



Volume 4, Issue 3

February, 2017

Important Reminders:

- ◆ **Feb. 6**
Safe Route to School
Public Meeting at
Utica Village Hall
6:00 pm
- ◆ **Feb. 6 - 16**
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
- ◆ **Feb. 8**
Open House for 5th &
6th Grade Students
UJH 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Feb. 13**
Board of Education
Meeting 6:00 pm UJH
- ◆ **Feb. 17, 20**
No School
- ◆ **March 10, 11**
UHS Spring Play 7:30pm
UJH Gym
- ◆ **March 20**
Board of Education
Meeting 6:00 pm UHS
- ◆ **March 22**
Think Tank 6:00 pm
UHS Cafeteria
- ◆ **March 27 - 31**
Spring Break
- ◆ **May 3 & 4**
Kindergarten Screening

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We're on the Web!
www.northfork.k12.oh.us

312 Maple Avenue
 P.O. Box 497
 Utica, OH 43080

Phone: 740-892-3666
 Fax: 740-892-2937

From the Superintendent...

We have reached the halfway point of the 2016-17 school year. With the beginning of the second semester, we continue to engage our students academically. The second semester will bring with it the completion of the winter, state testing, and ultimately graduation for our seniors. This is an important part of the lives of all of our students.

Although the weather has blessed us with some great temperatures with little snow, the winter is not over yet. Please keep in mind concerning school closings, that when the winter weather returns we will make the best decision we can for all of our students' safety. We have information on our web page, under the quick link section, that explains how we make the decision to delay or close. We have also clarified what would happen if we have to delay on a late start Wednesday.

State testing is coming upon us rapidly and the staff has been reviewing past tests, looking for common items, and ensuring we are covering all of the areas needed for our students to be successful. That is only one part of testing. The students have also been learning what they need to know to answer the questions posed to them. Using the data we have on hand and working together, we can say the standards, required by the State, are being taught in the classrooms.

As we start the State Testing cycle, it is very important that students do not miss school. We have a short window to get all of the tests in and completed. With that short window, our retake time is also very short. We certainly understand student illness and having a fever, which would require them to be out of school, so please consider their absence as a critical piece to getting the tests completed and back to the State.

The culmination of any school year is the celebration of our seniors graduating from high school. It is a wonderful time of accomplishment for everyone. By keeping our students focused on their academics, we can prevent any downfalls in not meeting the requirements necessary to graduate.

Scott Hartley
 Superintendent

In the event it is deemed necessary for the district to go on a two-hour delay on what would typically be a late start WEDNESDAY, the delay will be treated as it is on any other school day. Anytime the district is on a two-hour delay, even on a Wednesday, Utica Junior and Senior High will begin at 9:30 a.m. and Newton and Utica Elementary Schools will begin at 11:00 a.m. Thank you!

District Testing Schedule Update ~ Mrs. Stephanie Kimpel, Testing Coordinator

Second and third grade students will take the Terra Nova and Inview complete battery of assessments in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies to ensure students are on track in academic content as well as identification for gifted services the week of February 21-24 within the classroom setting.

****Note: For this academic year ONLY, second and third grade students will take the Terra Nova and Inview. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, Terra Nova complete battery will only be administered in second grade. The district will continue to use the Terra Nova for third grade only if needed for third grade reading guarantee opportunities.**

Students in fifth grade will also take the Terra Nova and Inview complete battery of assessment in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies to ensure students are on track in academic content as they transition to middle school.

These assessments will also be completed in the classroom setting the week of March 6-10.

Students in seventh grade will take the Iowa Algebra Aptitude test to determine eligibility for Algebra I placement in eighth grade. This assessment will be completed during the week of March 6 - 10 in the math classroom.

All students in grades 3 - 8 will participate in Ohio's State Tests in English/ Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.

High school students will take End of Course Exams in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, American History and American Government.

High School Juniors will also take a one-time ACT exam.

We would appreciate any assistance with scheduling any appointments on days when your student is not scheduled for testing.

District Testing Schedule:

Second and Third Grade Terra Nova/Inview	February 21 - 24
Fifth Grade Terra Nova/Inview	March 6 -10
Seventh Grade Iowa Algebra Aptitude Assessment	March 6 -10
Class of 2018 <i>only</i> - ACT exam	March 21
Third - Eighth Grade Ohio's State Tests and High School End of Course Exams	April 3 - 21 (Individual building schedules will be made available in early February.)

