

Special Olympics Basketball Qualifies for State Championship



On Sunday, January 10, the Fenton Special Olympics Basketball Team qualified for the state finals after winning their division tournament. The team will compete for the state championship on March 11 – 12 at Illinois State University. In 2015, team won the Division 5 State Championship. The team is pictured with coaches Weegar, Wysopal, Ruiz and student peer coaches. A fundraiser for the team will be held on Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. For details see page five.

Bensenville Jewel-Osco Fresh Market Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting



On January 12, the Fenton High School Board of Education, administrators, students and staff joined Village officials to welcome a Jewel - Osco Fresh Market to the Bensenville community.

“On behalf of the Fenton High School Board of Education, I am thrilled to welcome Jewel - Osco,” commented Fenton School Board President, Mary Ribando. “From the get go, the Jewel staff reached out to our students offering job recruitment fairs and assisting with the job application process. They were incredibly supportive.”



During the grand opening, store manager, Luigi DiMatteo presented a \$2,500 donation from the store. “This was a tremendous gift for our students,” said President Ribando. “We simply can’t thank them enough and look forward to a great school/business partnership. The money will be used in the school’s textbook account and benefit every Fenton student.

After the official ribbon cutting, the Fenton Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Garrett George, performed the Fenton school song. The ensemble continued to entertain shoppers throughout the grand opening event.

A Note from the Principal



Dear Fenton Families,

January was a certainly a busy month. With final exams behind us, we were ready to start fresh with the second semester schedule on January 25. Students and staff members continue to enjoy our renovated campus while enduring continued construction and areas in the building where temperature control has been difficult to manage. We appreciate everyone's patience and we will continue to work on resolving issues. Several open houses will be scheduled in late spring and details will be shared when they are confirmed.

January was also a time of administrative changes. The District 100 Board of Education approved the retirement of Dr. Kathie Pierce on January 14. Our students, staff and Board of Education thank Dr. Pierce for her years of service to Fenton and wish her much happiness in her retirement.

The transition to new leadership is well underway. Please welcome Dr. Gayle Wahlin (pictured right) as our acting superintendent. Dr. Wahlin has been our interim Director of Human Resources since September and I am confident that her experience, expertise and guidance will ensure a smooth transition. Dr. Wahlin has over thirty years in education with expertise in leadership, development and curriculum. She retired from Naperville School District 203 in 2007 where she served as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. Prior to her coming to Fenton, she served as the Director of Professional Services for the DuPage Regional Office of Education. She earned her Doctoral Degree in Education from Loyola University, with an emphasis on leadership.



At the January 25 District 100 Board of Education Meeting, Dr. Jill Kingfield was named Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Operations (pictured below).



Dr. Kingsfield has been a member of the Fenton administrative team since 2004 when she was hired as Assistant Principal of Student Accounting. Since July, 2011, Dr. Kingfield served as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. I'm looking forward to leading our District with Dr. Wahlin and Dr. Kingsfield.

On March 3, we will host Spring Parent Teacher Conferences. Details can be found on page two. This is a great time for parents and teachers to connect on student progress. In addition to conferences, a few parent workshops are also being planned. Details will be shared in the March issue of the Bison Bulletin.

Our efforts to end hunger in our community continue with Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantries being scheduled for February 27 hosted by School District 2 at Blackhawk Middle School from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and March 24 from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Fenton Field House. Anyone in our community who is in need is welcome to attend.



Go BISON!

James Ongtengco
Principal

From the Fenton Attendance Office

Calling in a Student Absence / Early Release

When a student is going to be absent, parents are reminded to call 630-860-4948 or 630-860-4949 **on the day of the absence**. If a parent needs to pick up a student during the school day, it is important to notify the Attendance Office early in the day so notification can be sent to the student.

Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS)

On Thursday, January 28, the EOS Convening of Illinois School Partners was held at Fenton High School. EOS is a non-profit data-driven organization that assists schools in identifying students who are eligible but currently not enrolled in AP courses. The goal of the EOS program is to identify students from underrepresented demographic groups who have the potential to take more rigorous coursework. Through the process we will investigate why they are not enrolling in AP courses and determine a plan of action to support these students as they prepare for college, careers and life. EOS is a matching grant program sponsored by the Google Global Impact Awards, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, The Raikes Foundation and others.

