



February 2, 2010

# FREEMAN FLYER

## Notes from the Principal's Office "Let Your Pride Show Through In All You Do"

Dear families of Freeman Elementary,

As we continue to move through the heart of winter, I want to give you a friendly reminder to be sure you have a plan in place and your child knows exactly what to do if school is released early due to inclement winter weather. If the weather forecast is such that the potential for school being released early exists, please discuss this with your child and have a plan in place before they leave home for school that morning. Having a definite plan in place will reduce the amount of tension and distress that your child may feel when a situation like this arises. **Please don't wait until after it happens, make a plan and be prepared before it happens!** If you provide Mrs. Strasser with your home and/or work email address, she will alert you by email as soon as a decision to dismiss school early has been made by the Superintendent.

On a related note, please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for cold weather; Heavy coats, stocking caps, mittens or gloves, and boots are necessities for all children with our cold South Dakota winter temperatures.

We are quickly approaching the mid-term of the third quarter. On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 8:30 PM Parent/Teacher/Student conferences will be held here at the Elementary School. The purpose of conferences is to give your child and his or her teachers the opportunity to show you the progress that he/she has made throughout the quarter. Please take the time to attend conferences with your child and remember that positive parental encouragement and involvement at home will help to strengthen and improve your child's overall attitude and effort in school.

Please be sure to highlight the "Dates to Note" found on the right side of this page on your calendars at home. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please email me at [ryan.mors@k12.sd.us](mailto:ryan.mors@k12.sd.us) or contact me at school, 925-4216.

Sincerely Yours,

Ryan Mors  
Elementary Principal

### Dates to Note

- ✓ February 1 –  
NO SCHOOL
- ✓ February 5 –  
Jump Rope for  
Heart, grades  
K-6 @ 2:30  
p.m.
- ✓ February 9 –  
Early dismissal  
@ 3:00 pm
- ✓ February 11 –  
Cheerleading  
clinic 3:30 –  
6:00 p.m.
- ✓ February 12 –  
Parent/Teacher  
Conference  
3:00-8:30 p.m.  
School  
dismissed @  
2:55 p.m.
- ✓ February 15 –  
NO SCHOOL  
President's Day

**NOTE:**  
Due to recent  
school  
cancellations,  
school WILL BE  
in session March  
18 & 19.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL - by Annie Carlson**

After the food drive, the school received a thank you from the Freeman Food Pantry. We will have a No Name Calling Week, January 25-29. On Friday of that week, students will be allowed to wear their pajamas to school for a donation of \$1.00 towards the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Students will have fun participating during this week.

The student council is still reading to Mr. Maske's First grade class.

## **LIBRARY - Charlene Friesen**

The long, cold month of January is coming to an end. Third and Fourth grade classes are learning about the parts of a book. We will end this study with a 'Parts of a Book' bingo game. The second graders read how Wilson Bentley photographed snowflakes in his picture book biography, *Snowflake Bentley*, as they learn about biographies. How cold is cold? 1st graders read the books *The Five-Dog Night* by Eileen Christelow and *50 Below Zero* by Robert Munsch as we talked about winter. Our animal of the month has been the penguin who lives in the Southern Hemisphere, not at the North Pole as many people think.

The 3 - 6 grade After School Reading Club continues to meet Thursdays immediately after school until 4:00. We are reading the comic and easy-reading *No Talking* by Andrew Clements. Will the 5th grade boys or girls of Laketon Middle School win the 'no talking' contest?

Prairie Pasque readers are busily checking out Prairie Pasque books to read 5 of the 15 selected titles to be able to participate in the statewide vote. This program ends the first week in March. Happy Reading!

## **LEARNING CENTER - Loren Matson**

Mr. Matson's Upper grade English-Our students have been working on picking out descriptive adjectives and using them accurately in sentences.

They have also been trying to work on their writing skills by writing stories that contain good verbs and adjectives.

Upper Reading Class has been working on comprehension skills by reading a different version of the Robin Hood Story. We have also tried to learn how the Middle Ages have different customs and language than modern times.

Upper Math class continues to study many new concepts at the same time. We are using Saxon materials which have helped the students because there is review in every lesson. This month's concepts are: squares of numbers, (a number times itself), ordinal numbers, memorizing multiplication and division facts, reading and solving story problems, and learning geometry concepts.

Middle grades Math has worked with money. We have learned to make change and exchange money of equal value. We have also worked on addition and subtraction with regrouping.