Future Dates:

Kindergarten Screening	May 3 and 4
AP Testing	May 4 and 9
Eighth Grade NAEP Writing Study	May 10 th (only national randomly selected students)

Utica Elementary...Redskin Ready

Mr. Brett Ballinger, Principal



Our “Redskin Ready” character education has had a great impact on the climate within our building. To date, we have honored approximately 150 students for displaying exceptional signs of **respect, responsibility, and gratitude**. On January 12, Utica Head Football Coach, Ted Londot, gave an impassionate speech to the student body on the importance of **Leadership** in the lives of our students. Our next assembly will be on February 6. We will be honoring those students that displayed great leadership during the month of January. We will also be introducing our next month’s theme: **Empathy/Compassion**. Melissa Forster from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will be presenting as part of our *Pennies for Patients* campaign.

We held our Honor’s Assembly on January 27 for the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. In all, 115 students earned Honor Roll and 55 achieved Merit Roll.

I want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to our **PTO**. Our PTO helps facilitate various events throughout the year to enhance our community spirit. Their fundraising efforts go a long way to help purchase educational supports that make the school day more valuable for the students of Utica Elementary. As many of the current members begin to transition to the Junior High, we are in need of a wave of new volunteers to continue the successful ventures put in place by the current regime. Regardless of the amount of time you are able to devote, any amount of volunteering is appreciated.

Reminder - If we would happen to have a two-hour delay on a Wednesday, we will begin our day at 11:00 a.m. and forgo the late start.

There will be an **OPEN HOUSE** on **February 8** at **Utica Junior High** for our current fifth and sixth grade students. The open house will run from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Book Fair Feb. 8 - 15

Thank you,
Coach Londot!



Utica FFA



Local FFA member receives \$1,000 grant from Caterpillar

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. - A \$1,000 grant has been awarded to FFA member Shaeley Warner of Utica, OH by Caterpillar.

Grant Requirement: For applicants from TX, CO, NE, KS, MO, IA, MN, ND, SD, OH, and KY who have or wish to begin an SAE in Beef Production.

The SAE Grant is designed to help FFA members create and enhance their supervised agricultural experience (SAE), a requirement that all FFA members must compete. An SAE requires FFA members to create and operate an agriculture related business, work at an agriculture-related business or conduct an agricultural research experience. Upon completion, FFA members must submit a comprehensive report regarding their supervised agricultural experience (SAE).

Shaeley Warner is a member of the Utica FFA Chapter of Utica, OH, and was selected from hundreds of applicants nationwide. She plans to use this grant to attend AI (Artificial Insemination) School, so that she can AI her own cattle and expand her cattle herd.



Congratulations to sophomore Shaeley Warner on an incredible accomplishment!

Utica Agricultural Education Program Receives Grant from DuPont Pioneer

DuPont Pioneer Supports Agricultural Education Classes and FFA

Utica, OH – December 22nd, 2016 – Utica High School is pleased to announce that DuPont Pioneer donated \$3,600 toward the Utica Agricultural Education Program as part of the DuPont Pioneer sponsorship program.

“I am very excited to receive this grant. This will help to pay for more expensive equipment that is needed to continue to utilize the Curriculum for Agriscience Education (CASE) courses here at the high school. This grant is going to enable me to



do some labs that otherwise I might not be able to complete otherwise. The support from DuPont is greatly appreciated!” Gina Neff, Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Advisor.

Pioneer makes contributions to community-based organizations on behalf of the business and employees. Consideration for outreach grants is given to communities where Pioneer sales representatives, DuPont Pioneer employees and customers live and work and that support quality-of-life initiatives to create an improved, sustainable lifestyle for people worldwide.



Jazz Band



Mr. Dean playing trombone with the band during practice.



Brock Stephens (11) playing the tuba.



Sydney Gaskill (10), Mallory McNamara (12), & Morgan Homman (9) playing trumpet.



The Jazz Band practicing for the Music Boosters Craft Show.

The Utica High School Jazz Band practices twice a week. Most people join Jazz Band for the good music.

"I really enjoy playing the music. It's my favorite genre so that's why I enjoy it," said Rese Rauch (9th).

Practicing isn't all the Jazz Band does. They play at events such as The Music Boosters Craft Show or The Jazz Festival in Utica.

