November 2026 Volume IV Issue 30

THE PHOENIX

FOXFIRE MONTHLY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT BLOG-THE POWER OF GRATITUDE



Superintendent
Mr. Todd Whiteman

The Foxfire Education & Opportunities R4U!

We Are ...

Respectful

Responsible

Resilient

Students

built on Relationships!

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As we enter November, I find myself thinking about one word that seems especially appropriate for this time of year: gratitude. November gives us several opportunities to pause, look around, and recognize the people who make our school and our community special. Between Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and the many activities and celebrations that fill the next several weeks, there is a lot happening!

Gratitude for Our Veterans

Veterans Day gives us an opportunity to recognize the men and women who have served our country and protected the freedoms we often take for granted.

I am especially proud of the way our students honor our veterans. These experiences are more than school events. They are opportunities for our students to learn about sacrifice, service, courage, and what it means to put something bigger than yourself first. To all of our Foxfire families, community members, and veterans who have served our country: thank you.Your service matters, and we are grateful.

Gratitude for Our Students

I am also incredibly grateful for our students. Every day, our students walk through our doors carrying different experiences, challenges, strengths, and dreams. One of the things that makes Foxfire special is that we believe in the potential of every student who comes through those doors.We have a simple responsibility: Get everyone to school. Get everyone to grow. Get everyone to have a positive experience. Our students give us a reason to come to work every day.

Gratitude for Our Staff

I am grateful for the people who show up every day for our students.Teaching and working in a school is not easy. It takes patience, flexibility, creativity, consistency, and a willingness to continue showing up—even on the difficult days.Our staff members do far more than teach lessons. They build relationships. They encourage students. They provide second chances. They celebrate successes. They help students see possibilities that they may not yet see for themselves.Thank you for everything you do for Foxfire.

Gratitude for Our Parents and Families

We are also thankful for our parents and families.Your partnership is essential to the success of our students. When families and schools work together, students know that the adults in their lives are pulling in the same direction.Thank you for trusting us with your children, supporting our school, attending events, communicating with our staff, and encouraging your students to keep moving forward.

Gratitude for Our School Board

I also want to recognize our Board of Education.School board service is often a thankless job. It requires time, difficult decisions, commitment, and a willingness to always keep students at the center of the conversation.I am grateful for our Board's support of Foxfire, our students, and our staff—and for their commitment to helping us continue to grow as a district.

November and December can get really busy.Between Veterans Day activities, Thanksgiving, school events, athletics, concerts, meetings, celebrations, family commitments, and everything else that comes with the holiday season, our calendars can fill up quickly. Being busy is not necessarily bad. In fact, many of the things that make this season special are the things that make it busy. That is why this time of year requires us to be especially intentional about meeting deadlines, following through on commitments, communicating effectively, and staying focused on what matters most. We cannot allow the excitement of the season to cause us to lose sight of our responsibilities.

At Foxfire, we talk often about our 4 R's:Respect. Responsibility. Resilience. Relationships.
November is a great time to put all four into practice.Be responsible with your time. Respect the commitments you have made. Be resilient when the schedule gets hectic.and continue to strengthen the relationships that make Foxfire special. There will be a lot happening over the next several weeks. Let's embrace it, enjoy it, and make great memories—but let's also stay organized and finish what we start.

Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Foxfire Schools!

Todd Whiteman
Superintendent-Foxfire Schools

6-12 ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS STUDENTS MENTAL HEALTH

Through humor and personal stories, 1 Degree of Separation provided essential mental health first aid by demonstrating what an open, supportive conversation looks like at Foxfire's recent assembly. The interactive approach helped our students feel more confident and prepared to offer immediate support. The program aimed to bring dialogue, awareness, and acceptance for those suffering from depression through laughter and vulnerability. We laugh at the dark stuff, because laughter releases the pain. We talk about depression because no one should feel shame. With an army of comedians, their goal was to kill the stigma of depression and share stories of hope, happiness and triumph.

The show consisted of four comedians. The first part of the show, each comedian came out and did five minutes of clean comedy, not mental health comedy. They got the students to laugh. Laughter changes the brain and opens it up for honest dialalogue.