Mrs. Waltner's Lower Grades Reading/English-In January we started a new level in our Reading Series! *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *Born to Rope* were longer stories with more new vocabulary. The new skills included sequence, drawing conclusions, and author's purpose: entertain, inform, or explain. In English we are learning more about what a sentence is: the subject and predicate, statements and questions. Phonics skills included double consonants, endings, and the long e sound spelled several different ways.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION-Rory Hermsen**

The students are getting back into the routine of gym class. Our goal in physical education is to improve the gross motor skills: throwing, catching, kicking, etc. I also try to teach the students some rules of games and the social behavior that goes along with participating in the activities: taking turns, listening, working with teammates, etc. The past four weeks the students have worked on a variety of activities: basketball, kickball, dodge ball, football. The first week in February the students will be learning about the importance of having and building a strong heart. We will be watching a video from the American Heart Association. The video will show how to strengthen the heart through activities. The week will conclude with a Jump Rope for Heart activity on Friday Feb. 5 at 2:30. The students will be able to BUT not required to collect pledges for jumping that afternoon. This is a good activity to show the students the importance of taking care and building a strong heart.

### **COMPUTER - Jim Kaufman**

In grades K-2, we just continued to learn how to navigate through various educational software programs. We have also spent time learning to navigate through the internet. We have been working on these skills as we visit various educational sites to improve our math and English skills.

In grades 3-6 the students continue to learn keyboarding skills. The activities that we have been working on will improve the students typing skills. We have continued to spend the first 10 - 15 minutes of each class period developing proper typing technique and learning where the keys are located on the keyboard. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have been learning the different components of a computer system. We have spent some time looking at various ways that information can get put into a computer and various ways that a computer is able to give us information.

Due to the weather I have not met with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders yet this month. In grade 6 the students have continued to improve their keyboarding skills. We have continued to spend the first 10 - 15 minutes of each class period developing proper typing technique and attempting to increase our typing accuracy and speed. Like the younger grades we have also looked at components of a computer system and have also learned how these different computer components are hooked together. The sixth graders have all successfully hooked up the power supply, keyboard, and mouse to the computer unit.

## KINDERGARTEN

### Mrs. Hartman

January is almost over, and we are planning to celebrate 100 days of school very soon. It hardly seems possible that we are more than half finished with our Kindergarten year. In this wintery weather we have been learning about snowflakes and penguins.

For our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school we are planning several activities. We will be making necklaces using 100 Trix, and a trail mix of 100 snack items. We will read 'Miss Bindergarten Celebrates 100 Days of Kindergarten' and '100 Hungry Ants'. We will guess which jar has 100 Cheerios, and we will make a 100 chart using hands to count by 5's to 100. I am asking the children to bring a collection of 100 things to show the class.

For our reading lessons, we are talking about authors and illustrators, and as we read stories, we decide if they are fact or fiction. Thank you, parents, for continuing to help your child read the Guided Reading books he/she brings home each week. We have had fun making new words using word families. Check our growing list of words and letter sounds to see if your child knows them.

- Aa-short a ant on apple a/a/
- Bb-bat and ball /b/
- Cc-candle on cake /c/
- Ff-fireman fighting fire /f/
- Hh- happy house /h/
- Ii- It is in the igloo /i/
- Ll- Leo the lazy lion /l/
- Mm-mailman /m/
- Nn-nine nails
- Pp-piece of pie /p/
- Rr- running rabbit /r/
- Ss-sunset /s/
- Tt-tan tent /t

These are the high frequency words we know: I, at, am, a, can, the, is, like, big, in, it, but, and all the color words and number words from zero to ten.

We finished our math chapter about patterns, and we had fun making many different kinds of patterns with objects. Our next chapter is called, 'Measurement'. We will talk about length and width, and we will learn to measure things using snap cubes, rulers, and tape measures. Our measurement chapter includes a section on weight and capacity.

Our social studies lessons are about different jobs that people do. We talked about the children's jobs at home, and they tried to decide what they would like to do when they grow up. In science we have been talking about weather, seasons, and clouds.

We are trying to survive the cold weather and are looking forward to our Valentine's Day party in February.

## **Mrs. Hendrix**

We have been continuing to study letter names and sounds for Aa, Bb, Cc, Ff, Gg, Hh, Ii, Ll, Mm, Nn, Pp, Rr, Ss, and Tt. We use picture clues and what we know about letter sounds to help us read words. Some sight words that we know include *a, the, at, can, I, am, like, in, big, is, but, it, look, see*, all of the basic color words, and number words from zero to ten.

In Math we are busy memorizing our phone numbers and addresses. We have also been measuring and comparing length. We will be doing the same with weight and capacity soon.

For Science we have been learning about the earth's soil, rocks, landforms, and resources. Next we will take a look at different types of matter.

We've been talking about work, jobs, earning money, spending and saving in Social Studies. Then we will do a study on wants and needs.

Kindergarteners will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on February 11th (weather permitting). We will count to 100, read stories, write poems, make snacks, and show collections of 100. Students will be asked to bring 100 of something that day. (pennies, straws, pieces to a puzzle, etc) It will be a lot of fun!

