

The mission of the Fremont Public School Foundation is to support the Fremont Public Schools by:

- ★ Raising funds to support programs for the enhancement and enrichment of public education, which would not be possible through local tax funds.
- ★ Recognizing excellence in Public Education.
- ★ Enhancing the quality of education for all students.
- ★ Reinforcing positive relations within the community.
- ★ Enriching the quality of life for the Fremont Community.

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COWs in the Halls of Fremont Public Schools

It's not exactly what it sounds like. The COWs that can be found in each building in the Fremont Public Schools are a new solution that puts state-of-the-art technology in front of students. Computers On Wheels (COWs) are mobile computer units that contain 30 laptop computers, and can easily be moved from classroom to classroom to provide a computer for each student at their desk. The computers are connected to the FPS network through a wireless connection, and provide all the same capabilities (including internet) as any desktop computer in the system.

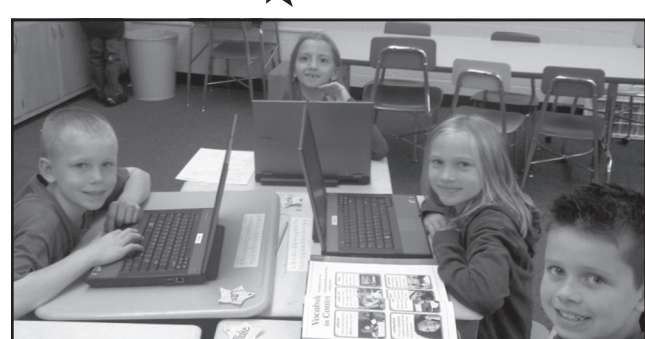
Teachers have found many creative applications for this new tool, which brings the computer lab right into their classroom. FHS English instructor Justin Bigsby feels that the COWs bring a great deal of flexibility to his lesson planning. "There are many times when only a certain number of students are in need of computer at any one given moment. Instead of taking the entire class to a stand-alone lab, I can have the laptops in my room and check them out to only those students that are in need." He also noted that the use of laptops allows students to move around for group work when necessary, unlike desk top computers. "In essence, the COWs have enabled us to better differentiate our instruction as well as find another avenue through which to engage the students in the learning process."

Clarmar 5th grade teacher Joanne Lehman also appreciates having the portable labs in her classroom. "Too many times I would have a

conflict with getting into the lab setting, and the COWs provided an opportunity to bring the lab to my students. We were able to take advantage of an amazing number of websites that allowed students to practice skills that were taught in the classroom."

Another advantage of the moveable computer lab is that several COWs can be set up in the same large area, providing individual computers to well over 100 students at time. Since more and more mandatory standardized testing programs are now conducted online, the COWs can provide the workstations for students to test in a large testing situation.

According to Superintendent Dr. Steve Sexton, every FPS school has at least one COW currently in the building, and the success of the COWs will undoubtedly mean that we will soon see more COWs in the halls of the Fremont Public Schools. ★



Marsha Johnson's 3rd graders at Howard are using COWs to take their reading test online.

From the Executive Director's Desk



Dr. David Pinkall,
Executive Director

I hope our readers enjoy reading Dr. Sexton's report about the many exciting facility changes that have taken place in the past 2 years at FPS. All are intended to insure that our Fremont students have the opportunity to go to school in up-to-date, state-of-the-art facilities, and that space is available to accommodate the growth that community planners tell us we can expect in Fremont. Now comes more exciting news that new projects are being planned in Fremont to insure that our outdoor athletic facilities are also brought up to date. The Legacy Project is a public/private partnership that will lead to the construction of a new football/soccer/track stadium on the southeast edge of Fremont. Included in the project will be a new, modern stadium with artificial turf (Fremont is the only class A school in Nebraska still playing football games on natural grass), and a nine-lane running track. The facility will share parking with a new baseball-softball complex which will be constructed this summer on an adjacent site. The baseball project is being headed up by long-time Fremont Attorney Neil Shilke. When completed, the two projects together will provide additional facilities for youth baseball and softball, and a modern stadium for football, track and soccer that will serve Fremont High, Bergan, and Midland University. These projects provide another great example of the same type of thinking that drives the Fremont Public School Foundation; that private dollars can be used to enhance public services and create a product that will make improved opportunities available to our students. Ultimately, enhanced public services improve the quality of life in our community for all concerned. In this particular case, even though the projects are not Fremont Public School projects, they will enhance programs already provided for students by the Fremont Public Schools, so these will be fun and interesting projects to watch unfold. For more information about these exciting projects, or to support them with a donation, check the Fremont Area Community Foundation website (www.facsfoundation.org) which will contain information in the very near future. ★