The next part of the show had the comedians with four barstools, the four comedians, and four microphones. They answered five specific questions about their own mental health. These five questions were conceived through multiple interviews with doctors, psychologists, and psychiatrists. They were asked, "what would you want to see talked about at an event where you had four people who will talk about anything?" By demonstrating how to have a raw and honest conversation through answering those five questions, they gave the our students some tools to help them have their own conversations.

The goal was to have those who struggle with depression leaving with a sense that they are not alone in their struggle and will feel more comfortable discussing their depression with others. Those who don't struggle with depression hopefully will leave with skills and the ability to have conversations with their loved ones about what depression truly looks and feels like.





FOXFIRE HOSTS ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT







Over one hundred students and parents participated in the October's Trunk or Treat Parent Engagement night! Foxfire staff handed out candy and were joined by the departments of both Newton Fire the Muskingum County Sheriff. This annual Foxfire tradition brings together parents, students, staff and community memebers to celebrate the holiday!

STUDENTS WIN E-BIKES FOR BEHAVIOR AND ATTENDANCE





Abel Wells-K



DJ Caplinger-5



Kariana Kuhn-7

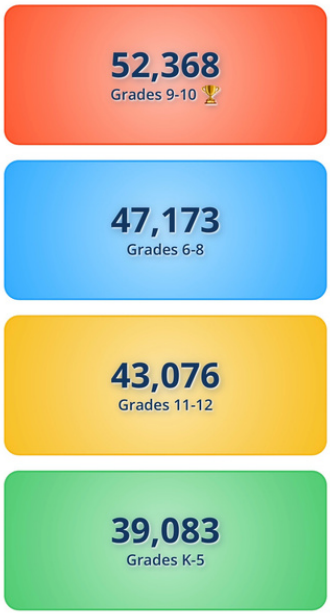

Ryan Miller-12-PM


Tina McGuin-11-AM

From **September 22nd through October 16th** we held a PBIS Attendance & Behavior incentive! Students who had zero absences and zero discipline write-ups during this time frame earned the following! 66 Students building-wide qualified!

- **100 Bonus Pts. in their LiveSchool Account!**
- **Ice Cream Super Buffet!**
- **Name entered in a Drawing for an E-Bike! (5 Total)**

Congratulations to all of our winners! We would like to thank the Straker Foundation for providing the funds to support this incentive!



CURRENT LIVE SCHOOL TEAM STANDINGS

The Live School grade band competition is part of our district wide PBIS program! The competition this year continues to be very competitive as we began the month of November! Grade band 9-10 has opened up a small margin over grade band 6-8 by 5,195 points.

Grade band 11-12 and K-8 are separated by 3,993 points as they fight for third and fourth place. Best of luck to all the teams as they continue to accumulate points in the classroom for good attendance, behavior, and school engagement!

Winning grade band will earn a trip to the Polaris Magic Mountain in Columbus at the end of the year! Trip will include lunch, game tokens, and two event activities!

2026-2027 FOXFIRE CAREER PATHWAYS

GRIT Update

Foxfire's sophomore students have completed their GRIT career assessment and are now participating in one-on-one coaching sessions with a career coach from Future Plans. The assessment helps students identify their strengths, interests, and potential career pathways.

During coaching, students review their results, explore career options, and connect their strengths to future goals. Foxfire uses the assessment results and coaching conversations to help students identify graduation pathways and make informed decisions about opportunities such as attending Mid-East Career Center. The process can also reinforce students' existing plans by helping them see how their chosen programs align with their strengths and interests.

These experiences help guide next steps, including career discovery activities, job shadowing, industry credentials, and further education or training—building students' confidence and a clearer plan for life after high school.

Mr. Krier
GRIT & Pathway Coordinator



Foxfire STNA students Ciauna Mayle and Mya Ore.

SOPHOMORE STUDENTS TO VISIT MID EAST VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

As part of our career exploration program at Foxfire, Sophomores will have an opportunity to visit Mid-East Career and Technolgy Center to explore the options that they may provide at both the Buffalo and Zanesville campuses. The Buffalo trip will be on **November 10th** and the Zanesville campus visit will be on **November 18th**.