## **FIRST GRADE**

### **Mrs. Rupp**

I hope this newsletter finds you keeping warm and enjoying some of the good things that winter has to offer...hot chocolate, sledding, and curling up with a good book! Speaking of good books, we have had a couple Guest Readers recently. Listed below are the two First Grade readers and the books that we have had the privilege of listening to them read.

Madison H. - Hedgie's Surprise

Matthew M. - Curious George Goes to the Ice Cream Shop

It is very rewarding for the students to be able to share their reading skills with their classmates. A big thank you to you, as parents, for your support in the process that it takes for the students to learn to read. When the weather has allowed us to gather, you have all been great at remembering to practice the Guided Reading books and bring them back on specific days, as well as taking advantage of the Scholastic Book Orders and Book Fairs so that your children have the resources they need to practice their reading strategies. Keep up the great work. You are your child's best teacher!

I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with you all at Parent-Teacher Conferences. They are scheduled for Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-8:30 p.m. in the elementary wing of the school. I always appreciate it when parents take the time out of their busy schedules to come and visit with me about the continued progress of their student. Many times those couple of minutes of communication are priceless because they help me to further understand each student so that I can meet their educational needs specifically. Even though these scheduled conversations are very important, so are the times that you have taken a moment to call or email to share an event or

situation that will obviously affect your student's day emotionally, physically, etc. Thanks so much for always keeping me in the loop...it really is a benefit to all parties involved.

### **Mr. Maske**

What a month January has been! Despite all the missed school due to inclement weather, our students continue to work hard and focus. The missed days certainly do add yet another challenge. Thank you for all your hard work at home. Your time spent reading and studying with your child is priceless!

Please remember to go through your child's homework folder nightly. Last Wednesday a parent/teacher conference sign-up sheet was sent home. Please return this as soon as possible in order to secure your meeting time. Our conference schedule is set up on a first come, first serve basis.

This month, we have enjoyed having volunteer readers come into our classroom to share great stories from Robert Munsch. Becca Anderson, Annie Carlson, and Sami Schrag have been very gracious with their time in order to join us. What a great lesson this teaches our 1<sup>st</sup> graders! Not only do they get a chance to listen to experienced readers, but they experience the benefits of giving and selflessness. Thanks again to these three young ladies! They did a tremendous job!

We are about to wrap up our science studies for the year. We are now studying our solar system and trying to get a grasp on the vastness of space. We've had some great discussions and visited some really cool websites along the way. We've also spent time exploring why we have night and day and why we have seasons. Go ahead and quiz your first grader. See if they can explain these concepts to you. Once we've finished our final science unit we will begin our social studies work.

As always, feel free to stop in or call with any questions or concerns. I look forward to visiting with each of you at conferences.

## **SECOND GRADE**

### **Mrs. Pidde**

Is winter over yet? Despite all of the cancelled school days, we are continuing to learn in second grade. I hope the worst of the weather is behind us.

In Math class, we are finishing up two-digit subtraction and will be studying time. This is usually a difficult concept for second graders, so any practice at home would be helpful. For English class, the students are working on adjectives. Then we will move on to adverbs, pronouns, and alphabetical order. In Science, we are learning about our Earth's resources and how to use these resources. Our next Social Studies unit is about local, state, and federal government.

February is Black History Month so we are reading about some famous Black Americans. Ask your child to tell you about Harriet Tubman, Ruby Bridges and Martin Luther King, Jr.

We will be having our Valentine party on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Kristy (Bailey's mom) will be calling about treats for the party. Isabel, Emmarie, Kade, and Rachael will be providing party goodies this time.

We will also have parent-teacher conferences on February 12<sup>th</sup>. A note will be sent home regarding times for our final conference. I am looking forward to visiting with each of you again.

Our Star Students for January were Kahli, Isabel, and Chance. This activity is not only fun for the "Stars" but the rest of the class enjoys learning a little more about their classmates too.

## THIRD GRADE

### Mrs. Wieman Class

January has been a COLD month outside, but inside we have been heating it up with all of the activities and lessons we have been studying. It has been difficult for some students to get back into the flow of school after Christmas break because of the snow days and other days that we have had off. Hopefully in February we will not have as many snow days so that we are able to get back into the school routine as we are preparing for the state testing.

Math has probably been the class enjoyed by the majority of the students the most. Multiplication has been a fun, yet challenging way to kick off the New Year. We have been working on learning our facts 0-9 and have been working on our goal to build a banana split. Each student is trying to build his/her own banana split by learning the multiplication facts for each number. For instance, when the students were able to complete the facts for 0, he/she earned a bowl to start the banana split. Each number fact, earns the students another part of the banana split. Our goal is to have everyone build a banana split so that we can have a real banana split party because we learned our multiplication facts!

