



# “I Can, I Will, I Do!”

## FREEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October, 2017

### 2017-2018 FREEMAN AWARDS

#### Kansas Teacher of the Year

Ms. Nicole Harkins, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, was nominated for 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year. She has served our district at Freeman for 10 years and also has been the CHS Girls Soccer Assistant Coach. She has served Freeman in various capacities including 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Whole Reading, and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Flex Centers. Although she was not chosen, she represented Freeman and our District very well! We are proud of your accomplishments and are blessed to have you at Freeman!



#### Girls on the Run Program

Girls on the Run is for young ladies who chose to commit to healthy lifestyles. We have several coaches in our building, they include: Head Coach, Natalie Johnson, Nicole Harkins, Bonnie Lane, and Chelsea Darling. Natalie Johnson, our GOTR Head Coach was most recently recognized as “Coach of the Week”.



#### Capturing Kids Hearts Showcase School Nominee

Freeman Elementary School is once again a 2017-2018 Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) National Showcase School **Nominee**. We are currently submitting the application with data to provide evidence deserving of this award. Part of our process will include CKH visits with classroom observations, student, staff, and parent interviews, and surveys.

Freeman has experienced a growth in students and staff this year and you will see us teaching and practicing the CKH process even more! We are very excited to share this nomination with our new Falcons. Throughout this year, please look for more details!

*Dr. Donna Ferguson*  
Principal



## Freeman Event Calendar

- 9-13 Fire Prevention Week
- 10 PTA Sonic Night @ 5-8 pm
- 13 NO SCHOOL
- 16-18 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 19-20 NO SCHOOL
- 23-27 Red Ribbon Week
- 27 Falcon Fun Day @ 2 pm
- 27 PRIDE Assembly @ 3:10 pm



- 31 Halloween parade begins @ 2:45 pm. Parties will immediately follow the parade!

Reminder: Please do NOT have your child wear their costume to school. We will have time to change into costumes before the parade at 2:45 pm. Students are not allowed to bring masks or any costume accessories that must be carried in their hands (e.g. swords, gloves, guns, wands, etc).



## FREEMAN ELEMENTARY

I'm sure you have seen that our Freeman Elementary School sign is missing from the intersection of Grand and Meridian. I want you to know it is missing because it is being relocated closer to our school, and we are getting a brand design.

Our new signage with lights will be strategically placed by our driveway so all patrons can easily see where they must go to park, proceed to the office, or simply come eat lunch with their child. Either way, parents, guests, or even emergency vehicles will know exactly where they must go!

Please look for the new sign in the coming months!

**FREEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Parent/Teacher Conferences  
October 16-18, 2017**

**NO SCHOOL  
October 19-20, 2017**



## Mr. McGee, School Counselor

In the month of October, **Kindergarten and First Grade** students learned about respecting personal space through the story “**Personal Space Camp**” by Julia Cook. Students learned that every person has their own personal space bubble and that if we get too close to another person we could be breaking their bubble. We then began a lesson on the perils of interrupting others and how we should wait our turn patiently through the story of “**My Mouth is a Volcano**” by Julia Cook.

In **Second Grade** we continued our talk on PRIDE by moving on to the topic of Discipline. Discipline is the ability to control oneself and their actions. We talked about many real world examples that did and did not show discipline. To explore Discipline further, we read the story “**But It’s Not My Fault**” by Julia Cook in order to learn that it is better to take responsibility for our actions and learn from them, than to blame others.

In **Third Grade** we wrapped up our PRIDE unit by talking about Excellence with the story “**I Can Do It**” by Judy Lehman. We learned through the story that by trying hard, never giving up and having confidence in ourselves that we can achieve almost anything we put our mind to.

**Fourth Grade** continued their Respect unit by beginning their yearlong affirmation project. Each week students will be able to write positive affirmations to each other in order to support each other. Fourth graders also began acting out the play “**The Big Switcheroo**”. It is a play about showing respect to elders and helping out when their family is in need.