During the visit students will explore the career programs that they have interest in to learn more about what a vocational school student does daily in the program, what skills it may take to have success and how your interest in the program enhances your experience.

Students will be able to briefly participate in "hands on" learning in the labs of the program to get a feel of what it may be like daily as a student and ask questions to teachers and current students. **Permission slips need to be turned in by November 6th.**

MISS NADINE'S COUNSELING

Foxfire Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week in October with activities that encouraged students in grades K-12 to make healthy, positive choices and remain drug- and alcohol-free.

Throughout the week, students showed their school spirit by dressing according to a different theme each day. Every theme reinforced the importance of making good decisions and saying no to drugs and alcohol. Students and staff enjoyed seeing the creative outfits while supporting this important message. Spirit Days included; Wear Red for Red Ribbon Week, Exercise My Right to Be Drug-Free-Wear Athletic wear, Put a Lid on Drugs- Wear your own creative hat, Heroes Have the Power to Be Drug-Free-Dress like your favorite superhero & Our School Chooses to Be Drug-Free-Wear your Foxfire gear!

Classes also participated in a door-decorating contest. Students worked together to design colorful doors highlighting positive choices and drug prevention. Miss Ladner's class won the contest and will receive a pizza party in recognition of their creativity and teamwork.

Every student received Red Ribbon Week merchandise as a reminder to continue making safe and healthy choices. Students in grades 4-12 received bracelets, while students in grades K-3 received ducks featuring the message Say NO to Drugs.

Thank you to our students, teachers, staff, and families for supporting Red Ribbon Week and helping Foxfire Schools promote healthy, drug-free lives!



Winner-Mrs. Ladners Class-
"Our Mission is To Be Drug Free"



"Here's the Scoop Drugs Are Poop"



"Be a Hero Make a Difference Stay Drug Free"



"Kind Hearts Stonger Together Your Choice Matters"


"Be the Vibe Join the Drug Free Tribe-Sign"

OCTOBER PHOENIX'S OF THE MONTH



Phoebe Carson-5



Kariana Kuhn-7



Eryn Brown-11

NURSE LINDSEYS CORNER

November Notes

Remember that students stand outside in the mornings until their school day starts. Please dress them appropriately with coats/hats/gloves, no blankets will be permitted. If you need help getting your child winter attire please reach out to Nurse Lindsey.

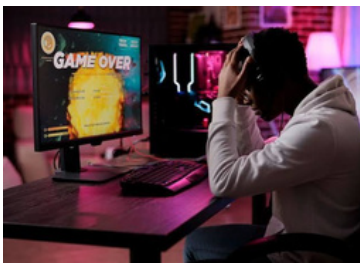
Vision and hearing screenings will continue. It is very important if you receive a letter that your student failed either or both of these that you make follow up appointments as soon as possible and let Nurse Lindsey know. Poor vision and hearing can negatively affect a student's learning.

On **November 13th** we will be having our **fall Red Cross Blood Drive** for staff and students ages 16 (with parental consent) and older. Anyone who donates will get up to $20 in e-gift cards to their choice of qualifying merchants from Red Cross with live school points and makeup credit given if needed from Foxfire. If your child would like to donate please have them see Nurse Lindsey.

Did you know Video Game Fatigue is a real thing? It is a state of mental and physical exhaustion caused by prolonged gaming, leading to a loss of enjoyment and increased stress. It is a form of burnout with symptoms like irritability, difficulty concentrating, and lethargy, and can stem from both mental strain and physical issues such as poor sleep, bad posture, and eye strain. To combat fatigue, take regular breaks, ensure adequate sleep and a healthy diet, and find a balance with other hobbies and activities.

Mental and Physical Symptoms
Mental: Loss of interest and motivation, anxiety, stress, difficulty concentrating, emotional and mental exhaustion.

