



SCHOOL REPORT

Olmsted Falls School District

www.ofcs.net

January/February 2011

MAY BALLOT ISSUE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL FACILITIES 2.8 MILL PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY WILL NOT RAISE TAXES

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

All residents are invited and encouraged to attend one of the following public information meetings to learn more and ask questions about the 2.8 Mill Permanent Improvement Levy:

Monday, March 7th
at 7:00 p.m.

Falls-Lenox Primary School
Library Media Center

Wednesday, March 23rd
at 7:00 p.m.

Olmsted Fall High School
Library Media Center

Tuesday, April 5th
at 7:00 p.m.

Olmsted Falls Library Branch
Downstairs Meeting Room

Tuesday, April 19th
at 7:00 p.m.

Olmsted Fall High School
Library Media Center

At their regular monthly meeting, held January 19, 2011, members of the Olmsted Falls Board of Education voted 5-0 in favor of placing a 2.8 Mill Permanent Improvement Levy on the May 3, 2011 election ballot. This Permanent Improvement Levy **WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES** paid by residents of the Olmsted Falls School District community, but will provide for a dedicated funding stream for permanent improvements and facilities upkeep. The vote to place this issue on the ballot came following a lengthy series of strategic discussions among the Board of Education, District administration, staff, and community members, which began last summer.

While the overall strategic discussions focused on District needs one year, five years and ten years from now, discussions in recent months have centered around 2.8 mills of existing millage set to expire (or “drop-off”) in calendar year 2012. Specifically, the 2.8 mills scheduled to expire in 2012 are part of existing bond millage that was approved decades ago by the community to expand and maintain District facilities. As of January 1, 2012, those 2.8 mills from the previous bond millage will be paid off in full. Without a vote by the community, these 2.8 mills would automatically “drop-off” the District’s tax rolls in 2012. This “drop-off” would result in a tax reduction for property owners of approximately \$80 per \$100,000 of property value.

“We felt it was important to bring this issue to the voters and let them decide if they want to continue supporting their long-standing investment in our local school facilities,” said Mr. Frank Pedicini, President of the Olmsted Falls Board of Education. “Placing a Permanent Improvement Levy on the May 2011 ballot in the same amount as the “drop-off” of 2.8 mills provides our community the opportunity to redirect funds toward specific facility and equipment needs without increasing their taxes.”

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Additional information on 2.8 Mill P.I. inside...

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT (P.I.) LEVY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: How Much Will The 2.8 P.I. Levy Generate?

If passed, the 2.8 Mill Permanent Improvement Levy would generate \$1.4 million annually, which can be used by the District for permanent improvement projects and purchases. Permanent Improvement Levy funds must be spent on facilities, maintenance, equipment or materials that have a shelf life of 5 years or longer.

The ability to handle looming maintenance expenses in older District facilities with P.I. funds (as opposed to using District general fund dollars) can also help lengthen the time before the next operating levy is needed. With the passage of the last operating levy in February 2010, the District pledged no new operating levy for a minimum of three years.

Q: How Would These P.I. Funds Be Spent?

The most urgent facility needs that would be addressed with these Permanent Improvement funds are at the High School. Just like a home that is 42 years old, the Olmsted Falls High School building has a number of issues that must soon be addressed. (Olmsted Falls High School first opened its doors to students in the middle of the 1968-1969 school year.)

Even with the ongoing and proactive maintenance care of this building by the District's outstanding custodial staff, there are significant improvements that need to be taken care of including **roof replacement**, **electrical system upgrades** and **plumbing system pipe replacement**.

Q: How Will Passage Of The 2.8 Mill P.I. Levy Benefit the Community?

A dedicated revenue stream dedicated solely to permanent improvement projects and purchases will help provide the District the funds necessary to complete needed repairs in the most efficient manner. This not only protects the community's investment in existing facilities, but also saves money in the long run by resolving general maintenance and upkeep issues early before they become more expensive problems.

Q: Can P.I. Levy Funds Be Used to Pay Employees?

No. Funds generated from a Permanent Improvement Levy CANNOT be used to pay District operating expenses such as salaries and benefits. **By law, no money from this revenue source could ever be used to pay employee salaries or benefits.**

2.8 MILL P.I. SUMMARY

- WILL NOT RAISE TAXES
- Replaces existing bond millage set to "drop-off" in 2012
- Provides dedicated funds for upkeep / upgrade of facilities without any increase in current tax level
- CANNOT be used for salaries/benefits

DID YOU KNOW?

Olmsted Falls High School is 42 years old and still utilizing the original Federal Pacific panel as its main electrical service panel.