"I always look forward to the Jazz Festival. It's a fun time and you get to hear other schools perform," said Zach Adair (9th).

Jazz Band is full of fun people playing fun music at events. Come see the Jazz Band at the next event.

By Trevor Warthman (10)

Jazz Band



Ashlan Hietala (12) playing a solo.

North Fork Technology Department Update ~ Mrs. Kimberley Watson

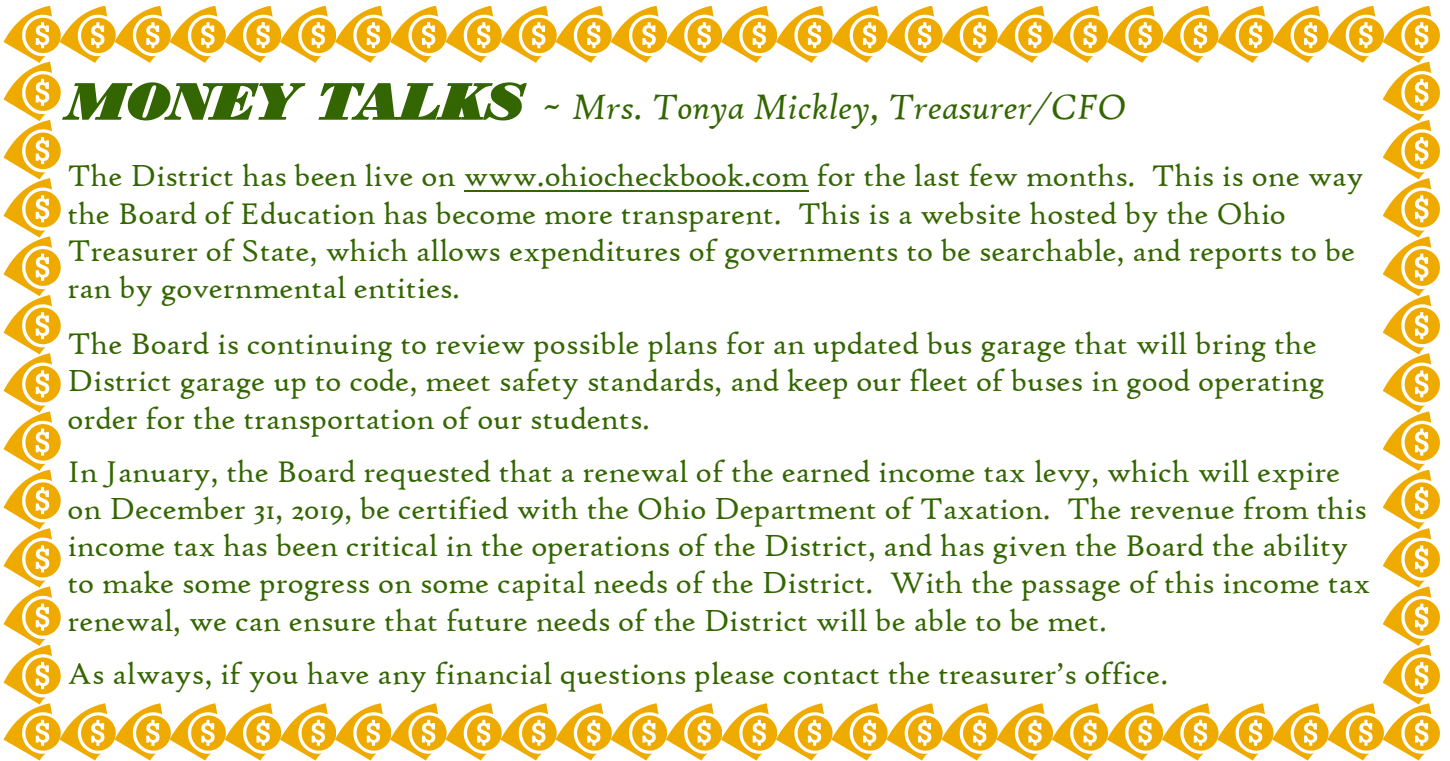
- The district is continuing with email conversions for all staff. Please watch for notifications of those email address changes as we are moving from @uhs.laca.org to @northfork.k12.oh.us.
- The tech department has installed 25 new computers in each of the elementary teaching labs. The replaced computers are now in the K-1 classrooms in both elementary buildings so that students have access to Windows 7. This will allow the software programs that they are using to run correctly.
- The district rolled out online report cards for the second nine weeks. The report cards are accessible through the ParentAccess portion of ProgressBook. Paper copies are available by request only. If you have not created your ParentAccess account, you will need to obtain directions and a registration key by contacting Mrs. Watson at klwatson@northfork.k12.oh.us.

Accessing Online Report Cards

1. Go <https://parent.laca.org/district/nf>
2. Login to the parent access portion of **ProgressBook**.
3. Click on the “**Report Card**” link on the left-hand side.



4. Click on the “**View Report Card**” link.  This will open the most recent report card posted on ParentAccess.
5. If you click on the “**View Paper History**” link,  you can access any report card posted on ParentAccess.



MONEY TALKS ~ Mrs. Tonya Mickley, Treasurer/CFO

The District has been live on www.ohiocheckbook.com for the last few months. This is one way the Board of Education has become more transparent. This is a website hosted by the Ohio Treasurer of State, which allows expenditures of governments to be searchable, and reports to be ran by governmental entities.

The Board is continuing to review possible plans for an updated bus garage that will bring the District garage up to code, meet safety standards, and keep our fleet of buses in good operating order for the transportation of our students.

In January, the Board requested that a renewal of the earned income tax levy, which will expire on December 31, 2019, be certified with the Ohio Department of Taxation. The revenue from this income tax has been critical in the operations of the District, and has given the Board the ability to make some progress on some capital needs of the District. With the passage of this income tax renewal, we can ensure that future needs of the District will be able to be met.

As always, if you have any financial questions please contact the treasurer's office.

From the Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Stephanie Kimpel, Utica Jr. High Counselor



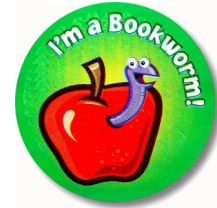
Mrs. Kimpel had the opportunity to become a licensed facilitator with the **Rox Program**. What is **Rox**? The **ROX** program is an opportunity for girls to come together with a trained and licensed facilitator to explore some of the big issues impacting girls today like confidence, developing healthy friendships and relationships, body image and media pressure, navigating social media and cyberbullying, dealing with stress and pressure, safety and violence prevention, and career development and leadership. The **ROX** program operates at our school with support from **ROX**, Inc. and Columbia Gas of Ohio. **ROX** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to equip girls with the knowledge and skills needed to live healthy, independent, productive and violence-free lives. Girls who participate in **ROX** meet weekly in small groups for discussions, lessons and activities. Girls will also receive fun **ROX** materials including t-shirts, binders, and water bottles. Girls have the opportunity to learn new skills, gain support and have fun in a safe, all-girl space.

Important Jr. High Dates:

8 th Grade Parent Scheduling Meeting	February 15	6:30pm High School Cafeteria
High School Course Scheduling (in History classes)	February 22	
College Credit Plus Parent Informational Meeting	February 16	6:30pm High School Cafeteria
5 th and 6 th Grade Open House	February 8	5:00pm
7 th Grade Scheduling (in Language Arts classes)	March 15	(tentative)

Newton Elementary News ~ Ms. Michele Gortus, Principal

The Newton Elementary PTO is sponsoring our **BOOK FAIR** this year. The book fair will be held during parent/teacher conferences, February 9 - 16. Fliers will be sent home closer to the date.



Mark your calendar...

Kindergarten Screening May 3 & 4, 2017
Newton PTO 5K May 13 at 9 a.m.

(More information will be posted on the website at a later date.)

February Dates to Remember ~

Feb. 9	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb. 15	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb. 17	No School
Feb. 20	No School
Feb. 21-24	Terra Nova Testing



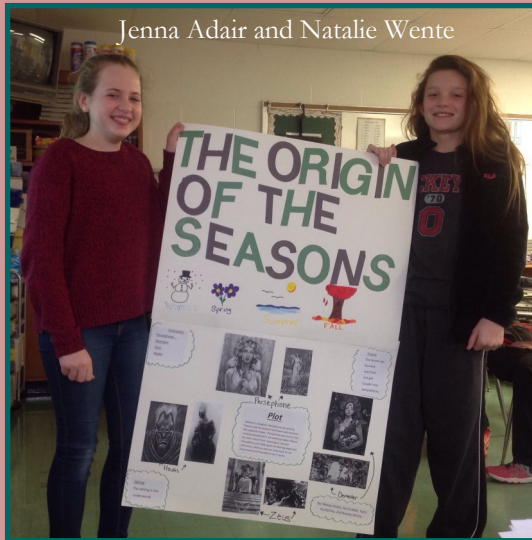
Shoe Tying Club

Kindergarten and first grade students are working on tying their shoes. Once they have mastered the skill, their name is added to the **Shoe Club**. Each student also received a certificate and small prize.



Utica Junior High News ~ Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Smith

Students in Mrs. Williams' and Mrs. Smith's seventh grade reading class are busy reading "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan. To enhance this fantasy book based on Greek mythology, students also created posters about different Greek myths and are studying Greek roots to aid in vocabulary.



Jenna Adair and Natalie Wente



Bella Ellis, Georgia Gamble, Daniel Rudolph, and Aiden Schmol

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The MD classroom students at UJH enjoy a monthly art lesson from artist Vicki Moon Spiegel. So far, we have designed leaf mobiles, a reindeer ornament, and vegetable paint prints. Our student volunteers from Academic Assist help to perfect our projects. We are looking forward to seeing her again in February! ~ Mrs. Judy Miller

Utica Junior High ~ Mrs. Marcia Rutherford, Principal

Open House for incoming sixth and seventh graders will be held on **February 8 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Please come to walk the school, familiarize yourself with the school and meet our terrific staff! Drop in and come when you can... No reservation required!

The Mt. Vernon News visited our school this week to interview students and observe the great things that are happening here. Please look for Classroom Capers in the future!

Upcoming Events ~

- ⇒ **Winter conferences** will be held Feb. 6 and 8 from 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Look for Sign Up Genius links on Facebook and the UJHS website.
- ⇒ **Scholastic Book Fair** will be hosted from Feb. 6 ~ 10. Students will tour the fair and are able to purchase at any time during the week. The Book Fair will be open during conferences, too.
- ⇒ **Eighth Grade** student/parent **scheduling meeting** will be on Feb. 15. Mrs. Kimpel will be discussing the move to the high school and new requirements for the students.
- ⇒ **State Assessment Schedule**

Mar. 6 - 10 Seventh Grade Math - Terra Nova (Algebra I placement)

April 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 - Assessments will be given from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS AT SCHOOL ON TIME!

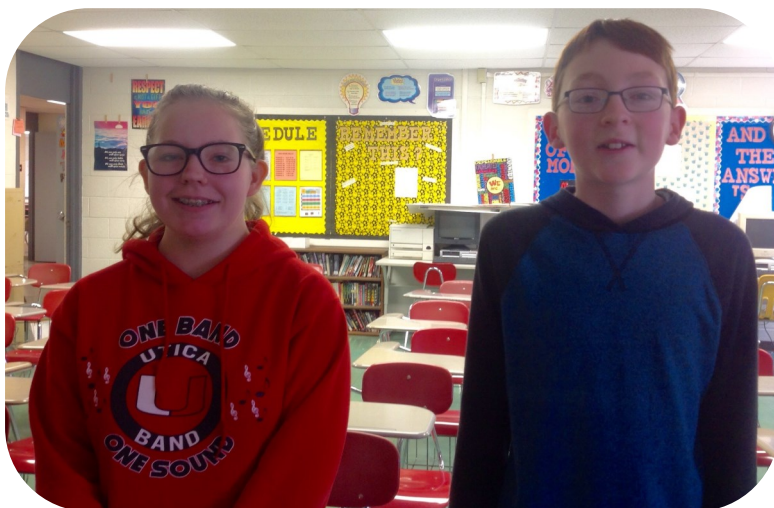
~CONGRATULATIONS~

Utica Junior High

Spelling Bee Winners!

Champion, Jesse Fink

Runner-Up, Silas Buckenberger





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**North Fork Local School District
Kindergarten Screening**

(Child must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2017.)

May 3 & 4, 2017

Utica Church of Christ

More information will be available on the North Fork
website at a later date.

www.northfork.k12.oh.us



From the Transportation Supervisor ~ Allan Fordham

Important Reminder

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Thank you!



UHS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS

“Straight from the Horse’s Mouth”

March 10 and 11

7:30 p.m.

Utica Junior High Gymnasium