Dr. Jill Kingsfield and Fenton staff members joined representatives from EOS and 15 area high school leaders to engage in a half-day of presentations, workshops and learning opportunities. Dr. Adam Kay, Director of Data Science at Equal Opportunity Schools, presented research on Growth Mindset and how this information can be put into practice in the classroom. During breakout sessions participants brainstormed strategies for increasing AP access and the best way to reach and recruit students, provide support and sustain the program.

Fenton was accepted into the EOS initiative based on demographic information and the ability to demonstrate a solidly implemented and rigorous AP program. At the start of the 2015 - 2016 school year, Dr. Kingfield formed an EOS committee with Luke Justice, EOS Senior Director, to conduct student focus groups and gather survey information from both students and staff members.

Since then, 400 students have been identified as potential candidates for AP courses. A Student Insight Card has been created for each student which includes information on educational goals, career interests, indicators of AP readiness, access barriers to AP and personal comments made by the student.

To provide real life experience to potential AP students, recent Fenton graduates created videos explaining their AP experience and how prepared them for college level work. On February 3, current AP students will host an AP Rush event during lunch to connect current and potential AP students for idea sharing.

“The goal is for every Fenton student to be college and career ready,” commented Dr. Kingsfield. “This is such exciting work and I have never seen such incredible and immediately useable data about individual students.”

Parent Teacher Conferences, March 3

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 3 from 1:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. We are using PowerPTC, our online appointment system, to coordinate conferences.

Scheduling Conferences

To schedule conferences, parents will access PowerPTC by going to www.fenton100.org. The link, Parent/Teacher Conference Sign-up will be located under *Quick Links* on the left side of the screen. It will be activated at 9:00 a.m. on **Thursday, February 18** and will remain open for conference registration until 4:00 p.m. on **Monday, February 29**.

PowerPTC is available to parents in English or Spanish. Instructions, including screen displays, will appear as you go through the register process. If you have difficulty with registration or if you do not have computer access, please call 630-860-6251 and leave a message that includes your name, the student’s name, the time you would like to begin your conferences and a phone number where you can be reached. You will receive a return phone call confirming your schedule has been created.

No online appointments will be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 29. If you do not schedule online appointments, you may sign up for conferences as a walk-in, based on teacher availability.

Copies of your student’s schedule will be available in the main office when you arrive.

Stay Connected to Fenton

Follow Fenton on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Visit the Fenton website at www.fenton100.org and click on the social media icons. You do not need a social media account to read updates.



Student Activity Update

-Mrs. Pomahac

Assistant Principal for Student Activities

This is the first in a series of student activity updates. Follow Fenton Activities on Twitter: @FHSactivities

Did you know Fenton offers over 25 clubs and activities for students to join? From chess to speech, student council to drama, there is truly something for everyone. Since August, our clubs and activities have been flourishing. Many compete, fundraise, volunteer and perform at Fenton and the Bensenville and Wood Dale communities.

Highlights

Our yearbook staff has been busy working on this year's issue. Our talented and dedicated editors and staffers have been writing stories, taking pictures and collecting senior baby pics in order to produce the best yearbook ever.

STUNT

Students United has been busy this year. They collected \$250 for local food pantries. They participated in Homecoming and hosted the Latin Flavor Mix dance in November. They have fundraised for a variety of families and will be hosting the 10th annual *So You Think You're all That* talent show on Friday, March 11.

BEAT

The team has increased their membership to 70 or so students. Through the BEAT team's efforts, they have recycled over 12,000 pounds of mixed recyclables saving approximately 40,000 gallons of fresh water. They also recycled several hundred pounds of broken Christmas lights through their RECYCLE and RENEW turn it in program. The lights will be stripped and the copper wiring will be recycled.