We have been reading a combination of stories from our textbook and chapter books this month. The reading stations went very well during the literature circles that we did. We turned in our first anthology books and checked out our second anthology books to finish out the year. The students have enjoyed the variety of chapter books and short stories in the textbook. We will be reading several nonfiction stories during the month of February.

The last week in January, a new writing project was introduced to the students. They will be working hard to create a children's story of their own that they are writing and illustrating. It will be a lengthy process to write a rough draft, proofread and edit his/her own story, type it, edit and proofread again with me, complete the final draft, and make illustrations. After completing the books, those students that wish to enter the Young Writers and Illustrators Competition through PBS will have the chance to send their books to the competition. I am really looking forward to seeing what kinds of creative stories our class will write. The children should be very proud of themselves no matter if anyone wins the competition or not.

The end of January we began a science unit on ecosystems. The students had worked with ecosystems some before Christmas break while I was gone. In social studies, we have continued to learn about communities and where different communities formed in history because of what they had to offer in the form of natural resources.

Congratulations to our January Students of the Week. They were Kaylee A. and Carlos C.

Please remember to have your child continue to read at home and record the minutes read for their team reading at school. Please also have your child practice his/her flashcards on a regular basis. I look forward to visiting with all of you at parent/teacher conferences on Friday, February 12.

## FOURTH GRADE

### **Mrs. Hermsen News and Happenings in Fourth Grade**

The fourth graders have been busy learning many new and interesting concepts since Christmas. In reading they are learning how to draw conclusions, recognize character traits, and use context clues. They have read a nonfiction selection called *Komodo Dragons* as well as a Tall Tale (fiction) story called *John Henry*. This story has many examples of exaggeration, personification, alliteration, and similes within the text. It was fun to discuss those literary devices as we found them in the story.

After finishing multiplying 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers by a single digit number we have moved on to division. In this unit, students will learn the long division process. Knowing their multiplication facts will be extremely important. [www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com) and [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) are a couple of websites that offer drill on math facts. Flashcards are always a great tool as well.

Learning about South Dakota has been made fun through a program called *South Dakota Road Trip*. This program comes to us from the Department of Education in Pierre. We have visited Timberlake, Lemmon, and Pierre so far. We read interesting facts about each town while also learning healthy habits. Included are some map skill activities as well. The program also has websites we can visit to learn more about the towns and how to stay healthy. The website that we mainly use is [www.healthedventure.org](http://www.healthedventure.org).

In science we have begun our unit on the Solar System. Some concepts we will be discussing are the earth, moon, moon's phases, orbit, revolution, and the planets of the Solar System. Learning about space is very exciting for the fourth graders.

Our Valentine Party will be Friday, February 12, in the afternoon. Your child may bring valentines to exchange with their classmates. Please have your child bring for everyone in the class if they choose to bring valentines. Thanks so much for your help and support throughout this school year.

## FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE

### Mr. Saylor, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Math, Science, & Social Studies

A frigid hello to you from 5th Grade! With as many days we have missed in January, I feel like I just finished writing the January letter and here it is already February. For both math classes, we are still in the same chapter as we were before the holiday break. We are finally ready to take those tests this coming week. The fifth grade continues to work on long division and the sixth grade has been working on fractions. In 5th Grade SS, we continue working on the discovery and settling of America. The 6th graders are currently enjoying a tour through Greece and the Mediterranean Islands. Then in Science, the 5th graders are learning about weather and weather patterns and the 6th grade just finished up rocks and minerals.

A reminder about conferences: I will not be here the night of conferences after 3:30. This year we are host to the District wrestling tournament and will be busy putting that together. I can meet with parents over the phone, before school, during a lunch hour or through email. The only time I can't meet is after school. If you have any questions please call me at the school or email me.

### Mrs. Vondra, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> English, Reading & Spelling

With six snow days this month we have not accomplished what I had hoped we would. Sixth graders are doing some diagramming of completers in English, concluding organization section in writing, and working with the skills of theme, summarizing, and cause and effect in reading. We've tried to do some choral reading too, but are not to the point where we can "tape" yet. I will begin reading a new book to them---**Far North** by Will Hobbs. He is the same author that wrote one of the novels some of the students read this year.

In fifth grade we have worked with contractions and finished tenses in English, finished the organization section in writing, and emphasized the skills of summarizing, text structure, and plot in reading. We even listened to **The Flight of the Bumblebees** by Rimsky-Korsakov and performed with kazoos. This accompanied one of the stories we read in reading class. I am reading **Miss Spitfire** (Annie Sullivan) to them.

Stay warm and safe.

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