Construction Nears Completion

A Report from FPS Superintendent Dr. Steve Sexton



Nearly completed front entrance of the new Johnson Crossing Academic Center.

We believed it important to review the construction projects which have taken place and are in the process of completion in Fremont Schools. On March 9, 2010, the voters approved a 10.6 million dollar bond issue for additions to the high school and the removal of the two-story structure at Linden Elementary School with replacement by a one-story classroom addition. A student commons/cafe/activities entrance was added to the west side of the Al Bahe gymnasium and became operational in mid-November of 2011. The work at the high school included the addition of 11 classrooms, eight of which were designated for use by the social studies department, two for Family and Consumer Science, and one for special education science instruction. This wing was opened in October of 2011. The old Family and Consumer Science area, because of its proximity to the cafeteria, office, health services, and gymnasium, was remodeled to become the location for high school special education programs and student services. This move was completed in mid-April of 2012. All-in-all we have been pleased with the quality of workmanship and value on these projects. All dimensions of this undertaking have been within budget. Because the Board of Education took advantage of Build America Bonds which were a part President Obama's economic stimulus program and was intended for shovel-ready projects, tax payers will see a reduction in interest payments by a total of 35% over the life of the bonds. These projects, because of the planning time-line, fit well with the requirements of the stimulus program.

The Board of Education also approved Build America Bonds valued at 15.2 million dollars for the construction of a 5-6 school to be located at the corner of Johnson Road and Fremont Avenue on property already owned by the school district. The bonds are also subject to the 35% reduction in interest rate as part of the President's stimulus package. The new school will be home to approximately 700 fifth and sixth grade students beginning in August of 2012. It is expected that the certificate of occupancy of the new facility will be awarded to the district in early July. We are very pleased with the quality of construction on this new facility and the value to the taxpayers. The new facility boasts a geothermal ground-source heat pump which will provide dividends to taxpayers through reduction in heating and cooling costs. When the new school opens, it will result in approximately 12 to 15 rooms available at the elementary school level to accommodate any increases in student growth. They will also provide locations for such special programs as art which in many instances has been on a cart moved from room-to-room. This change will provide for a more permanent location for other specialists as well. The move of the sixth grade students from the existing middle school will also result in space being available for programs, classes and services in that building.

As these projects come to an end, we wish to thank the residents of the school district for their support of the schools, its programs and these projects. These undertakings in the last 14 years should position the schools well for the intermediate future. In addition to vastly improving the facilities and thereby allowing greater efficiency in services provided to students, there has clearly been a positive economic impact for the community and surrounding area. ★

Foundation Honors Graduating Seniors and Mentors

The Fremont Public School Foundation honored 41 FHS seniors at its eighth annual Academic Achievement Banquet. The event was held on April 15th at the Midland University Dining Hall, and the seniors, all scheduled to graduate cum laude with distinction, brought their teachers who had been their mentors.

Among the chosen mentors was Quenna Koch, who for four years has been a counseling adviser for Samantha Jensen, who was one of the honored students. "Mrs. Koch has been my CA for four years and after that long you really start to build a strong connection," Jensen said. "She was always there if I ever had any questions about school."

