December Volume III Issue 22

THE PHOENIX

FOXFIRE MONTHLY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT BLOG - WHAT TRULY MATTERS!



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 December and the heart of the Holiday Season, I find myself reflecting on what truly matters in our work at Foxfire Schools. This time of year always brings a mix of celebration, gratitude, and perspective. It's easy to get swept up in the pace of the school year, but December invites us to pause—just long enough to appreciate the people, the moments, and the mission that make our Foxfire familys special.

What makes the Holiday Season so powerful isn't the busyness—it's the simplicity.Small things become big things. A kind word carries more weight. A small act of encouragement can change the direction of someone's day—or their life. Every day, I see staff members lifting students up with patience, empathy, and belief. I see students growing not just academically, but personally—learning resilience, responsibility, and how to be part of something bigger than themselves. And I see families and community partners standing alongside us, reinforcing that we are never in this work alone.

In November, at our annual Community Partner Luncheon, we had the privilege of recognizing our 2025 Community Partner Award winners. These individuals and organizations model what it means to invest in young people—not for recognition, but because they believe in the potential of every student who walks through our doors. Out award winners were: Storied Rivals - Aaron Spragg, The Straker Foundation, Goss Supply- Terry Goss, I Am a Warrior for Hope – Beth Ingram, Autozone – Dave Lewellen, To our award recipients: thank you. Your commitment strengthens our mission and expands what is possible for our students. The impact you make—through your time, your resources, and your faith in our kids—is immeasurable. You remind us what community truly means.

As we move toward winter break, I want to encourage each of you—students, staff, and families—to use this season to recharge, reconnect, and find joy in the people who matter most. Whether your celebrations are big or small, whether your traditions fill the house or simply fill a moment, I hope this season brings you peace, rest, and purpose. At Foxfire, we talk often about the importance of growth, responsibility, and relationships. The Holidays give us a chance to practice all three. Let's slow down enough to appreciate the good around us, support those who may be struggling, and step into the new year with clarity and hope. Thank you for being part of the Foxfire story. Thank you for believing in our mission. And thank you for giving our students the gift of a community that cares deeply about their success.

From our entire Foxfire Schools family to yours— Happy Holidays, and may the New Year bring continued growth and incredible opportunities for all.

Todd Whiteman
Superintendent, Foxfire Schools

GRIT PROGRAM & VOCATIONAL SCHOOL VISITS

Foxfire students had an opportunity to explore opportunities at Mid-East Vocational school branches in Zanesville and Buffalo (November 13th & 19th). Over 52 students in total made the trips to the campuses with Mr. Lee and Mr. Krier!

Students were able to select three technical skills that interested them at each campus. During the visit students had the opportunity to do hands on activities and learn more about the vocation and how a day at the vocational school would look like for them. The day included lunch on campus and tours of the campus with other students from area schools!

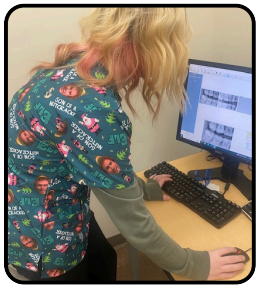
GRIT assessments will be given during the month of December for all sophomores and any new students at Foxfire. These assessments measure interests and skill sets to assist students with pathway decisions and set up Career Coaching.







FOXFIRE EXCELLING AT MID-EAST BUFFALO



Hunter Morrison
Cyber Security



Summer Penrod
Dental Program





Taylor Tansel
Computer Arts & Design

Three Foxfire Students are excelling at Mid East Vocational School in Buffalo! Hunter Morrison is in year two of Cyber Security! Summer Penrod year two in the Dental Program, and Taylor Tansel in year two of Computer Arts and Design! All their instructors had nothing but great things to say about them! We are proud of their success and how they represent Foxfire!

STUDENTS EARN "ON BOARD BUS" TICKETS

Foxfire students who follow our **Energy Bus PLAN**:

Get Everyone on the Bus to School
Get Everyone on the Bus to Grow
Get Everyone on the Bus to have a good Experience

Students who meet the PLAN earn a Bus Ticket on the Bus Murals in the hallways. These Tickets are good for extra Live School points and a spin at the PBIS Wheel to move up spots in line for the end of year PBIS store!