P.I. funds can be used to upgrade aging building systems such as plumbing and electrical.



FOLLOW OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOLS ON-LINE

<http://ofalls.wordpress.com>

Updated each Wednesday, the "Ofalls blog" features the latest District news and event information. In addition, the District blog also features an **interactive comments section** where parents and residents can post questions and receive responses directly from District administrators.

The District's blog can be accessed by all residents at anytime by visiting: <http://ofalls.wordpress.com>.

Please note that the blog service being utilized by Olmsted Falls School District - "WordPress" - is a free service and does not require any expenditure of District funds. We hope the Olmsted community will find this blog a beneficial tool for staying informed about our school community.

OLMSTED FALLS HIGH SCHOOL HOME TO NINE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Nine Olmsted Falls High School students were recently honored by the Board of Education for their achievements in the National Merit Scholarship program. Board members were joined by State Representative Matt Patten as these outstanding students were recognized in front of a crowd of family and friends. OFHS Principal Dr. Bob Hill introduced each student individually as they were honored.

OFHS seniors Jim Coury, Mike Coury and Shom Mazumder were named 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists. Annually, approximately 1.5 million U.S. high school students vie for National Merit recognition and only 15,000 are chosen for this prestigious honor.

Congratulations to all of the National Merit Scholars, and their families, on this outstanding achievement!



*Front row (L to R) - Board Vice President Mr. Joe Bertrand, National Merit Finalists **James Coury, Soumyajit Mazumder, and Michael Coury**, and Board President Mr. Frank Pedicini. Back row (L to R): Superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley, National Merit Commended students **Benjamin Brown, Tatiana Faria, Michaela Killik, Natalie Brdar and Ethan Kocjan**, OFHS Principal Dr. Robert Hill and State Representative Matt Patten. Not pictured: National Merit Commended student **Nicholas Macek**.*

ON-LINE SURVEY OF DISTRICT PARENTS PROVIDES VALUABLE INFORMATION

The Olmsted Falls School District recently conducted an on-line survey of Bulldog parents to gather their thoughts and opinions regarding the educational programming and operation of the District. More than 600 parents completed the 12-question survey, which was conducted using an on-line survey tool called Survey Monkey.

The District was incredibly humbled to have had more than 90% of parents who participated in this survey rate our District as either “above average” or “best in the area.” This is a testament to the daily commitment of our staff, our dedicated students and their supportive families in the Olmsted community.

While there were specific areas of concern, by some parents, the overall results of the survey show that parents in the community are generally pleased with our school system. **A desire to see improvements made to the High School facility was a common theme throughout survey responses.**

In addition to helping the District focus in on areas of needed improvement, the parent survey responses also revealed several instances of misinformation which have surfaced. A number of people have asked what we plan to do about this issue of misinformation out there. From a broad standpoint, we are looking for trends in the misinformation so that future communication efforts can be structured in a way to better prevent these misconceptions from occurring.

The complete results from the Parent Survey are available on-line at www.ofcs.net. Click the “Parent Survey Results” item under the District News section. All residents of the Olmsted community are invited and encouraged to review these survey results.

OFHS HOSTS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR APPRECIATION BRUNCH



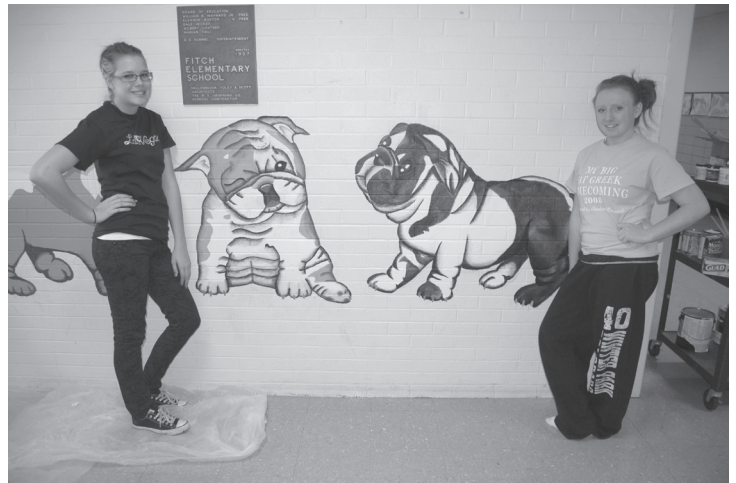
Olmsted Falls High School held its annual Local Scholarship Sponsor Appreciation Brunch to honor supporters of the school’s Local Scholarship program. Guests were treated to a buffet breakfast and enjoyed a special performance by the Golden Expressions. In addition, Bulldog alumnus Mark Mills returned to his alma mater to personally express special thanks to the sponsors who supported him this year. Mark is currently studying Engineering at The Ohio State University.