Steven Buckridge knows he will make an impact in the future because of the good hands he was in during his four years at Fremont High. Buckridge was mentored by Sean McMahon, who was one of his teachers, and also his cross country coach.

Governor Dave Heineman was scheduled to speak at the banquet, and when unable to attend at the last minute, sent along his speech with Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem. "We know that you are our future, and our state is in good hands," Ganem said. "You are the future leaders of this state and the nation. Your presence here is evidence that you are on the right track, and we expect great things from you."

The honored students each received a brief case/laptop bag bearing the foundation's emblem, and a picture of themselves receiving the gift from First Lady Sally Ganem. ★



2012 honored graduates along with Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem.

Seniors & Mentors Honored at FPS Foundation Event

STUDENT	MENTOR	STUDENT	MENTOR
Ahrens, Amy	Diane Schieffer	Jirsak, Jazmine	Kim Adams
Arrowsmith, Mirannda	Mark Harman	Jorgensen, Kaleb	Mark Harman
Bachman, Allison	Tony Weinandt	Kassmeier, Emily	Diane Vyhlihal
Beam, Brennan	Debra Beightol	Lambert, Haley	Gina Hoffman
Brohimer, Roger	Tim Champ	Manske, Derek	Dr. Brenda Schiermeyer
Buchman, Breanna	Dr. Brenda Schiermeyer	Matzen, Ryan	Erich Whitmore
Buckridge, Stephen	Sean McMahon	McGowan, Cale	Dr. Priscilla Beckmann
Burch, Emily	Dr. Brenda Schiermeyer	Muller, Nathan	Matt Burg
Cate, Bailey	Dr. Dan Cox	Mutizhe, Rudo	Dr. Mary Trehearn
Christensen, Ryan	Matt Burg	Phelps, McKenzie	Dr. Dan Cox
Cronin, Mary Kate	Amber Leinart	Poppingo, Samantha	Carolee Cronin
Drews, Derek	Matt Burg	Reese, Brandon	Yogi Martin
Fitz, Collin	Debra Beightol	Richards, Logan	Dr. Brian Anderson
Flesher, Brianna	Mike Schleicher	Rittihale, Mallory	Wendy Brenner
Graves, Karen	Justin Bigsby	Robertson, Sydney	Heidi Moran
Griffiths, Erin	TJ Roffers	Rydel, Taryn	Bryce Lambley
Henkenius, Elizabeth	Debra Beightol	Sajevic, Elizabeth	Lee Jennings
Hilgenkamp, Andrew	Debra Beightol	Schiermann, Kylie	Sean McMahon
Jensen, Samantha	Quenna Koch		

Creative Teaching Grants for 2011-12

Once again, the teachers in the Fremont Public Schools were motivated to create new programs and teaching methods that would assist them in providing their students with the most current strategies and opportunities to enrich their learning and to expand their interests and skills. A total of 21 grant requests were received and they ran the gamut from kindergarten literacy packs to creating a collaborative writing program with professional poets. The final selections were made and announced just before the second semester began so that many of the winners were able to use their awards before the end of the school year. The selection committee included representation from elementary and secondary administration, teaching staff, and the Foundation Board.

The recipients of the grants for 2011 – 12 are listed here with a short description of their requests. Mary Robinson, teacher for the Visually Handicapped Program is designing a "Sensory Garden" for the skywalk area of the Main Street Education Center (formerly the junior high and the original high school). This garden will be maintained and enjoyed by students with visual handicaps as well as those in the Pathfinder (behavioral) Program and the Young Adult program for disabled students from 18-21. The scope of the project is amazing and quite costly and our Foundation is proud to be a small part of this plan. Mrs. Robinson is always seeking donors to support the sensory garden and many individuals and service groups have already offered financial assistance.

