

Freeman Elementary

January, 2017

Principal's Note

Dr. Donna Ferguson

NEW DISMISSAL PROCEDURE BEGINS

Our new procedure will ask that you chose either to remain in your car and follow the car pool lane where an adult will assist your child in getting in your car.... OR you

We recognize either choice your make, we require some adjustment, but we sincerely hope that this will eliminate students running out into traffic.



can park your car in the parking lot and walk across the cross walk and get your child. Adult monitors will be at the front entrance crosswalk, to assist with traffic control. Either way, car pool students will come out the front entrance!

We will begin the new dismissal process on Monday, January 9, 2017.



January 2017

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- 1/3 School starts
- 1/9 Get Movin' Monday
- 1/10 Sonic Night, 5-8 pm
- 1/13 End of First Semester
- 1/16 NO SCHOOL
- 1/23 BOE Meeting, 7 pm
- 1/26 Falcon Fun Day, 2 pm
PRIDE Assembly, 3 pm
Night at the Library, 5 pm
- 1/27 NO SCHOOL



WINTER IS HERE!

Please send your child to school with warm clothes, socks, shoes, a heavy coat and mittens. We will try to have outdoor recess as often as possible.!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Freeman Elementary School Recognized as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools™ Nominee. Freeman Elementary School has been nominated by the Flippen Group to receive a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools™ award for the 2016-2017 school year.

Three years ago, Freeman Elementary School began an initiative to transform its campus into an emotionally safe and relationally connected place for students, staff, and parents to come alive with a love for learning.

After researching programs used by some of the nation's most successful schools, Freeman Elementary School leaders chose to join hands with the Flippen Group to bring Capturing Kids' Hearts® to its campus. Teachers and staff have learned processes to connect students with their peers and adults on campus, and to create classrooms where students are excited to enter and learn every day. As a result of implementing Capturing Kids' Hearts, Freeman Elementary School has enjoyed creating a positive and productive learning environment and nearly an 83% reduction in office referrals.

Over the next several months, a Flippen Group site team will visit Freeman Elementary School to observe and experience for themselves the

remarkable impact taking place. Freeman Elementary School hopes to receive a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools award for the 2016-2017 school year.

Capturing Kids' Hearts campuses across the country are considered for this award based on the following criteria: 1) nomination based on observation, 2) level of implementation of Capturing Kids' Hearts processes by all staff as measured by online surveys, and 3) data demonstrating that Capturing Kids' Hearts has made a significant improvement in attendance, discipline, climate/culture, or academics. Freeman Elementary School has enjoyed creating a positive and productive learning environment and nearly an 83% reduction in office referrals.

As part of the nomination process, a site visit to each nominated campus will be conducted to gather additional quantitative and qualitative data and to interview students, teachers, administrators, and parents. A matrix of key measurements will be used to gather information during a campus walk-through.

Finally, an additional survey will be conducted to collect feedback regarding the perceived climate and culture of the campus and its conduciveness to learning. Following the site visit, the selection team will review all accumulated data and select the campuses to receive the Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools award.

I am so proud of students and staff. They are working very hard. I look forward to communicating the results when they are available.

~ Dr. Ferguson

Library Corner

Mrs. Davis

Thank you, Freeman Families, for all the wonderful support you gave at our Bookaneer Book Fair. We had our biggest Book Fair yet! We sold over \$5,000 worth of books to our friends and families. That equates into over \$2,500 worth of books and Makerspace items for our library. Your support of our Book Fair benefits our students so greatly. Thanks for making this possible!

We are excited to be hosting a Kansas author for our Kansas Day activities in January. Mr. Roy Bird will be joining the students at Freeman for an Author's Day Visit on January 26. He will share some Kansas history about the 150th Anniversary of the Chisolm Trail. After sharing with our students he will then be joining them for some of our Falcon Fun Day Activities. But the fun doesn't stop there. He will also be joining us for the final Night at the Library for a reading of one of his books, a book signing, and lots of fun celebrating Kansas' 155th Birthday. Here's a schedule for the day if you'd like to stop by.

- All School Author Visit – 1:30 to 2:00 pm
- Falcon Fun Day Activities with Mr. Bird – 2:00 to 3:00 pm
- Night at the Library and Book Signing – 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Join us for the fun and celebration!



Finally, January 26 will also be our final Night at the Library for this school year. Our IB students do a wonderful job planning and hosting each event. If you haven't made it to one yet, please come join the fun on Thursday, January 26. This is a come and go event with crafts, games, and this time, a very special event with a Kansas author joining in the festivities.

A huge "thank you" goes out to our Campus International Baccalaureate students. They work so hard building an evening to bring literacy alive for our Falcons. Due to the demands of their busy schedules from February on through the end of the year, their final Night at the Library will be January 26. Please help me in thanking them for their hard work and wonderful ideas! Hope to see you on the 26th!

Counselor Chronicles

Mr. McGee

December classroom guidance lessons have been revolved around the words Empathy and Charity. Empathy means the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Charity means the voluntary giving of help to those in need. In the month of December Freeman Elementary participated in a number of charitable endeavors including its sixth annual Freeman Food Drive in partnership with the Haysville Community Outreach.

In classes across the grade levels we learned about the effects that random acts of kindness can have on the positive well-being of others in our community. We read the story "Kindness Counts: A story for Teaching Random Acts of Kindness." Students learned that there are four steps to a random act of kindness:

1. Do something nice that goes above and beyond.
2. Surprise someone when they least expect it.
3. Feel good about doing the nice action.
4. Don't expect anything in return for the nice action.

Next month in classroom guidance, we will be discussing how to cultivate friendships, the perils of cliques and how to be accepting of others despite their differences.

how you can access A-B-C Mouse at your home for FREE. If you would like those directions again, please email me at njohnson@usd261.net.

Reading – Our Priority

Toni Haight

It is not uncommon for students in Grades K-2 to learn how to read and students in Grades 3-5 begin to read to learn. Either way, reading must come first in the academic world of learning. Without the ability to read, every class will become increasingly more difficult. Here are some suggestions from a process we use, called Literacy First.

Literacy First

The National Reading Panel states, “Fluent readers are characterized by the ability to read orally with speed, accuracy and proper expression.” When teachers listen to their students read daily, they are focusing on four

major components of fluency: Pace, Phrasing, Expression/Volume, and Smoothness.

Teachers model and explicitly teach these guidelines so your child knows what is expected of them. Pace is keeping a consistently conversational and appropriate rate of which they read. It is not slow and laborious or inappropriately fast. Phrasing is being aware of sentence units and applying appropriate stress and intonation (pausing at commas and other end marks). It is not reading monotonic and word-for-word. Expression/Volume is reading with enthusiasm while sounding natural. It is not robot reading using little expression. Smoothness is reading with minimal breaks. It is not sounding out words and frequently pausing or hesitating to read.

Have your child practice reading with appropriate fluency on some of their favorite books, poems or comics. If you have any questions about Literacy First, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher, myself or check out the official website: www.literacyfirst.com