MISS NADINE'S COUNSELING

Feelings, and the Holidays: Supporting a Healthy Relationship With Eating

As we head into the holiday season, students of all ages experience changes in routine, emotions, and eating patterns. While the holidays can bring joy and connection, they can also bring stress, overstimulation, and complicated feelings around food. As your school's mental health and substance use counselor, I want to share a few reminders and tips for helping children and teens develop a healthy relationship with food during this busy time of year. Holiday stress can affect appetite—especially for kids and teens. When schedules shift and emotions run high, it's common for children to eat more or less than usual. Some students lose their appetite when they're anxious or overwhelmed, while others may turn to food for comfort. These behaviors are normal signals that a child's emotional system is working hard.

What helps:

- Keep predictable meal and snack times when possible.
- Offer a variety of foods without pressure to "clean the plate."
- Check in gently about feelings rather than focusing only on what they're eating.

Avoiding negative body talk protects mental well-being. Students today are surrounded by messages about appearance—on social media, in friend groups, and even within families. Comments about weight, body shape, or how much someone is eating can unintentionally harm a child's self-esteem and increase anxiety.

Try this instead:

- Compliment kids on their kindness, creativity, or effort—not their size.
- Keep body comments off the holiday menu (for yourself and others).
- Model acceptance of your own body; kids learn from what they hear adults say.

Intuitive eating means listening to the body's signals of hunger, fullness, and satisfaction. Kids are naturally good at this! The holidays are a great time to reinforce these skills rather than push rules about "good" or "bad" foods.

Encourage students to:

- Notice when they feel hungry and when they're comfortably full.
- Enjoy seasonal treats without guilt.
- Take breaks if the noise and excitement at gatherings make eating difficult.
- Drink water and rest when they're overstimulated.

Crowded gatherings, loud environments, new foods, and unpredictable schedules can overwhelm some students—especially those who are anxious, neurodivergent, or sensitive to sensory input. Overwhelm can make it hard to eat, even when the child is hungry.

Support can include:

- Providing a quiet eating space.
- Letting the child eat familiar foods without pressure.
- Allowing a short calming break before meals.

Occasional changes in eating are normal, but patterns such as consistently skipping meals, becoming distressed around food, or frequent comments about wanting to change their body may signal an underlying concern.

Reach out if you notice:

- Persistent loss of appetite or rapid changes in weight
- Anxiety or guilt about eating
- Secretive eating or hiding food
- A child refusing foods they previously enjoyed
- Strong distress about their body or appearance

If you're ever unsure, I'm here to help. Early support can prevent small worries from becoming bigger struggles. Holiday meals and traditions are about more than food—they're about belonging, culture, and shared experiences. Kids don't need perfect nutrition or perfect behavior. What they need most is a sense of safety, acceptance, and connection with the adults who care for them.

Wishing all of our students and families a warm, healthy holiday season. If you have concerns about your child's emotional well-being or relationship with food, please reach out to the school counselors.



NURSE LINDSEY'S CORNER

Our fall Red Cross Blood Drive was a success with **21 units** gathered, which has the potential to save **up to 63 lives**! The spring drive is scheduled for March 12th.

Reminder to check your students for head lice throughout the year. I do random classroom checks, but rely on parents to check at home as well. Head lice are tiny, parasitic insects that live on the scalp and hair of humans, feeding on blood. They are spread through direct head-to-head contact or sharing personal items like combs and hats. Symptoms include itching, redness, and irritation on the scalp.

Treatment typically involves:
Medicated shampoos or lotions: Over-the-counter treatments containing permethrin or pyrethrin, or prescription medications for resistant cases.

Nit combing: Using a fine-toothed comb to remove lice and nits (eggs) from the hair. Eggs are usually white or yellowish brown and oval shaped. They are stuck to the hair shaft like glue and are not easily removed.

Cleaning personal items: Washing clothing, bedding, and combs in hot water to kill lice. Bagging up items that can't be washed for 2 weeks.