Student Council

All student council members took a very active approach in Homecoming festivities last October. The Senior Class painted the wall out by Route 83. They continue to volunteer, hold blood drives and prepare for Prom in May. Student Council sponsored and hosted a mobile food pantry that provided food for approximately 100 families this year and donated \$4,000 to the Bensenville Wood Dale Food pantry this year.

Additionally, they will be assisting Sodexo in an attempt to get student breakfast and participation numbers up. Student Council donated \$1,000 to the Bensenville Toy Drive, sorted and organized the toys, helped wrap all of the toys and distributed them as well. Finally they will be working alongside STUNT to pack food at Schaumburg's Feed My Starving Children facility this February.

Speech Team

Speech team is in the midst of their very active season of competition. Throughout their seasons, very talented members have competed and placed first in many of their categories. They continue to practice countless hours with their speech coaches to perfect their performances and gear up for the state series.

Math Team

The Math team competed at the conference level and had several students earned medals in their individual contests. They will compute their way toward the State series held in the spring at University of Illinois.

National Honor Society

National Honor Society has continued to give back to the Fenton community. They raised over \$4,000 for eradicating polio with UNICEF. The members spend hours volunteering throughout the year. They assisted parents during Parent-Teacher conferences and will hold the annual freshmen orientation this coming summer.

Swing and Vocal Choir

The swing and vocal choirs have been busy performing here at FHS, the communities of Bensenville and Wooddale, and continue to volunteer by working and collecting funds for those in need.

Tri-M Honor Society

With its 32 members, Tri-M Music Honor Society has been busy providing community service to the Fenton community. They assisted with handing out food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. They have collected money to donate to the food bank. Some members have also peer tutored here at school.

FCCLA

So far this year FCCLA has participated in Homecoming activities and sold headbands for the Powder Puff football game. They have had a few fun 'get to know you' meetings as well. Their last fundraiser, selling hot chocolate cones, was successful. Currently, they are preparing for their first competition on February 5, as well as National FCCLA week, which is Feb. 7-13. They are holding a school supply drive for all students to participate in with their Bison Time class and the winning Bison Time class will receive a prize.

Signal

So far this year the *Signal* student newspaper has completed half of its monthly issues for the 2015-2016 school year. Some highlights for the year include participation in the Homecoming parade, the creation of a new nameplate for the paper and the publication becoming available to the community online on the Fenton website. Particularly impressive this year is a seasoned writing staff and very promising new underclassmen who have shown talent beyond their years.

For a complete list of student activities, please visit the Fenton website and click on the Activities tab on the main menu.