Technology continues to be an area of high interest by teachers and Edie Ronhovde, Middle School math teacher, received funding for several Echo Smart Pens, which allow her or her students to record math instruction or problem solving activities so that she can individualize her work with those who are struggling. Jenny Paden, High School math, received a Mobi tablet to facilitate her instruction and use of her whiteboard in the classroom. A document presenter was granted to Lisa Bohaty, kindergarten teacher at Washington School, and Karen Kortan, teacher of the Young Adult program received a digital camera to assist her students in capturing visual landmarks and locations in town to assist them as they transition to their lives outside the school program.

Roger Vanek, social studies teacher at the Middle School, purchased several CD players so students who struggle with reading can listen to the audio programs that accompany their textbooks and stay current with their classmates.

Classroom enrichment activities have become even more vital to elementary classrooms with the adoption of new reading, language arts, and math programs. Several teachers received assistance in this area: Shanda Turley and Marsha Johnson (third grade teachers at Howard), Stacy Nielsen and Jodi Sheppard (second grade teachers at Milliken Park); and Casie Nider (kindergarten teacher at Milliken Park). Their requests included a variety of individual, group and classroom math and literacy programs essential to the enrichment or remediation of their students.

Many of the requests are unique to the school or the subject area and their innovative approaches were rewarded with a grant. Scott Millard, physical education teacher at Fremont High School, purchased vests for his weights class to allow students to more fully and safely participate in this class. Bell Field counselor, Chris Denker, plans to start a Student Ambassador Program at her school using the "Covey for Kids" texts as a foundational piece. Diane Adolphson, an elementary music teacher, will have two xylophones to assist students in making a physical connection with music. Finally, Middle School English teacher Laura Enos was able to develop a collaboration with professional writers and the students on her team. They used Skype to communicate initially and then had a full-day of writing experiences with several of the writers and poets who are part of the Nebraska Writing Project.

The Creative Teaching Grants epitomize the purpose of the Foundation as they allow us to support programs and teachers with funding that would not be available under the current budgets. We only ask that they try to maximize the impact on students in a positive and innovative way and these teachers certainly did that. As a Foundation, there is great pride in fulfilling these requests and we thank everyone who sends a memorial to the Foundation so that we can continue this outstanding work on behalf of the teachers and students of the Fremont Public Schools. ★

FHS Alumni Scholarships Aid Deserving Students

One of the important programs supported by the Fremont Public School Foundation and the Fremont Alumni Association is the Fremont Public School Foundation Student-Aid Endowment Fund. This fund has been providing financial assistance to deserving FHS graduates for over 10 years. The purpose of the program is to provide needed financial assistance through contributions made by FHS alumni to help prevent a qualified Fremont High School graduate from passing up an opportunity of higher education because of financial constraints. The scholarship is renewable throughout undergraduate years and the amount of the scholarship award is determined upon selection of each student. Past awards for four year college or university programs have been within the range of \$1,000 and \$3,500 per year with higher awards often going to students during their freshman year. This year the program awarded a total of \$5500 to two deserving Fremont High graduates, one who was a first year student, and another student who renewed an award granted earlier.

The program funds are managed by the Fremont Area Community Foundation, and gifts to the program can be made directly to the Community Foundation or to the Fremont Public School Foundation which forwards all scholarship donations to the Community Foundation. Those wishing to donate to the scholarship program can use the enclosed gift envelope, and designate the portion of the gift they wish to be placed in the scholarship fund.

Foundation Golf Outing Scheduled for July 27th



The 2012 version of the Annual Fremont Public School Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, July 27th at the Fremont Golf Club. This will be the 9th year for the event, which will be a 4-person scramble with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. Make this the year you get together with your friends and join the fun! For information contact David Pinkall at 402-727-3027 or email david.pinkall@fpsmail.org ★

Moving? Send us your new address.

Thanks to those who inform us address changes and deaths so we can do our best to keep our database of over 12,000 living Fremont Alums current. If you're moving, have recently moved, or know of changes that we need to make in our database, call, drop a note to the Foundation Office, or send a quick email to david.pinkall@fpsmail.org. We'll do our best to make changes, but we rely on you, our readers, to let us know when a change is needed.



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