner0223@comcast.net.

Ways and Means- This committee helps the PTSA raise funds to afford us to do all the fun things that we do for the children though out the year. This committee is in charge of setting up and implementing any fundraiser the PTSA decides to do. Another role of this committee is to brainstorm new ideas for fundraisers, and implement them after approval by the PTSA board.

Student Liaison- (2 students per grade level)