

Freeman Elementary



Home of the Falcons
Principal: Dr. Donna Ferguson



7303 S. Meridian, Haysville, KS 67060 316-554-2265 Phone 316-554-2295 Fax

Upcoming Events

12/1 Christmas Music Concert for 3rd & 5th grades 6:30PM & Book Fair

12/2 Breakfast with "Grands" 7:30AM; Book Fair

12/3 Night at the Library 6-7:30; Book Fair

12/4 3rd,4th,5th Grades to WSU women's basketball game; Book Fair Ends

12/7 Get Moving Monday

12/8 Band/Orchestra concert 8:30AM

12/11 Pride Assembly 3:15PM

12/15 Sonic Night 5-8PM

12/17 Sing-A-Long 2:15; Winter Parties 3:10 (Pre-K 10:45)

12/18-1/4 WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL

January

1/5 BACK TO SCHOOL

1/11 Get Moving Monday

1/15 NO SCHOOL

*It's already December! Time is flying and the next 13 days of school in December will feel even more so with the packed month of events and activities. As you prepare for Winter Break, please keep in mind school will be closed from Friday, December 18th to Monday, January 4th. **Students return to school on Tuesday, January 5th.** Please read below some important reminders for the remaining school year. You may find these online on the district website.*

Attendance

When a student is absent from school, parents should telephone the proper school office before 9:00 am to report the absence. In addition, if phone contact has not been made on the day of the absence, please call before your child returns to school. If a telephone is not available, a note from the parents will be accepted. The law is very specific in that parents have the obligation to see that their children are in regular attendance. **A child is considered in violation of the law where he/she is inexcusably absent on three (3) consecutive school days or five (5) or more school days in any semester.** So please call our office and let us know your child will be absent from school before 9:00 am.

Daily Schedule/Student Arrival

No students will be permitted on the school grounds earlier than 8:00 am, except those registered and attending the morning Latchkey program. By then the teachers will have reported for duty and can properly supervise the children as they report to the cafeteria for breakfast or to the gym for morning movement. Students who arrive prior to 8:00 am are not supervised and neither the school nor the teacher will assume responsibility for the welfare and safety of students who come to school before the designated and posted arrival time.

Emergency Closing of Schools

In case it becomes necessary to close the schools as a result of weather or an emergency, various media broadcasting methods will be utilized. In addition to local radio and television stations, the district website will also carry special school closing notifications and other emergency/special announcements. Haysville district is USD 261.

Student Dress

It is recognized that the student and the parent are responsible for proper dress and grooming. With winter now here, proper dress includes warm clothes including pants, shirts, socks, and closed toed shoes/boots. **Most importantly is the coat!** Students will be going outside for recess and it's important that your child have a proper and warm coat. The failure to properly dress your child is a form of neglect and the school will become involved.

Visiting School

Parents are welcome at school and are encouraged to visit often. All visitors to the building must report to the main office. Visitors will be asked to sign a visitor log and will be given a name tag to be worn in full view for the duration of the visit. In addition, buildings are maintaining a safe environment for students and staff by locking exterior doors during the school day. Several doors are equipped with video cameras and electronic locking devices which are monitored in the offices. Office personnel monitor doors and provide remote access. Please use the remote access button to gain entry during the school day when the exterior doors are locked.



MUSICAL NOTES FROM MR. RUST

As the winter break gets closer, it's time to turn our attention to our annual school sing-a-long! Each year all students from grades K-5 gather in the gym on the last day before the break in the afternoon to participate in a holiday sing-a-long. This year's sing-a-long is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 17 from 2:15-3:00 in the gym. While this obviously takes place during the school day, any parents that would like to attend are welcome to join us!

COACHES CORNER – COACH KELLEY

We would like to thank all of our Freeman parents for what they do for their students and our school each day of the year. We appreciate your help and support so much! We also want to thank all of the parents who have volunteered in some of our Physical Education Programs during the year: Jump Rope for Heart, Hoops for Heart, Track and Field Day, and Relay for Life! With your support we were able to bring these programs to Freeman and create a great learning experience for our students!

As we know it's that time of the year when everyone is looking for that "perfect gift." In case you are out of ideas, I updated our annual "Fitness Wish List" and maybe that will help you find that special gift for someone in your family! As always Happy Holidays to you and your family and stay safe over the Holiday Season!

Happy Holidays to You and Your Family!

Fitness Wish List 2015

- Stopwatch
- Table Tennis
- Step Pedometer
- Speed Stacks, Mat, and Timer
- Sports Balls
- Hula Hoops
- Frisbee
- Hop Ball
- Agility Ladder
- Badminton Racquets and Net
- Jump Ropes
- Bike and Helmet
- Cones
- In-Line Skates



General News

Lunch Money Info – If you ever wonder if your child has enough lunch money, please log into the MySchoolBucks.com web site. There you can create an account for your child, money, and receive notifications of a low balance. You will need your child's school ID number but you can get that by calling the office or by logging into your PowerSchool account and clicking on "Demographic Update".

Parents as Teachers – You are your child's first and best teacher! Parents As Teachers is a nationally recognized program which has been in the Haysville School District since 1993. Recent research has shown that the experiences you give your child in years from birth to three are critical for success later on in school and in life!

To learn more about what Parents As Teachers has to offer, visit our website at www.usd261.com/pat or call the office at 554-2303.