Physical: Lethargy, headaches, physical weakness, eye strain, and general exhaustion
Causes of Video Game Fatigue



Prolonged stress: Constant stress from gaming leads to burnout.
Lack of sleep: Insufficient or poor-quality sleep due to late-night gaming.
Poor physical health: Neglecting exercise, a healthy diet, and proper posture.
Eye strain: Intense focus on a screen for long periods can cause eye fatigue.

How to Prevent and Manage Fatigue
Take regular breaks: Step away from the screen every 20 minutes to give your eyes a rest.
Improve sleep: Ensure you are getting enough quality sleep to prevent fatigue.
Prioritize physical health: Eat a healthy diet and make time for physical activity.
Reduce screen time: Play for shorter periods and take breaks between gaming sessions.
Find other hobbies: Balance gaming with other activities to avoid over-reliance and burnout.
Vary your games: Try different, slower-paced games to reduce mental exertion.

GRANT SUPPORTS ORAL HEALTH

Thanks to a grant from Dollar General, Nurse Lindsey was able to purchase a dual portable sink and prepasted toothbrushes for our K-3 students to brush their teeth everyday after breakfast.

The stations housed in the cafeteria helps our students start their day fresh and ready to go and teaches the importance of dental hygiene. The students have made this part of their daily routine at and they are loving it!

DOLLAR GENERAL







OCTOBERS PHOENIX OF THE WEEK

October 5-9



Phoebe Carson-5



Kariana Kuhn-7



Eryn Brown-11

October 12-16



Arion Roosa-1

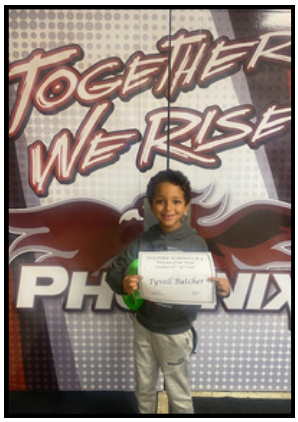


Mason Drake-8

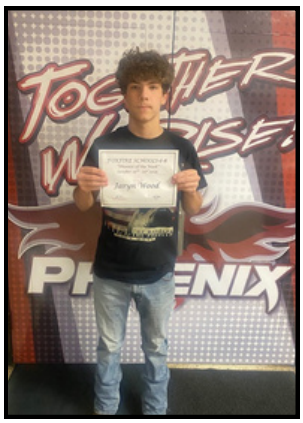


Michael Florio-11

October 19-23



Tyvell Butcher-K



Jaryn Wood-8

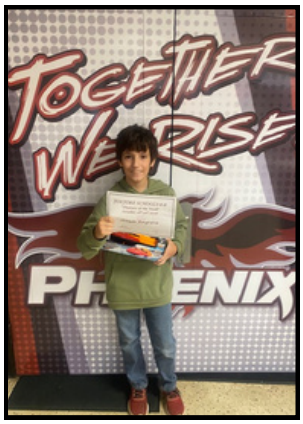


Kaylee Johnson-11

October 26-30



Zoey Ramsey-4



Shayde Forgrave-6



Rylie Cottrell-11

FALL ATHLETES RECOGNIZED

The 2026 Fall sports season celebrated five programs and nearly 70 student athletes at the Fall Banquet. Varsity sports in Football, Cheer, Volleyball with Middle school programs Flag Football and Co-Ed Soccer recognized their student athletes and their accomplishments!

Maxwell's Pizza sponsored the pizza and the Phoenix cafeteria provided salad and drinks of over 125 guests that attended. Canes Chicken sponsored the Fall All-Academic Teams with Free Combo Meals for all 18 student athletes recognized.