Last year, these local sponsors provided **more than \$112,000 through 211 scholarships** for members of the Class of 2010. Olmsted Falls School District extends its continued gratitude to all of these individuals, businesses and organizations, for their generous support of our Bulldog graduates!

HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS BRING BULLDOG SPIRIT TO LIFE AT ECC & OFIS

Six Olmsted Falls High School students from art teacher Mrs. Mariel Krakowiak's class have been working diligently since the beginning of the school year to create special bulldog murals at both the Early Childhood Center and the Intermediate School.

Thanks to the talents of students Amanda Grueber and Aimee Jarboe, three adorable bulldog puppies now adorn the wall just inside the entrance of the Early Childhood Center.



ECC Mural Artists: Amanda Grueber and Aimee Jarboe



These playful pups are a perfect fit for our preschool and kindergarten students who began attending school in the Early Childhood Center at the start of last school year.

At the new Intermediate School, art students Kit John, Sean Hirsch, Tori Alai and Christy Otonoga spent months creating an oversized bulldog that now greets all visitors to the building's main office.



OFIS Mural Artists: Kit John, Sean Hirsch, Tori Alai and Christy Otonoga



In addition to this big and friendly canine, these students also painted a trail of classic bulldog paw prints along the office hallway.

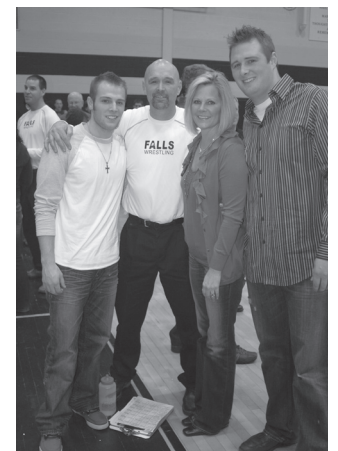
Be sure to admire these two outstanding works of art next time you find yourself in either of these two buildings – or make a special trip just to see them. Both are well worth the visit!



OFHS WRESTLING COACH BILL MCGRAIN RECORDS 300TH VICTORY

Congratulations to OFHS Head Wrestling Coach Bill McGrain on recording his 300th victory on December 4th over Eaton High School at the Findlay Duals. McGrain is in his 29th year as head wrestling coach, 26th year here at Olmsted Falls. Along with his 300 victories, McGrain has won thirteen Southwestern Conference titles, has coached seventy-four Southwestern Conference Champions, forty-four State Place Winners and seven State Champions. Coach McGrain has been selected by his peers as the Southwestern Conference Coach of the Year twelve times. He is a three-time Greater Cleveland Coach of the Year and has twice been selected as The Cleveland Plain Dealer Coach of the Year.

His most notable accomplishment, McGrain was inducted into the Ohio Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2006. McGrain credits his family and coaches for much of his success. *Pictured at right is Coach McGrain with his wife Tracey and their two sons, Chaz (far left) and Zach (far right) at the annual Olmsted Falls Wrestling Hall of Fame ceremony, where Coach McGrain was also recently recognized.*

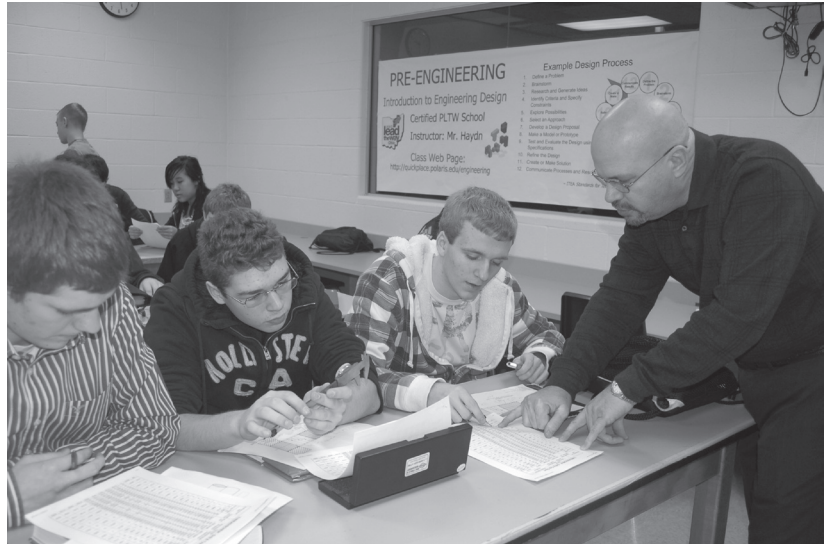


PARTNERSHIP WITH POLARIS AND “PROJECT LEAD THE WAY” EXPANDS HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AT NO COST TO DISTRICT