Repeat treatment: A second treatment is often recommended after 7-10 days to kill any remaining lice or nits. Prevention includes avoiding head-to-head contact and not sharing personal items. Please report any head lice to Nurse Lindsey so other students can be checked.

Winter break is a good time to wash your student's winter attire and sanitize their backpacks and lunchboxes.

American Red Cross

MVHC Your Community of Care

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Zanesville-Muskingum County

MRS. DANA'S COUNSELING

School Counseling

How to have a stress-free holiday: Holiday Self-care tips

School Counseling

1. Express emotions openly: The holiday season ca stir a range of emotions. Allow your feelings, whether joy, sadness, or stress.

2. Make supportive food choices: Holidays are a time to enjoy family but it's important to make time for yourself.

3. Make time for movement: Physical activity is a great stress reliever. Even a brisk walk in the crisp winter air can uplift your spirits.

4. Practice medication or positive affirmations: Making time for medication can help center your thoughts and reduce stress.

5. Schedule self-care time: Block out time in your schedule for self-care activities that relax and rejuvenate you.

NOVEMBER PHOENIX'S OF THE WEEK

Nov 3-Nov 8



Aubrey Murphy-1



Benjamin Hanning -7



Meadow Clem-10

Nov 10-Nov 14



Paityn Jewell-1



Delainey Robinson-8


Karsten Rutter-12

Nov 17-Nov 21



Makenzie Newell-4



Araya Mitchell-8



Isabella Hardy-10

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS

FOXFIRES CELEBRATES LOCAL VETERANS

The annual Foxfire Veterans tribute recognized and celebrated local veterans with a breakfast, speakers and salute tunnel! Many students participated in the event, including greeters, breakfast assistants, speakers and Alayaieh Troutt (Grade 2) who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance!

After a breakfast provided by a Foxfire Nutritional Group, Veterans were led to the gymnasium for additional recognition! This included a warm welcome by Superintendent Todd Whiteman, followed by teacher Julie Janicki who shared her story as a veteran.

As the service ended, veterans were honored with a salute tunnel made up of our student in grades K-5, while members of our first high school band in school history led my Mr. Jordan Rose played a musical tribute! Foxfire would like to give a special thanks to Ms. Julie Janicki chair person for the event and all the staff and students who helped make this event possible!

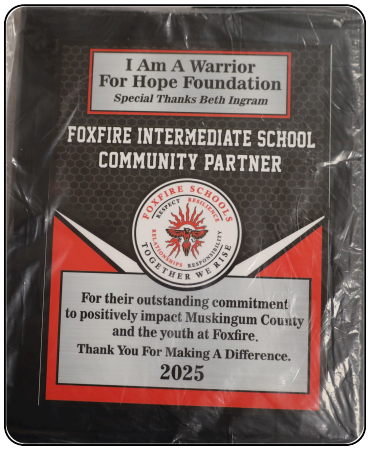






ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT RECOGNIZES LOCAL SUPPORT





Foxfire celebrated local businesses, leaders and organizations that help support Foxfire with a holiday luncheon provided by the Foxfire Nutritional group! Foxfire acknowledges that without local support, many of the opportunities that are provided for students would be difficult to achieve! It truly takes a village to help Foxfire students Rise-Up!

Multiple businesses and leaders were recognized with a plaque made by our students in the Phoenix Creative Lab! These businesses & organizations include Terry-Goss from Goss Supply, Board Members from the Straker Charitable Foundation, Dave Lewellen from Auto Zone, Aaron Spragg from Storied Rivals and Beth Ingram from I Am a Warrior for Hope!

PBIS PROGRAMS EARNS STATE GOLD AWARD

After earning Bronze for the 2023-2024 school year, Foxfire High School and Intermediate earned the PBIS Gold Award! The award is the highest level of recognition a school can receive for its implementation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, signifying high fidelity in the system!

To earn this award, Foxfire met the requirements for both Bronze and Silver levels and additionally demonstrated strong implementation of Tier 3 (intensive, individualized) support for students, strong data-based decision-making, and high fidelity in their overall behavior support plan!

Together, these achievements underscore that both Foxfire Intermediate and Foxfire High School are not just implementing PBIS—they are doing so with fidelity, data-informed decision making, and a commitment to support all students socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.