Counselor Tips of the Month

Play is for everyone

Play boosts imagination and relieves stress for kids of all ages. Try to make sure your child has time each day that's free of structured activities.

You might encourage him to take out toys he hasn't used in a while — many elementary schoolers still enjoy building with blocks or racing toy cars.

Celebrate progress

Suggest your child create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished.

Let her cover a container with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I memorized the state capitals") on a slip of paper and put it in the container.

When she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

What we learned in November

November flew by this past month. Kindergarten and First Grade were both geared towards emotional regulation. Students listened to "Soda Pop Head" by Julia Cook and "How Does a Dinosaur Say I'm Mad" by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague in order to learn about appropriate ways to handle their anger. Students learned that two of the most important ways to calm down is by taking five deep breaths and walking away to a quiet spot in order to relax.

Second grade and third grade began their bullying awareness lessons this month. Through the use of partner work and role play, students practice how to handle a bullying situation whether they are being bullied or if they are the bystander. Second grade also learned about how to stop and think about making good choices as well as learning how to apologize when a bad choice is made.

Fourth and fifth graders began their friendship lessons this month. They were able to compare and contrast the differences between a friend and a classmate. They also began analyzing character traits of a good friend, and were able to recognize traits that would discourage them from creating a friendship with another person.

Food drive

November 30th to December 11th, Freeman Elementary will be partnering with the Haysville Community Outreach to host our annual Freeman Food Drive. We will be collecting boxed and canned foods to assist Haysville families this winter. Last year 650 food items were donated to the cause with your support. We hope to reach our goal of 675 food items this year. Thank you for your continued support with important way to help our community!

BIONIC

The BIONIC team has been hard at work this month designing food drive packages to store donations. They have shown off their artistic and creative abilities while working together to help make this year's food drive run smoothly.

Coat Drive & Give Away

Thanks to our annual coat drive and our Coats were provided to students and families who needed them and were provided through our annual coat drive, Haysville United Methodist and First Christian Church. Extra coats and jackets were provided to other schools to help even more kids in USD 261.

Behavior Tip of the Month

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges we face, as adults, during the holidays is the increase in stress. It is important to understand that if your child's behavior seems to be more difficult during these times, it may be because the behavior is being magnified by your increased stress. Take some time for yourself to de-stress. And remember: Children need more limits, not fewer limits at this time of year. Don't let your children be aimless. Find ways for them to occupy themselves. Get them involved with giving to others in some way. Perhaps they would enjoy baking and wrapping up cookies to take to a homeless shelter, volunteering to be bell ringers, or sharing in some other way.

A successful holiday season depends in large part on your commitment to planning for your family, so take the time to plan activities to keep your children busy over the holiday season. It will be worth the planning and effort beforehand!

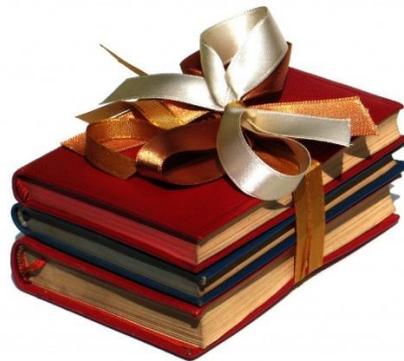
Library News - Mrs. Davis

The Gift of Reading

Christmas is coming soon and buying those Christmas gifts is something we'll all be doing. One of the most powerful gifts a parent, grandparent, or family member can give to a child is the love of reading and what better way to do that than include a book or two amongst the Christmas presents. However, buying the right book can be difficult. Here's some ideas to help make getting that book your child loves easier this Christmas.

1. Decide if this book is going to be a book for independent reading or something shared between you and your child, for example a beautiful picture book or chapter book they're too young to read but something you loved as a child.
2. Once you've decided the purpose, talk to your child's teacher to help you understand your child's reading abilities more completely. This is especially important if this book is to be for independent reading.
3. Watch what your child loves and their interests or even book series your child loves to read. There are many good book lists that will help you find the right book. Check out Good Reads for suggestions for books like a series your child likes to read. Check out the Children's Choice Award for the newest and best children's books. Amazon even has a list of its top books for the year at every level.

I hope these tips make choosing that perfect book a little easier and a perfect fit for your child. Stop by the Scholastic Book Fair on November 30 through December 4 to check out our holiday books selection. You just might find the book there and help your child's school library in the process. Happy reading from the Library!



Notes from the Nurse – Mrs. Warren

Health Assessments and Immunization Records – If you received a letter from the nurse asking for child health assessments and immunization records from the doctor please make sure you provide that information right away or your child might be excluded from school.

Medication Reminder – Any medicines you need your child to take at school (INCLUDING: cough drops, ibuprofen, etc.) must have paperwork signed by the doctor and parent before the nurse is allowed to give meds. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

What's Going Around – Tis the season for head lice. Remind your child they should not share combs, brushes, hats, coats or other clothing items. If your child does get head lice, it must be treated and before they are allowed back in school, they must be checked by the school nurse.

Lost & Found – The lost & found at Freeman is overflowing with jackets, coats, sweatshirts, shirts and even jeans! Please ask your child to check the lost and found to see if they have anything waiting to be claimed. **All items not claimed by Dec. 17 will be donated to charity to make room for second semester.**