High School Fall All-Academic Team

1st Team

Makenna Jones	4.000	Cheer
Bransyn Carpenter	3.809	Football
Dixie Stapleton	3.750	Cheer

2nd Team

Hunter Wilcox	3.670	Football
Aubrianna Swartz	3.663	Cheer
Cailyn Pitcock	3.600	Volleyball
Gage Johnson	3.583	Football
Melanee Goodin	3.532	Cheer
Andrew Tipton	3.500	Football

3rd Team

Andon Sparks	3.464	Football
Kendra Osborne	3.444	Volleyball
Cadence Barnett	3.443	Volleyball
Sophia Cooper	3.393	Volleyball
Kassidy Wood	3.331	Cheer
Kydon Perdue	3.291	Football
Kaeleigh Carnes	3.250	Volleyball
Kendra Brown	3.133	Cheer
Nate Robinson	3.064	Football

MS Flag Football Awards

Reilly Perrin- Perfect Attendance
Mason Drake-Perect Attendance
Jacob Mallett-Perfect Attendance
Lazhi Whatley-Perfect Attendance

MS Soccer Awards

Braxton Swope-Most Saves

Varsity Football Awards (F.I.R.E)

Andon Sparks- Focus
Keontae Cecil- Intensity
Nate Robinson- Resilient
Kydon Perdue-Effort
Hunter Wilcox- Commitment

Varsity Cheer Awards (4 R's)

Rebecca Jordan-Resilience
Melanee Goodin-Responsible
Cadence Barnett-Respect
Alexis Wallace-Relationship
MaKenna Jones-Senior

Varsity Volleyball Awards

Sophia Cooper-Most Aces
Kaeleigh Carnes-Most Kills
Adabella Barnett-Most Blocks
Most Improved-Claire Smith

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS

FOXFIRE ATHLETICS PARTNERS WITH CANES CHICKEN

Raising Canes Chicken recently has become a pivotal sponsor of Foxfire Athletics! Area Leader of Marketing Sophia Rice has commited Canes's to be active in many areas of the Athletic programs at Foxfire Schools.

They have committed advertising for both "The Nest" at the Football field and the "Fire Pit" in the gymnasium! Canes will also recognize the Player of the Game with a Free meal at our Volleyball, Basketball and Football games, sponsor a Canes Challenge at specific home games, host In Game promotions and fundraisers, provide sports team swag and assist with end of the season banquets and celebrations!

Foxfire Athletics is excited about partnering with Raising Canes and appreciates their commitment to supporting our student athletes to enrich their athletic experience!

CANES CHICKEN ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER



RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS

HS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Thurs	**Nov 12**	**Adventist Academy (Scrimmage)**	**Home**	**5:30 PM**
Tue	Nov 17	@Marburn Academy	Away	6:00 PM
Thurs	**Nov 19**	**Cornerstone Academy**	**Home**	**6:00 PM**
Tues	Dec 1	@OSD Academy	Away	6:30 PM
Sat	**Dec 5**	**Columbus Prep Academy**	**Home**	**12:00 PM**
Tues	Dec 8	@Franklinton Academy	Away	6:00 PM
Thurs	**Dec 10**	**Columbus Arts & Technology Academy**	**Home**	**6:00 PM**
Tues	**Dec 15**	**Torah Academy**	**Home**	**6:00 PM**
Thurs	Jan 7	@Oakstone Academy	Away	6:00 PM
Tues	**Jan 12**	**Marburn Academy**	**Home**	**6:00 PM**
Thurs	Jan 14	@Cornerstone Academy	Away	6:00 PM
Thurs	Jan 21	@Columbus Prep Academy	Away	6:00 PM
Tues	**Jan 26**	**OSD Academy**	**Home**	**6:00 PM**
Tues	**Feb 2**	**Franklinton Academy**	**Home**	**6:00 PM**
Thurs	Feb 4	@Columbus Arts & Technology	Away	6:00 PM
Tues	Feb 9	@Torah Academy	Away	6:00 PM
Thurs	**Feb 11**	**Oakstone Academy** ***(Senior Night)***	**Home**	**6:00 PM**
Feb	17-19	*United League River Division Tournament*	TBA	TBA

MS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Dec	**17**	**Thur**	**Columbus Adventist Academy**	**H**	**6:00 PM**
Jan	**6**	**Wed**	**Columbus Prep Academy**	**H**	**6:00 PM**
Jan	11	Mon	Columbus Adventist Academy	A	6:00 PM
Jan	**18**	**Mon**	**Patriot Prep Academy**	**H**	**6:00 PM**
Jan	21	Thur	@Columbus Prep Academy	A	6:00 PM
Jan	25	Mon	@Patriot Prep Academy	A	6:00 PM

