

The Fitz-Herald

November 2017

The Newsletter of Fitzgerald Public Schools



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A Season of Gratitude

Dear Fitzgerald family,

Welcome back to another issue of the *Fitz-Herald*. In this season of thanks, I am grateful for the hundreds of ways we as a community support our common goal of preparing our students for college and careers.

Through contributions large and small, we have created a nurturing learning environment where students thrive. Here's a glimpse of what I appreciate at FPS:



Youthful optimism: Our students amaze me every day. They are working together to make a positive impact on the world. Last month, they collected hundreds of items to ship to

hurricane survivors. Our students continually find ways to make a difference through their energy, intelligence and optimism.

Tenacity: Our staff members never give up. They are tireless in their commitment to every student's success. This commitment makes them willing to learn, work together and embrace the best in educational practices. They are the reason we are seeing growth in every student.

Leadership: Our board leads with vision and solidarity. They are committed to investing in the very best curriculum, materials, training and technology. They know that board leadership and cooperation is key to well-run, high-achieving districts.

Community: Our community supports us. This was evident at both the community fair in August and at Homecoming, when hundreds came out to celebrate our local school district. We were blessed with a great turnout at a recent fundraising event to support our educational programs. I also see it when our senior citizens join us for lunches, musicals and the annual senior citizen prom. We have created a community that several generations of Fitzgerald families call home. Thank you for being a vital part of the Fitzgerald Public Schools family. We couldn't do it without you!

Warm regards,

Barbara VanSweden

Fundraiser for Classroom Mini-Grants a Huge Success

Our second annual fundraiser for the Fitzgerald Foundation for Educational Advancement in mid-October raised \$12,000 to fund mini-grants for staff and students. Last year the grants supported recess and sensory room equipment, technology for the performing arts program, book clubs, the Score with Reading program and a creative writing author workshop. It also sponsored student leadership training, class field trips and several student trips including the Student Television Convention, the middle school robotics regional competition and the Michigan State University football camp for select student athletes.

The fundraising event featured entertainment by dueling pianos, raffles and giveaways of 40 donated baskets and Detroit Pistons and Red Wings tickets. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our students!

Thank you to the following sponsors:

Platinum Level Sponsors (\$1,000)

Partners in Architecture (PIA)
Edgenuity
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Gold Level (\$500)

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On-Site Flu Shots Available

Protect your child's health by having them get their flu shot at the Fitzgerald Health Center. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend flu shots every year to protect you and your family from illness, missed school or work and flu-related hospitalizations. The health center is located at Fitzgerald High School and serves children and adolescents from ages 10-21. All patients can receive care regardless of health insurance status, legal status or ability to pay. The Henry Ford Health System Department of Pediatrics operates the clinic. Call (586) 759-9070 to schedule an appointment or learn about other services offered at the clinic.

Movie and Swim Nights

Mark your calendars for the following family fun nights at Fitzgerald for 2018! The events will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

- **Jan. 12:** Family Swim
- **Feb. 9:** Family Movie
- **March 9:** Family Swim
- **April 20:** Family Movie

Early Childhood Highlights



Schofield Early Childhood Center Opens Its Doors

The sounds of young children filled the rooms and hallways at the new Schofield Early Childhood Center this fall. Schofield was reopened to accommodate growing enrollment and to offer a specialized learning environment designed for Head Start, preschool and kindergarten students. Schofield Principal Theresa Swalec said families are excited about having a learning environment designed for their very young children.

New Playground Inspires Imaginative Play

Our new preschool playground equipment gives students plenty of ways to practice coordination, balance, taking turns and using their imagination. It features slides and buttons to step onto, a merry-go-round, a teeter totter and swings.



"Parents say their children feel very safe being with their own age group. They also appreciate that everything here is designed for their child's developmental stage."

— Theresa Swalec, Schofield Principal

Preschool Openings for Four Year Olds

 Schofield Early Childhood Center has afternoon openings for children who turned four years old by September 1, 2017. The Great Start Readiness Program is a state-funded free preschool program that meets Monday through Thursday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Visit fitz.k12.mi.us to register or call (586) 757-5150 for information and eligibility requirements. Give your child a strong educational foundation – enroll in preschool today!

Preschoolers Practice Counting

Preschool gives four year olds the opportunity to work, play and learn with other students their own age. Two of Mrs. Mayer's students pictured here are working on a counting activity where one student counts apples and the other student writes the number on the whiteboard.