This award also recognizes Foxfire Schools as one of the very few Alternative schools in the state of Ohio who was recognized as a Gold PBIS school district!

PBIS CARTS MAKE MONTHLY ROUNDS





Foxfire's PBIS Carts are a popular monthly treat for students who have earned enough Live School points to purchase from them! Each month students who have earned the highest amount of Live School points per grade level or unit receive checks to cash in for prizes off the PBIS carts.

There are three levels, Platinum ($15-$12), Gold ($10-$8), Silver ($9-$6) and Bronze ($5-$1) where students can earn, items like candy, headphones, small speakers, and gift cards! Students can also earn several different types of passes including; phone passes, game room passes, vending machine passes, parking passes and much more!

Points each time the cart comes around are points accumulated during the previous 4 weeks or when the cart last visited, giving students a fresh start each time to earn points. So far this year the cart has made three visits district-wide totaling thousands of dollars in prizes!

FOXFIRE ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER DECEMBER 17TH



Applebee's GRILL + BAR

Join Applebee's in a fundraiser for:

Foxfire Athletics

Please mention this fundraiser or show this flyer to your server on December 17. Applebee's will contribute 25% of your order to support our community.

When

December 17, 2025

All day

Where

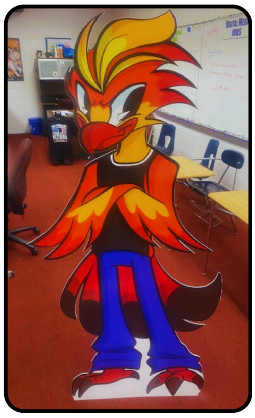
3181 Maple Ave.
Zanesville, OH 43701

Offer valid only on select date(s). Only approved non-profit organizations and tax-exempt organizations are eligible to participate in the fundraising program. Restaurant will donate 25% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax and tip are excluded from the donation. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant. For more information about fundraising, visit https://applebees.force4good.com.

NEW PHOENIX MASCOT INSPIRED BY FOXFIRE STUDENTS



Old Mascot with Students



Hailey Stephenson '25 Mascot Drawing



New Foxfire Mascot

With the expansion and popularity of our Athletic programs, the need for an updated Mascot became a priority! After years of use, our original Phoenix mascot had become worn and was beginning to lose vital pieces and with age, and a little of it's mascot shine!

As we began exploring what our new mascot would look like, we were inspired by the work of one of our very own 2025 Senior-Hailey Stephenson who designed a mascot herself while in our Creative Tech Lab. Soon after we decided to make our Phoenix in the similar image of Hailey Stephenson design, we were provided additional support!

Two of our middle school students Raegan Newell and Teagan Hardy asked if it was ok to fundraise by asking for donations in the community for a new mascot. Through their efforts $111.00 was raised for the purchase of the new Phoenix Mascot!

Our new Phoenix will debut at our first home Varsity Boys Basketball game on December 9th versus Mohican Academy! The Phoenix will also travel with the PBIS cart in December and visit students in the cafeteria!

MS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

MON	DEC	8	@ LOGAN-MS-FLEX	AWAY	6:30 PM
WED	**DEC**	**10**	**MAYSVILLE 6TH GRADE**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**
WED	DEC	17	@COLUMBUS ALL-SAINTS ACADEMY	AWAY	6:00 PM
TUES	DEC	23	@COLUMBUS ADVENTIST ACADEMY	AWAY	6:30 PM
SAT	**JAN**	**17**	**LOGAN-MS-FLEX**	**HOME**	**12:00 PM**
TUES	**JAN**	**20**	**COLUMBUS ADVENTIST ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**
WED	**JAN**	**28**	**COLUMBUS ALL-SAINTS ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**

POWERLIFTING SCHEDULE

SAT	FEB	14	33RD ANNUAL DANVILLE POWERLIFTING MEET	10:00 AM
SAT	FEB	21	MADISON PLAINS 4TH ANNUAL 337 PUSH/PULL INVITE	9:30 AM
SAT	MAR	14	38TH ANNUAL KENTON STATE MEET	9:30 AM