#TOGETHER WE RISE

FOXFIRE HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

President:
Mr. Bob McClelland

Vice President:
Mr. Dave Lewellen

Board Member:
Mrs. *Kelly Murvine*

Board Member:
Mrs. Lindsay Daniels

Board Member:
Mr. Jared Reynolds

FOXFIRE INTERMEDIATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President:
Mr. Adam Davenport

Vice President:
Mr. Doug Sidwell

Board Member:
Mr. Rick Fulkerson

Board Member:
Ms. Barb Gibbs

Board Member:
Mr. Mike Ziemer



FOXFIRE CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

MRS. SAXTON-3RD GRADE

Our Third-grade students are demonstrating tremendous growth and success as they continue to incorporate daily learning stations into their classroom routines. What began as an opportunity to provide students with varied learning experiences has grown into an effective and meaningful part of daily classroom management and instruction.

Through consistent practice, students have developed the independence, responsibility, and confidence needed to successfully transition between stations, work collaboratively with peers, and remain engaged in their learning. These daily routines have helped create a classroom environment where students understand expectations, take ownership of their work, and learning together.

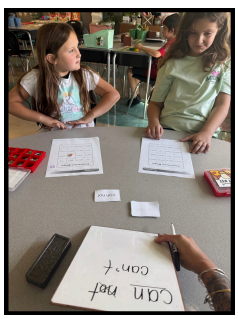
A key component of this success has been the emphasis on peer connections and collaboration. Students are building positive relationships, learning from one another, sharing ideas, and developing important communication and teamwork skills. Working alongside classmates encourages students to support one another, problem-solve, and celebrate each other's accomplishments.

The use of hands-on activities has also played an important role in keeping students motivated and actively involved. By engaging with materials, participating in interactive tasks, and exploring concepts through meaningful experiences, students are able to deepen their understanding while making learning enjoyable and memorable.

Additionally, guided station work provides students with the structure and support they need to be successful. Teacher guidance, clear expectations, and purposeful activities allow students to strengthen academic skills while gradually building independence. This balance of support and student responsibility ensures that learning remains focused, productive, and engaging throughout the day.

As these routines become an established part of the classroom, students are showing that learning stations are about much more than moving from one activity to another. They are developing essential life skills, including independence, collaboration, accountability, flexibility, and perseverance.

The continued success of third graders in daily learning stations highlights the power of intentional classroom routines, meaningful peer interactions, hands-on learning, and guided instruction. Their growth is a wonderful reminder that when students are provided with structure, opportunities to connect, and engaging ways to learn, they can take ownership of their education and thrive!





RESPECTFUL **RESPONSIBLE** **RESILIENT** **RELATIONSHIPS**

FOXFIRE NOVEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	PBIS Store #2 3 Varsity BBall Tryouts	4 Varsity BBall Tryouts	5	Veterans Lunch 12:00 PM 6	7
8	**Blended Learning Staff PD** 9	So. Mid East Buffalo Trip 10	11	11th Grade PBL Classes Bball Scrimmage 5:30 pm 12	Blood Drive American Red Cross 13	14
15	**Staff PD Day 16 Blended Learning**	Varsity BBall @Marburn 17	So. Mid East Trip-Zanesville 18	Community Luncheon 19 Basketball vs. Cornerstone Parent Engagement	PBIS Assembly #2 20 Board Mtg.	21
22	Thanksgiving Break 23	Thanksgiving Break 24	Thanksgiving Break 25	Thanksgiving Break 26	Thanksgiving Break 27	28
29	**Staff PD Day 30**					

FOXFIRE HIGH SCHOOL
(MORNING SHIFT)
8:00AM – 11:00AM
(AFTERNOON SHIFT)
11:30AM – 2:30PM
FOXFIRE INTERMEDIATE
8:55AM – 3:15PM
FOXFIRE ELEMENTARY
8:55AM – 3:15PM
PHOENIX PLATTER
CLICK BELOW TO SEE SCHOOL MENUE:
WWW.FOXFIRESCHOOLS.NUTRISLICE.COM

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS