

# CHALKBOARD CHATTER

Volume VIII, Issue 4 GREEN SPRINGS SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER, MR. RANDY STOCKMASTER, PRINCIPAL December 10, 2015

## NEWS FROM MR. STOCKMASTER, PRINCIPAL

The excitement of the holidays is certainly alive here at Green Springs School. This week our Student Council is helping to promote the "Caring for Clyde Kids Toy Drive" that takes place each year in our communities and helps bring many smiles to students right here in our own district. Next week they will be promoting our annual food drive that helps our local food pantry for those in need. Our second and third graders are busily preparing for their annual music program next week and many other outstanding and unique projects are taking place in the classrooms. This year the winter break, which begins on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, will mark the end of the first semester.

Last year I heard a great deal of concern from the community regarding the state testing that our school is required to participate in. Many of these concerns are shared by those of us in the education field and a great deal of feedback was provided to those in Columbus. Lawmakers in Ohio heard some of our concerns and did make some changes to these requirements. I will attempt to provide a brief summary of this year's requirements that Green Springs School must follow.

The required tests are referred to as "Ohio's State Tests" and they are measuring student progress on "Ohio's Learning Standards." This year new tests were developed in the areas of English language arts and mathematics by the American Institutes of Research (AIR). AIR currently provides Ohio's science and social studies tests as well. This year's test length will be shorter than last year and will be given in one window near the end of the year rather than two windows like last year. This is a definite benefit to our students. Each test will last around three hours and will be divided into two sessions. Students in grades 3 through 5 will take both English language arts and mathematics. Students in grade 4 will take social studies, and students in grade 5 will take science. All tests will be taken on computers in a web based format.

Ohio's Learning Standards and the new Ohio's State Tests not only require the knowledge of subject matter, but they require students to use this knowledge in complex, real world skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and writing. I want to assure our students, parents, and community that our school staff is doing all we can to prepare our students for these new standards. We are working with our students to learn these new skills as they interact with information, respond to multiple parts of a question, solve problems, and use writing to explain their answers. These skills are very difficult for young learners to master and we are doing our best to help them learn the necessary knowledge as well as the thinking skills they need to apply that knowledge.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me in the school office and I would be happy to discuss any of these items.

I wish each and every one of our students and their families a joyous holiday season. I hope all of our students are able to relax and enjoy time with family and loved ones to recharge for the second half of the year!



## ORDER NOW!

Our yearbook is a 60 page, full color book of all of the students

at Green Springs School as well as many of the activities throughout the school year. Order yours today so you're not left out!

## REMINDER:

After the first of the year, teachers will be attending training sessions.



Due to these staff development days, please be aware that the students will not be attending school January 4th, 5th & 6th.

**School will resume on  
Thursday, January 7, 2016**

## S.T.A.R.S. Presents Lesson About the Power of One.

The STARS group presented a lesson to all of the 4th grades about the power that one person can have on someone's life. The focus of the lesson was to demonstrate how we can choose to use our power for *good* by being kind, including others, and being a friend, or use it in *negative* ways. We discussed the effects that our words and actions can have on each other. STARS members also shared with the 4th graders their experiences and how others made a difference in their lives.

The lesson emphasized that it only takes ONE person to make a difference and it encouraged everyone to be that person. Students ended the lesson by writing a positive statement to a classmate and putting it on their locker.

The first group of STARS will be ending and a new 5th grade group will begin this month. Thank you all current STARS members for making a difference in our school and being good role models!

You are Awesome! Mrs. Kneisley

**S**tudents  
**T**aking  
**A**★  
**R**ight  
**S**tand



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



### Birchard Public Library – Fremont

#### LEGO Challenge -- Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> AND Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 – 6:00 pm

*Drop in and bring your imagination. We'll supply the LEGOS. Build as a group or on your own.*

*Creations will be on display each month to allow patrons to vote for their theme favorite.*

*Prizes will be awarded. No registration is required.*

#### Read Aloud Book Clubs -- Please call 419-334-7101 ext. 209 to register.

##### **Birchard Book Buddies: K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

4:30-5:00 pm Wednesdays, Starting January 13<sup>th</sup>

##### **Birchard Book Bunch: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

4:30-5:00 pm Wednesdays, Starting January 13<sup>th</sup>

##### **Birchard Book Blast: 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

4:00-5:00 pm Mondays, Starting January 4<sup>th</sup> (Closed January 18<sup>th</sup>)

*Relax and get lost in a book as one of our librarians reads aloud.*

#### Ruff and Ready Readers -- December & January

Please call 419-334-7101 ext. 209 to register for a ten-minute slot.

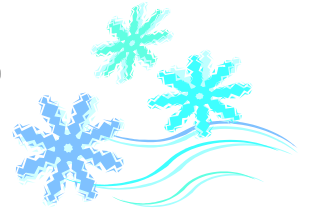
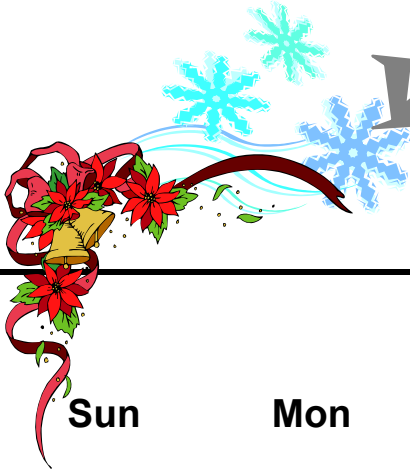
Mondays at 4:30 – 5:30 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at 1:00 pm

*Dogs are great listeners!*



# December 2015



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4 Flier Buck Friday Grade 4	5
6 	7	8	9	10 Lifetouch Candids 4F going to Elmwood	11 Flier Buck Friday Grade 5	12
<b>Caring For Clyde Kids-Toy Drive</b>						
13	14 Booster Mtg 6:30 pm	15 8:55-Kickball: 5C vs 5F 10:55-Kickball: 5A vs 5E	16 8:55-Kickball: 5G vs 5D	17 2 & 3 Grade Program at CHS auditorium 7pm	18 Flier Buck Friday Grades K-3	19
20	21 Focused Flier Rewards BOE Mtg 6 pm	22	23	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 
<b>WINTER RECESS-NO SCHOOL</b>						
27	28 	29	30	31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2 
<b>WINTER RECESS-NO SCHOOL</b>						
Jan. 3	Jan. 4 Waiver Day NO STUDENTS	Jan. 5 Waiver Day NO STUDENTS	Jan. 6 Teacher In Service NO STUDENTS	Jan. 7 SCHOOL RESUMES	Jan. 8 Grade Cards go home	Jan. 9