Always seeking new ways to stretch limited financial resources, the Olmsted Falls School District was able to expand upon its partnership with Polaris Career Center this year to add new engineering courses to the Olmsted Falls High School curriculum. The new pre-engineering courses are part of the “Pathway to Engineering” program and are designed to help high school students make an informed choice about their future by exposing them to concepts and courses necessary to be successful in the field of engineering. The curriculum is provided by Project Lead the Way (PLTW), an organization devoted to preparing students to be innovative and productive leaders in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Students not only receive high school credit for PLTW courses, but also have the opportunity to receive college credit by passing the final exams. There are four classes in the new “Pathway to Engineering” curriculum: Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, and Engineering Design and Development.

All Project Lead the Way Courses are taught on-site at Olmsted Falls High School utilizing teachers funded entirely through Polaris Career Center. There are currently 40 Olmsted Falls High School students enrolled in two sections of the introductory engineering course being taught by Mr. Mike Haydn. The hands-on, interactive nature of the Introduction to Engineering Design course has received many positive reviews to date.



“Pathway to Engineering” is the second set of course offerings to be introduced at Olmsted Falls High School in partnership with Polaris Career Center and Project Lead the Way. Last year, a “Biomedical Sciences Program” was launched through the partnership. Now in its second year, there are 55 students currently enrolled in “Biomedical Sciences Program” courses.

Both PLTW programs offer four courses each, with each course building upon the next. Entering either the “Pathway to Engineering” or “Biomedical Sciences” programs in their freshman year allows students the opportunity to complete all four courses in their selected program. It is possible for sophomores, juniors and seniors to enroll in these specialized courses as well.

OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES CLEAN AUDIT REPORT

Olmsted Falls School District is required by state law to undergo an independent audit of its finances each year. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010, Olmsted Falls School District was independently audited by Alger & Associates, LLC.



Special thanks to the Olmsted Falls School District Treasurer's Office staff for their constant diligence: (Pictured L to R) Assistant Treasurer Maria Bartulica, Holly McFadden (Accounts Payable/Inventory), Treasurer Mark Hullman, Fran Grega (Payroll), and Sharon Black (Accounts Payable).

The District is proud to report that it received an unqualified “clean” audit, which has been accepted by the state. A copy of this most recent financial audit has been released by the State Auditor’s office and is available for review on-line on the State Auditor’s website.

Olmsted Falls School District Treasurer Mr. Mark Hullman noted that a good audit is a direct reflection upon all stakeholders within a school district, and expressed appreciation to all Bulldogs for their individual roles in another great audit.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Olmsted Falls School District maintains approx. 574,000 square footage of facility space each day.

Olmsted Falls Board of Education
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OFIS WINS CLEVELAND CAVALIERS STRAIGHT A ALL-STARS CONTEST

Students at Olmsted Falls Intermediate School had some special visitors recently as Ahmad Crump and mascots from the Cleveland Cavaliers traveled west to personally deliver a \$1,000 award check to Principal Don Svec. The Intermediate School won the team's Straight A All-Stars Contest by submitting the most straight A report cards in the area.

During the first quarter, **258 out of OFIS's 600 students received straight A's!** In addition to the donation to the school, which will be deposited into the student activity fund, the Cleveland Cavaliers also gave tickets to the Cavaliers game (versus Detroit) to every student and staff member at the school! Way to go Bulldogs!



2010 STELLAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENT NUTRITION PRACTICES



Congratulations to Olmsted Falls School District Director of Food Service Denise Tabar and the District's entire food service staff for being awarded the 2010 Stellar Award for Excellent Nutrition Practices. This award recognizes our Food Service Department's innovative use of best practices to promote a healthy school nutrition environment. In addition to healthy menu selections, the Olmsted Falls Food Service Department is a leader in nutrition education. A recently implemented program featuring nutrition information for each food item offered in District cafeterias and a recently launched Facebook page are just two examples of their leading edge programs.

Mrs. Tabar and the District's four cafeteria managers were recently honored by the Board of Education for this achievement.

The Olmsted Falls City School District hereby gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in the educational programs and activities operated by the district.