**Fifth Grade** continued on their PRIDE curriculum by learning about preparation, planning and prioritizing through the story “**Planning Isn’t My Priority and Making Priorities Isn’t In My Plans!**” by Julia Cook. The story talks about the importance of planning and prioritizing in order to be able to reach short and long-term goals.

We wrapped up the month of October with our annual drug prevention lessons in honor of Red Ribbon week. They learned about the perils of drug use and the effects of drugs on an individual’s health.

### BIONIC

In October the BIONIC team went on their annual team building field trip to Prairie View Adventure Course. During the retreat, the BIONIC team learned about responsible leadership, practiced conflict resolution techniques and solidified their collaboration skills by completing a number of tasks and activities that required the team to work together to find a solution. BIONIC later on assisted with the preparation and set-up for the Red Ribbon Week activities at the end of the month.

Next month the BIONIC team will be helping to prepare for the sixth annual Freeman Food Drive in partnership with Haysville Community Outreach.

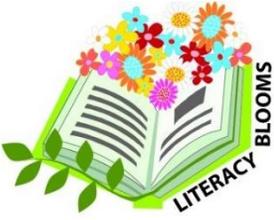
### SWAT

Students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade learned about a brand new strategy to use if they feel they are not being respected by a peer.

**Stop** – The first step is to hold out your hand and say to stop to the person that is being disrespectful.

**Walk** – After saying stop to the person being disrespectful, walk away from the person.

**Talk** - If the disrespectful behavior continues talk to an adult immediately to resolve the situation.



## **Mrs. Haight, Learning Facilitator**

### *Literacy First News.....*

This month, your child's teacher has finished up testing and diagnosing what skill your child needs to help him/her become fluent in reading. If your child is in grades PreK-1 grade, they have been given the Phonological Awareness Skills Test and Phonics assessment. Second and third graders have taken the previous assessments plus the Primary/Elementary Spelling Inventory and the fluency assessment from our Aimsweb plus program. So needless to say, your child has been thoroughly assessed in their reading skills.

Your child's teacher has settled into a routine with the Literacy centers rotations, whole group components and MIRP (Monitored Independent Reading Practice). They have started teaching small groups during centers at their teacher table. There is a lot going on during reading!

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](http://www.literacyfirst.com).



## **Mrs. Davis, Library Media Specialist**

We're having a wonderful time in the library. We've had our first Falcon Fun Day and Full STEAM Ahead! MakerSpace. Students have been enjoying our SnapCircuits from a grant we received from the South Central Kansas Library Services last year.

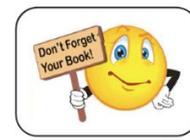
We've had buzzers going off, propellers flying, and "Happy Birthday" sung many times. We've also played with some of our extra kits and created cars, lights, and more sound circuits.

Our Virtual Reality has also been a big hit. Again, this was made possible by a gift from MobileComm and a pilot program we are doing for the district. Students have visited the tomb of Tutankhamun, swam with the dolphins and sharks, floated through the planets, and rode a high speed roller coaster. We'll continue to build both our SnapCircuit and VR experiences for our students all throughout the year!

We were also fortunate to have our district supply each elementary school with a STEM Kit that contains some fantastic items we'll be adding to our Full STEAM Ahead! MakerSpace. We have Ozobots, Cool Circuits, Gravity Maze, beginning coding for K-1, a MiPosaur, some more SnapCircuits, and, my favorite, Dash and Dot Wonder Workshop robots. We'll be adding these activities to our Full STEAM Ahead! and maybe even creating some new opportunities for our students. Keep your eyes out for the possibility of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade robotics team!