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 GGYM A Regionals V TBA GBB H Lake Forest V 7:15	2 2:00 pm Dismissal Let's Get REAL Performance 2:15 Auditorium *all students are invited to attend GGYM A Regionals V TBA BBB H Oak Lawn F 4:30 BBB H Oak Lawn S 6:00 BBB H Oak Lawn V 7:30	3 AP Rush During Lunch Talent Show Auditions 3:30 GGYM A Regionals V TBA GBB A Aurora Central FA 4:30 GBB A Aurora Central V 7:30 SWIM A South Elgin JV 5:00 SWIM A South Elgin V 5:00 GBB A Aurora Central JV 6:00 SOLYM A Willowbrook 7:00 Bison Boosters 7:00 pm	4 Talent Show Auditions 3:30 GGYM A Regionals V TBA	5 Orange and Blue Day Cheer State Finals A TBA GBB H Wheaton Academy FA 4:30 GBB H Wheaton Academy JV 6:00 GBB H Wheaton Academy V 7:30 BBB H Glenbard South S 5:30 BBB H Glenbard South V 7:00 <i>Pep Band Performance during basketball game</i>	6 GBOWL A Regionals V TBA Cheer State Finals A TBA BBB H GBS FA 9:00am BBB H GBS FB 10:30am BBB A GBS SB 10:30am BBB A Glenbard South JV 9:00am GBB A St. Edward FA 4:30pm GBB A St. Edward JV 6:00pm GBB A St. Edward V 7:30pm WREST H Indiv Regionals V 9am Jazz Ensemble at NIU Jazz Fest
7 Brass Alliance Concert 3:00 p.m. Lewis—Huffman Auditorium Free Event Sponsored by the Bensenville Arts Council	8 FCCLA School Supply Drive GGYM A Sectionals V TBA	9 2:00 pm Dismissal FCCLA School Supply Drive GGYM A Sectionals V TBA BBB A IC Catholic Prep F 4:30 BBB A IC Catholic Prep S 6:00 BBB A IC Catholic Prep V 7:30	10 FCCLA School Supply Drive GGYM A Sectionals V TBA Music Boosters 7:30 pm	11 FCCLA School Supply Drive GGYM A Sectionals V TBA Padres Unidos 7:00 p.m.	12 Orange and Blue Day FCCLA School Supply Drive WREST A Indiv Sectionals TBA BBB H R-B S 5:30 BBB H R-B V 7:00 <i>Pep Band Performance during basketball game</i>	13 GBOWL A Sectionals V TBA WREST A Indiv Sectionals V TBA BBB H R-B FA 9:00am BBB H R-B FB 10:30am BBB H Elmwood Park FA 5:30pm BBB H Elmwood Park FB 7:00 BBB H Elmwood Park S 5:30pm BBB H Elmwood Park V 7:00pm
14	15 No School Presidents Day GBB A Regionals V TBA	16 2:00 pm Dismissal Spirit Week GBB A Regionals V TBA MSC All-Conference Honor Band @ Ridgewood High School 6:30 pm	17 Spirit Week GBB A Regionals V TBA	18 Spirit Week GBB A Regionals V TBA WREST A Indiv State V TBA	19 Orange and Blue Day Spirit Week GBB A Regionals V TBA GBOWL A State V TBA GGYM A State V TBA WREST A Indiv State V TBA BBB H Wheaton Academy F 4:30 BBB H Wheaton Academy S 6:00 BBB H Wheaton Academy V 7:30 <i>Pep Band Performance during basketball game</i>	20 GBOWL A State V TBA GGYM A State V TBA BSWIM A Sectionals TBA WREST A Indiv State TBA
21	22 GBB A Sec Semi Finals V TBA SOlym H Addison Trail 4:30 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.	23 2:00 pm Dismissal GBB A Sec Semi Finals V TBA BBB A Aurora Central FA 4:30 BBB A Aurora Central S 6:00 BBB A Aurora Central V 7:30 BT/F H Triangular Meet S 4:30 BT/F H Triangular Meet V 4:30 WREST H Team Sectionals 5:00	24 GT/F H Quad JV/V 4:30 90th Annual Band & Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.	25 GBB A Sectionals V TBA	26 Orange and Blue Day BSWIM A State V TBA Music Booster Fundraiser Canvas Painting 6-9pm FHS/Room TBA \$30 for supplies/food & beverages sold separately Reservation required	27 BSWIM A State V TBA WREST A Team State TBA BT/F HSpivey Classic 10:00am School District 2 Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry 9-11 am Blackhawk Middle School
28	29 BBB A Regionals V TBA GBB A Super Sectionals V TBA			<p align="center">Spaghetti with a Song Save the Date Sunday, March 13, 2016 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$8 per person (Includes spaghetti dinner, salad, beverage and dessert) Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door, until capacity. For more information, contact the Fenton Music Boosters at 630-337-4685 or fthmusicboosters.president@gmail.com</p> <p align="center"><i>Music, food, live performances and silent auction. Proceeds benefit the Fenton High School Music Program.</i></p>		

Athletic News: Celebrating Conference Championships

Cheerleading

On Saturday, January 20, the Fenton Varsity Cheerleaders won the MSC West Division Conference Championship. The competition was hosted by Fenton.

Dance Force

The Fenton Dance Force took first place in conference and second at sectionals to qualify for the IHSA Competitive Dance State Finals.