Legos Grow STEM Skills

Figuring out how to build a structure develops reasoning and problem solving skills. In Mrs. Larson's preschool class, students build houses out of Lego blocks. They use their creativity to decide on color, size, shape and what they are going to build.



Early Childhood Highlights



Third-Grade Reading Law Update

In 2016, Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law a bill that aims to ensure all third-grade students can read at grade-level by the end of the school year. The law takes full effect during the 2019-2020 school year. That is the year our current kindergarteners reach third grade.

As a district, our goal has and will always be to ensure that students meet their full potential as learners. Fitzgerald is committed to using every tool available to make sure students can read proficiently by the end of third grade. To continue making sure our students are confident readers, we have begun to make updates to programming at the elementary level to build on our instructional materials. We have updated our literacy and science programs to ensure that we fully utilize every possible strategy for assisting students.

These advancements in our curriculum build upon the practices we have had in place for a few years, such as STAR Reading, math assessments that measure growth, and utilizing reading specialists in each elementary building. In addition, we will be reaching out to parents to assist their children. Students who are struggling to read will participate in an Individual Reading Plan that will ensure a partnership between home and school to make sure all students are successful.

Kindergarten STARs

Our kindergarteners are learning to show **STAR** behavior. STAR stands for:

- S - Safety first**
- T - Try your best**
- A - Act kindly**
- R - Ready to learn**

To inspire our students to be STARs, Mrs. Nowak's students made STAR crowns and learned what STARs stands for. Every time students do something good – such as following directions or cleaning up their space – the class earns a STAR to put in a classroom jar. Once the classroom jar is full, they have a class celebration and those STARs are placed in Mrs. Swalec's jar in the office. Once this jar is full, our kindergarten community will celebrate their success together.



Creative Captions Inspire Learning

Creating a caption for a picture is one way that students can develop writing skills. This activity is part of our new Journeys reading and writing curriculum. Students are asked to look at a picture, describe what

is happening and create a caption depicting the action. Mrs. Vandelanders' students took turns looking at pictures of pets on the chart and created a caption they helped write.

Group Reading Builds Literacy

Working in small groups is one way students learn how to read in kindergarten. Mrs. Rudd introduces a storybook to her students by first looking at the cover of the book and brainstorming what the story may be about. This is followed by looking at each picture in the book and describing the scene. New words are introduced, said aloud, spelled out and located in the text. Next, students use their finger to point to each word as they take turns reading aloud. Mrs. Rudd encourages parents to follow the same process at home when they read with their children.



Elementary Highlights



New Science and English Language Arts Programs Boost Literacy Skills

This fall all elementary students began new science and English Language Arts programs aimed at ensuring students develop robust critical thinking and problem-solving skills to prepare them for college and jobs of the future.

Science Dimensions is the first curriculum built to meet the Next Generation Science Standards adopted by the Michigan Department of Education. Built with a digital-first mentality, this program makes maximum use of the district's one-to-one technology initiative and provides an authentic approach to increasing student achievement in science. Students also draw on skills in other areas, especially in reading comprehension and math, to find solutions.

The Journeys Literacy Program develops confident readers by engaging and meeting the needs of all learners at every reading level. The program, currently in use by 6.7 million students nationwide, has received rigorous review by researchers who found measurable gains for students using the program after the first year.

"The Journeys Literacy Program and the Science Dimensions Program go hand-in-hand because strong reading comprehension is essential for deep scientific inquiry. With these programs, we are leveraging technology to boost the curiosity, critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving skills that children need for the 21st century."

– Barbara VanSweden, Superintendent

Solving Real-World Problems Through Engineering

The Science Dimensions Program includes hands-on engineering tools – students use the same processes that engineers use to solve a real-world situation that a scientist or engineer would encounter. This type of learning is called phenomena-based learning, which is a key characteristic of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Fourth and fifth graders at Mound Park recently used the engineering process to create an assistive hearing device. Here are the steps they followed:

1. Identify the problem.
2. Research solutions that had already been tried.
3. Design a prototype that best meets the requirements and constraints for the solution.
4. Test and retest prototypes.
5. Conduct failure analysis to learn from their mistakes and identify ways to improve their prototypes. Engineers are constantly looking for ways to improve technology.
6. Collaborate to engineer a variety of prototypes.



Walking Classroom Takes STEM Learning Outdoors

The Walking Classroom is a national award-winning educational program that provides students and teachers with an innovative way to capitalize on the link between exercise and cognitive function. Mound Park is one of 10 schools in the state to participate in this program.