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

VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2025-2026





SAT	NOV 22	@ HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY-SCRIMMAGE (VS. FRESHMEN)	AWAY	11:00 AM	
MON	**DEC 24**	**COLUMBUS ADVENTIST ACADEMY-SCRIMMAGE**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
MON	DEC 1	@MARBURN ACADEMY	AWAY	6:00 PM	W-58-28
TUES	**DEC 9**	**MOHICAN ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
THURS	**DEC 11**	**FRANKLINTON ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
MON	**DEC 15**	**OSD ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:30 PM**	
TUES	**DEC 16**	**COLUMBUS ARTS & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
TUES	**JAN 6**	**TORAH ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
THURS	JAN 8	@OAKSTONE ACADEMY	AWAY	6:30 PM	
TUES	**JAN 13**	**MARBURN ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
THURS	JAN 15	@CORNERSTONE ACADEMY	AWAY	6:30 PM	
TUES	JAN 22	OSD ACADEMY	AWAY	6:00 PM	
MON	**JAN 26**	**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
TUES	JAN 27	@MOHICAN ACADEMY	AWAY	7:00 PM	
TUES	**FEB 3**	**COLUMBUS ARTS & TECHNOLOGY**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
WED	FEB 4	@FRANKLINTON ACADEMY	AWAY	6:30 PM	
THURS	FEB 5	@TORAH ACADEMY	AWAY	6:00 PM	
TUES	**FEB 10**	**OAKSTONE ACADEMY (SENIOR NIGHT)**	**HOME**	**6:00 PM**	
FEB	17-19	UNITED LEAGUE TOURNAMENT	TBA	TBA	

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

FOXFIRE HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

President:
Mr. Dave Lewellen

Vice President:
Mr. Robert McClelland

Board Member:
VACENT

Board Member:
Mrs. Kelly Murvine

Board Member:
Mrs. Keely Warden

FOXFIRE INTERMEDIATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

President:
Mr. Doug Sidwell

Vice President:
Mrs. Barbara Gibbs

Board Member:
Mr. Derek Boothe

Board Member:
Mr. Adam Davenport

Board Member:
Mr. Mike Ziemer

#TOGETHER WE RISE

NOVEMBER PHOENIX'S OF THE MONTH



McKenzie Newell-4



Delainey Robinson-8



Isabella Hardy-10

NOVEMBER PARENT ENGAGEMENT NIGHT

Foxfire continued their annual November Parent Engagement night with Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings for all Foxfire families on November, 20th!

The event catered by the Phoenix Nutritional Group is one of the longest annual traditions that Foxfire hosts. Students and immediate family members were invited at no cost to receive aN early Thanksgiving meal!

Those who came to the event could eat in or choose To Go plates to take home to those who were unable to attend. Over 100 students, parents and family members attended for food and fellowship!







HS E-SPORTS SCHEDULE

Week of Dec 1st
Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Cart

Week of December 8th
Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Kart

Week of December 15th
Monday-Fortnite
Tuesday-Practice
Wednesday-Mario Kart

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE RESILIENT RELATIONSHIPS

FOXFIRE DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 No School VBB @ Marburn	2 HS ELA2	3 HS ELA2	4 HS MATH ½ VBB @ OSD	5	6
7 PEARL HARBOR DAY	8 HS BIOLOGY MSB @ Logan	9 HS BIOLOGY VBB MOHICAN-H	10 HS HISTORY MSB-MAYSVILLE-H	11 HS HISTORY/GOV VBB FRANKLINTON H	12 PARENTS & PANCAKES	13
14	15 STARS K-8 VBB vs. OSD HOME	16 STARS K-8 VBB ARTS ACA HOME	17 STARS K-8 APPLEBEE'S ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER	18 LAST DAY PARENT ENGAGEMENT	19	20
21	22 WINTER BREAK	23 WINTER BREAK	24 WINTER BREAK	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 WINTER BREAK	27
28	29 WINTER BREAK	30 WINTER BREAK	31 NEW YEARS EVE			

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

FOXFIRE SCHOOLS
RESPECT RESILIENCE RELATIONSHIPS RESPONSIBILITY
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