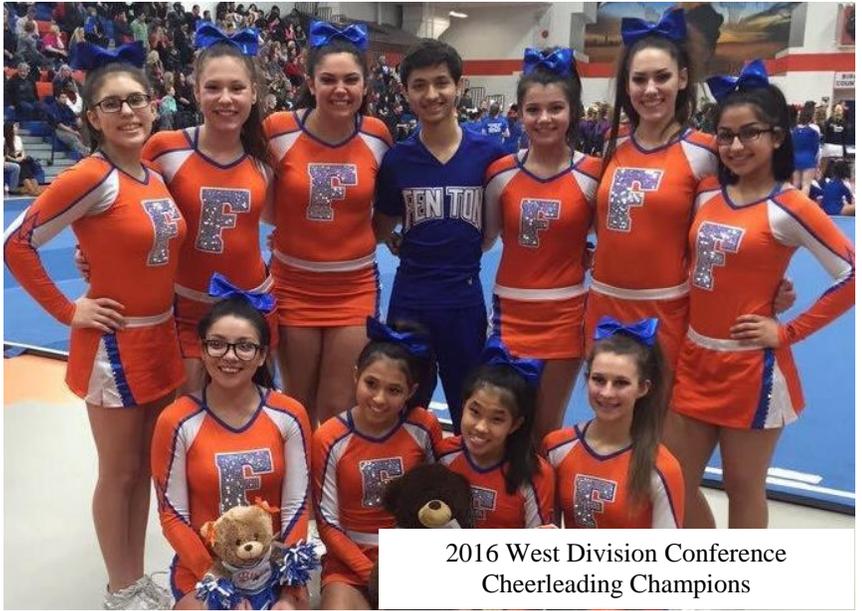
Wrestling

The Fenton wrestling program clinched its fourth consecutive and seventh MSC title in the past nine years after defeating Riverside-Brookfield and Glenbard South. The team also won the MSC wrestling tournament coming from behind to defeat R-B. Earning All-Conference honors were Ryan Mencini, Daniel Warren, Angel Nava, Nikko Castaneda, Dylan Butts, Joe Garcia, Isaiah Brock and Sebastian Kaspar. Manny Morales and Kacper Piskorz both placed third individually as well.

Village of Bensenville v. Fenton Basketball Game Fundraiser February 25

On Thursday, February 25, Village of Bensenville employees and Fenton staff members will compete in a friendly game of basketball to raise money for the Fenton Special Olympics basketball team.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students/senior citizens. All proceeds will benefit the Fenton Special Olympics Basketball Team and their trip to the State Competition. Participants from last year's event are pictured below.



2016 West Division Conference Cheerleading Champions



2016 Class 2A Competitive Dance Champions



2016 MSC Wrestling Conference Champions



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Parent Connection

During the month of February, Fenton's SEL program will focus on conflict resolution. Three specific areas that will be presented to students are conflict resolution skills, identifying unhealthy relationships, and standing up to bullying. This month's column will focus on how parents can identify if their child is in an unhealthy relationship, what to do about it, and how to prevent it from happening.

According to [Loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org), a program of the National Council on Family Violence, these are early warning signs to look for to determine if your child is in an abusive relationship:

- Your child's partner is extremely jealous or possessive.
- Your child's partner texts him or her excessively.
- Your child begins to dress differently.
- You notice that your son or daughter is depressed or anxious.
- Your son or daughter stops participating in extracurricular activities or other interests.
- Your child stops spending time with other friends and family.
- You notice unexplained marks or bruises.

If you do suspect your child is in an abusive relationship, the National Council on Family Violence suggests the following:

- Tell your child you're concerned for their safety. Point out that what's happening isn't "normal." Everyone deserves a safe and healthy relationship.
- Be supportive and understanding. Stress that you're on their side. Provide information and non-judgmental support. Let your son or daughter know that it's not their fault and no one "deserves" to be abused. Make it clear that you don't blame them and you respect their choices.