Students take brisk 20-minute walks as a class while listening to kid-friendly podcasts about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) topics. Each podcast begins with a brief health literacy message. Mrs. Girling's fifth grade class has accumulated enough steps so far this year to walk to Lansing and CJ Barrymore's in Clinton Township. Keep on walking and happy trails!

Elementary Highlights

A New Approach to Elementary Education

This school year we began a new approach to our elementary program. We placed all Head Start, preschool and kindergarten students at Schofield Early Childhood Center. Children in first through third grades attend Westview Lower Elementary School. Fourth- and fifth-graders attend Mound Park Upper Elementary.



Based on several studies, the reconfiguration offers a number of benefits:

- ✓ **Focus on one developmental stage:** In grade-specific buildings, the staff can be experts in all aspects of a narrow age range, which creates a tight focus on everything from lesson planning to management of student behavior.
- ✓ **Staff development and collaboration:** Teachers in grade-specific buildings grow more skills than other teachers because the staff development is more specific to their professional needs. Staff development is a key to improving student learning.
- ✓ **Cohesiveness of curriculum:** Research also shows that a curriculum is taught more consistently when all sections of a grade are under one roof.
- ✓ **Building-wide collaborations:** The structure creates the chance for building-wide collaborations, including building-wide book studies, author visits, science experiments, themed celebrations, fitness initiatives, art projects and more.

2016-17 Perfect Attendance for Mound Park and Westview:

Name	Grade	School
Aiden Andary	5	Westview
Jason Bachi	5	Westview
Damien Rhys Barr	5	Westview
Draykon Xavier Barr	2	Westview
Ashlyn Grace Bolman	2	Mound Park
Collin Ray Dancy	1	Mound Park
Kendall R. Dodoro	4	Westview
Marsean Jireh Duculan	4	Mound Park
Thomas Walter Hostinsky	2	Westview
Malyiah Brynn Korn	1	Mound Park
Deanna Michelle Lee	2	Mound Park
William Joseph Mayle	4	Mound Park
Sandra Melissa Mendez	5	Westview
Jordyn Nicole Neal	3	Westview
Nicholas Parker	5	Mound Park
Matthew Raymond Reiss	4	Westview
Morgan Wayne Reiss	4	Westview
America Orrona Thornton	4	Mound Park

Mound Park Celebrates 10 Years of Girls on the Run

Mound Park Upper Elementary School celebrated a decade of participation in Girls on the Run this year. Participants meet twice a week to run with Ms. Kosi and Mrs. Girling. Running inspires and motivates girls, encourages lifelong health and fitness, teaches teamwork and builds confidence through accomplishment. The program concludes on Nov. 19 with a 5k celebration race at Belle Isle.



First Graders Learn About Fire Safety

The Warren Fire Department taught Westview first graders about fire safety. Students learned how to stay safe, how to avoid anything that causes a fire and what to do during a fire. They also explored a fire truck and took home fire hats and life-saving information.

Save the Date: Mound Park Talent Shows

Fourth Grade Talent Show: 6-7:30 p.m., Jan. 10, Mound Park gymnasium

Fifth Grade Talent Show: 6-7:30 p.m., March 8, Mound Park gymnasium

Operation School Bell Visits Westview

Westview Elementary School was selected to participate in Operation School Bell sponsored by the Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan.

Each student received a coat, hat, gloves, shirt, underwear, socks, hygiene kit, a book and duffle bag. Our students showed great appreciation through their words and smiles.



Middle School Highlights

Chatterton Welcomes New Sixth Graders

Every school year, fifth graders make the transition to Chatterton Middle School. On Aug. 24, more than 100 excited sixth graders were welcomed by Assistant Principal Aimee Rioux. Chatterton counselor Jessica Strye gave students a brief overview of the academic, athletic and encore programs offered at CMS.



Following presentations, students were given a tour of the school through a scavenger hunt led by sixth grade teachers, where clues led students to the media center, main office, counseling office, gym, cafeteria and even a bus. At each destination they were given a brief overview and an opportunity to ask questions. After the scavenger

hunt, students were brought back into the cafeteria where they participated in a raffle for prizes such as lanyards, string backpacks, school supplies and gift cards.



Chatterton Students Receive New School Clothes, Coats and Shoes

Last month, 100 Chatterton students went home with new school clothes, coats and shoes from JCPenney with help from the Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan. Students were each given \$100 to purchase new clothing before the JCPenney store opened to the public. Everyone walked away with huge smiles and bags of new clothes!

The Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization whose purpose is to clothe, feed, educate and comfort children and adults through community-based programs.

Upcoming Chatterton Events

Dec. 13: Middle School Band Concert 7 p.m.

Jan. 24: Middle School Choir Concert 6:30 p.m.

May 16: Middle School Band Spring Concert 7 p.m.

June 1: 8th Grade Exit Dance

June 6: Middle School Choir Concert 6:30 p.m.

High School Highlights



Homecoming Royalty Serve Young Spartans

Every year, Homecoming court nominees give back to the Fitzgerald community through a service project with our elementary students. This year, the court members read picture books to students at Schofield Early Childhood Center. Each princess read her favorite picture book to the children and then donated the book to the classroom library.



This year the homecoming queen is Santina Zeetow. The other senior princess candidates were Janee Brewer, Cassandra "Daisy" Bunch and Audenaire Suggs. Princesses representing the underclassmen were freshman Tori Crenshaw, sophomore Kaylan Privett and junior Kaylee Nolan.



High School Students Aid Hurricane Relief

FHS students in the government and leadership classes partnered with students at Royal Oak High School to help victims of Hurricane Harvey. Parents and staff donated many items for families in Texas. We are grateful for these students, their families and teachers Jennifer Crotty and Sara Sonnenfeld for organizing a great community service project!

Spartan Marching Band Wins Top Honors

The Spartan Marching Band earned perfect scores at a recent marching band competition to secure a First Division superior rating. The students have worked very hard and gave it their all, even through wind and rain. Hats off to our marching Spartans!



Upcoming Band Dates

Dec. 12: Winter Band Concert

Jan. 20: MSBOA High School District Solo & Ensemble Festival

Feb. 15: Pre-Festival Band Concert (middle school and high school bands), 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium

March 17: MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble Festival

March 28: K-12 Art Show

May 15: High School Band Spring Concert, 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium

High School Highlights



Fitzgerald high school theatre students at rehearsal for the upcoming *The Lion King* musical on Dec. 7-9.

Virtual Academy Offers Flexibility

Did you know that Fitzgerald Public Schools runs two high schools? In addition to Fitzgerald High School, we offer the Fitzgerald Virtual Academy. The academy meets the needs of students in several ways:

Flexibility: Students can do their work anywhere, any time as long as they stay on track and meet with their faculty coach every week. Students also can move through classes slower or faster than the set schedule.

Relationships: Parents and students say the caring relationships with staff make the program work. The staff members are available at any time to help students and their families.

High expectations: Because of the close relationships, staff set high expectations for students and the students respond. "The staff wants them to be the best they can be and the kids really like that. They don't want to let them down," said Mary Ward, whose granddaughter Shelby is a student.

Tight focus: Students focus on one course at a time. Students who are facing a host of life challenges often struggle to balance the standard high school class load of six classes. The focus on one class makes school possible in their minds.

Comprehensive services: Unlike purely online programs, our students have access to the same comprehensive services as any student at Fitzgerald High School. These include social workers, guidance counselors, English-language tutors, special education staff, and speech pathology.

We created the Virtual Academy out of deep commitment to serve every student. If your student is facing challenges at Fitzgerald High School, talk to a principal or counselor to see if the virtual academy might be the right path to a diploma.

"Some students have to work because their mom is sick. So if they have a 30-minute break at work, they can do school work. Teachers show you how you can find time to study and work it into your day. Then they check in to make sure you do it. Without that, I don't think I would have graduated."

- Alexis Ward, 2016 graduate

High School Drama Presents 'The Lion King'

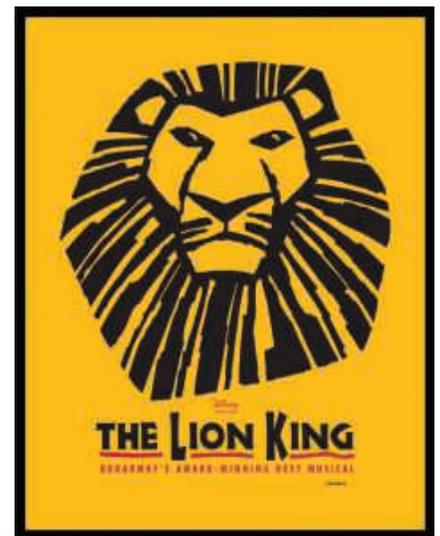
The Fitzgerald High School Drama program will perform "The Lion King," based on the Disney film story of a young lion cub who grows up to reclaim his father's stolen kingdom. We hope to see your family and friends at this live production of a favorite Disney classic!

Date: Dec. 7-9

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: FHS Auditorium

Cost: Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for students.



Harvesting Memories at FPS



Homecoming 2017

This year's Homecoming was a success! Our Spartans celebrated with style during this year's spirit week, parade, alumni gathering, winning football game and homecoming dance!



PRIDE is strong at Mound Park

Fitzgerald PRIDE was strong at Mound Park leading up to Homecoming! Students participated in Spirit Week which included Twin Day, Superhero Day, Crazy Hair Day, Pajama Day, and Mismatch Day. This week of activities culminated with Mound Park's Student Council marching in the Homecoming parade. The float created by P.O.M.P. celebrated all of Mound Park's Superheroes!

Harvesting Memories at FPS

Family Fun at Trunk or Treat

Fitzgerald students and families dressed up for our fourth annual Trunk or Treat on Oct. 27. Check out all the fun below!



Halloween Band Concert

On Oct. 26, the Fitzgerald Bands presented the 12th annual Night of Fright concert in the FHS Auditorium. The Halloween-themed music featuring the Concert Band, Symphony Band, Wind Ensemble, Spartan Marching band and middle school band was a huge hit and drew a large crowd. Many guests even dressed up in costumes!



An Apple-licious Field Trip

Preschoolers and their families visited Blake's Apple Orchard in October. They went on a hayride to the apple orchard to pick apples, visited the petting farm, experienced the corn maze and ended their visit with apple cider and donuts.

ECRWSS
Postal Patron
Fitzgerald Public Schools
Warren, MI 48091

Fitzgerald Fact:

Did you know that senior citizens get to attend all concerts, plays and home sporting events for free? Seniors can get their Star Pass from the central administration office. Call (586) 757-1750.

Key Dates

- **Half Day:** Nov. 22
- **Thanksgiving Break:** Nov. 23-24
- **Holiday Break:** Dec. 22-Jan. 2
- **First Day Back from Break:** Jan. 3

Phone Directory

Administrative Offices:

- Business(586) 757-1860
- Curriculum (586) 757-3344
- Food & Nutrition (586) 757-8845
- Human Resources (586) 757-1751
- Facilities (586) 758-0964
- Student Services (586) 757-4044
- Superintendent (586) 757-1750
- Transportation (586) 758-0965

School Offices:

- Schofield Early Childhood Center**
(Pre-K – Kindergarten): (586) 757-5150
- Westview Lower Elementary School**
(Grades 1-3): (586) 757-5520
- Mound Park Upper Elementary School**
(Grades 4-5): (586) 757-7590
- Chatterton Middle School:** (586) 757-6650
- Fitzgerald High School:** (586) 757-7070

To Report Absences:

- High School(586) 758-0875
- Chatterton(586) 825-0971
- Mound Park(586) 825-2146
- Westview(586) 825-2150
- Early Childhood(586) 825-2153

Recorded Information:

- HS Spartan Line(586) 757-7287
- Chatterton Chat Line(586) 825-6637

To enroll your student for the 2017-2018 school year, contact Julie Schroeder at the Central Enrollment Office in the Neigebaur Building, 23020 Ryan Road. Call (586) 758-0980 or email centralenrollment@myfitz.net

Employment Opportunities

Fitzgerald Public Schools is always searching for qualified individuals to substitute in our district, including:

- Substitute teachers
- Substitute paraprofessionals
- Substitute office support staff
- Substitute custodians
- Substitute bus drivers
- Lunch aides

For a complete list of open positions and to apply, visit fitz.k12.mi.us/human-resources/employment-opportunities or contact the Human Resource Department at (586) 757-1751. Candidates interested in food service positions can apply at careers.aramark.com.

Board of Education Meetings

All meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at the FHS Automotive and Pre-Engineering Technology Institute, 23200 Ryan Road. Upcoming meeting dates are Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 1, April 12, May 10, June 7, and June 21. Anyone with a disability who needs accommodations and/or assistance to participate in this meeting should contact Superintendent Barbara VanSweden at (586) 757-1750 at least five days in advance of the meeting.

FPS is Social

Find Fitzgerald Public Schools on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

-  [facebook.com/FitzgeraldPublicSchools](https://www.facebook.com/FitzgeraldPublicSchools)
-  twitter.com/FitzSchoolsMI
-  [instagram.com/FitzSchoolsMI](https://www.instagram.com/FitzSchoolsMI)