- Believe them and take them seriously. Your child may be reluctant to share their experiences in fear of no one believing what they say. As you validate their feelings and show your support, they can become more comfortable and trust you with more information. Be careful not to minimize your child's situation due to age, inexperience or the length of their relationship.
- Remember that ultimately your child must be the one who decides to leave the relationship. There are many complex reasons why victims stay in unhealthy relationships. Your support can make a critical difference in helping your son or daughter find their own way to end their unhealthy relationship.

Finally, if your child isn't in an unhealthy relationship, the National Council on Family Violence asserts that conversations like the following really do make a difference in your child's dating life:

- Are any of your friends dating? What are their relationships like? What would you want in a partner?
- Have you witnessed unhealthy relationships or dating abuse at school? How does it make you feel?
- Do you know what you would do if you witnessed or experienced abuse?
- Has anyone you know posted anything bad about a boyfriend or girlfriend online? What happened afterwards?
- Would it be weird if someone you were dating texted you all day to ask you what you're doing?
- Provide your child with examples of healthy relationships, pointing out unhealthy behavior. Use examples from your own life, television, movies or music.
- Keep it low key. Don't push it if your child is not ready to talk. Try again another time.

For more information, visit loveisrespect.org.

Wellness Committee Focuses on Healthy Eating for Students

This year, the Fenton Wellness Committee focused its efforts on gathering information from students and staff members on how to improve their school lunch experience. Partnering with Sodexo, Fenton's food service provider, surveys were given and analyzed. Several interesting facts surfaced including students not knowing how to navigate the Fenton food lines and not fully understanding the benefits included in the federally funded free/reduced lunch program. To address these concerns, a video was created and shown during Bison Time. Visit the Fenton website and click the YouTube button to view the "New Cafeteria" video.

It is important that parents and students understand that if a student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, he/she **also** qualifies for free/reduced breakfast. A breakfast cart is set up before school every morning in the new student common area and a hot breakfast line is also available. The survey also showed that some students were uncertain of their lunch status. To assist students with this information a new tab labeled "Lunch Status" was added to PowerSchool. Students can simply click on the tab on their personal PowerSchool account to see if they have free, reduced or paid lunch.

The "New Cafeteria" video also explains the components (items) that the federally funded food program requires. For instance, students on free/reduced lunch are required to take certain items which include a grain, protein and dairy item. Students can also purchase items ala carte and not be required to take all components.

Another new feature of the Sodexo food program is the addition of an after school lunch cart. Students can now purchase snacks after school before heading to athletics and extra curricular activities.

Music Department News

90th Annual Band and Choir Concert

The 90th Annual Fenton High School Band and Choir Concert is February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lewis - Huffman Auditorium at Fenton. This concert features performances by all curricular and extra-curricular bands and choirs, which includes the Jazz Ensemble, Swing Choir, Concert Band, Chorale, Percussion Ensemble, Treble Choir, Symphonic Winds and Concert Choir. This concert will be celebrating its 90th anniversary by featuring guest alumni conductors, soloists, and more. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Students Qualify for Illinois Music Association State Conference (ILMEA)

On Wednesday, January 27, a state send-off was held for Fenton musicians, Spencer Franke and Anthony Galindo. The students will attend the Illinois Music Education Association's (ILMEA) conference which celebrates only the top musicians in the state. Spencer qualified on the bassoon and Anthony will participate in music related sessions for his first place finish in composition writing. The students are pictured with Fenton band director, Mr. George.



Activities

Student Government Day

On January 27, Fenton and Blackhawk Middle School student council leaders spent the day learning about their community during Bensenville's Student Government Day. The event, sponsored by the Bensenville Intergovernmental Group (BIG), provides student leaders with a behind the scenes look at Bensenville School District 2, Bensenville Community Library, Bensenville Park District, Village of Bensenville, Bensenville Fire Protection District 2, Bensenville Emergency Management and Fenton. This event is part of a larger program sponsored by the members of BIG to provide students with an opportunity to sit at the table during Board meetings and share their insights on community and school improvements. This year's event was organized by Dave Siefert, Director of the Bensenville Public Library and Mary Ribando, Fenton School Board President.



Student Government Day 2016