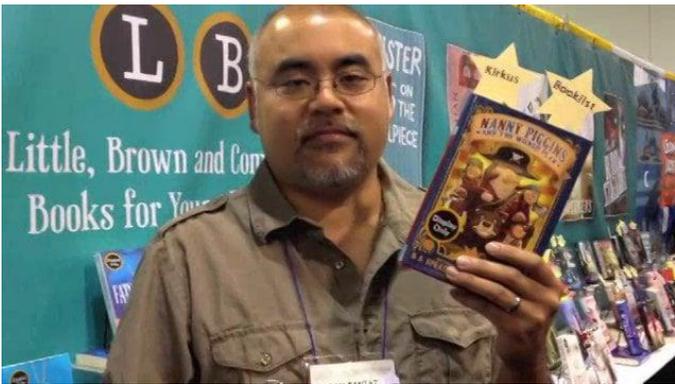


Just a quick reminder that check out days are on Mondays and Fridays. Please help your student make sure their library book is in their backpacks on those days so they can enjoy a new book. Students may also check out any time during the week with the teacher's permission, if they finish a book. We're always happy and want to help each child find his/her own special book.



Also, thanks for helping keep library books clean and dry. Having books in good shape for your child to check out is important to helping build readers who are excited about reading. A “pretty” book is so much better than a “dirty” book. Thanks for helping keep our books “pretty.”

We are also excited to be hosting 2015 Caldecott Medal illustrator and author, Dan Santat, on October 10. We'll be sharing more about his visit later.



### **Mr. Rust, Music Teacher**

**4th Grade** -- The 4th graders are nearly ready to begin practicing recorders and they are very excited. It's truly amazing to see how much progress they make from the beginning to March (when we will perform for parents on March 13) and it makes it very rewarding not only for the students, but myself as well. Just a quick note about the instruments themselves: students will not be taking their instruments home for a few weeks and will only do so every couple of weeks for a couple of reasons. First of all, in the beginning I believe it is very important that they learn the proper basic skills

(how to hold the instrument properly, posture, etc.) in class before being expected to duplicate those skills on their own. Secondly, the majority of learning on recorders takes place in class itself, and (unlike band and orchestra in 5th grade and beyond) home practice is less important. Lastly, limiting the frequency in which recorders travel between home and school limits the possibility of students forgetting to bring them back to school, which results in more learning time (instead of not being able to play due to not having their instrument). That said, they will be allowed to bring their instruments home on select weekends throughout our recorder unit. Thanks for your understanding on this issue.

**5th Grade** -- You may have heard a 'rumor' about a possible performance of the Freeman 5th graders (drums) at a Wichita State University women's basketball game. Well, it turns out that is all it is--a rumor. In actuality, we were scheduled to perform during half time of one of the games (in conjunction with a fundraiser event for our school) but the event (and the game) were cancelled due to issues beyond our control. The students have been working extremely hard and it was definitely disappointing to find this out, but we are making an effort to schedule another performance--possibly at a Campus Colts boys basketball game sometime this winter. We'll definitely keep you posted on this as any details become available, so stay tuned as you won't want to miss it.

**K-3** -- All students are working very hard on building their musical skills on a daily basis and I will take more time in the next newsletter to spotlight some details on what these grades are doing. Needless to say, they are doing a great job! Be sure to look at the upcoming dates below for our scheduled concerts for this school year to see when your child will be performing.

## MUSIC UPCOMING EVENTS:



**NOVEMBER 8** -- Wichita Symphony Young People's Concert #1 (3rd grade attending--more info coming in the future).

**DECEMBER 3** -- WSU Half performance **CANCELLED** due to contractual concerns with Savannah State.

**DECEMBER 5** -- 2nd and 3rd grade music concert (@6:30pm in the gym).

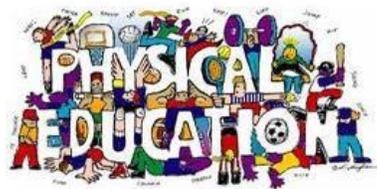
**JANUARY 24** -- Wichita Symphony Young People's Concert #2 (4th grade attending--more info coming in the future).

**MARCH 13** -- 4th and 5th grade music concert (@6:30pm in the gym).

**APRIL 24** -- 1st and 2nd grade music concert (@6:30pm in the gym).

**MAY 14** -- Talent show (grades 4-5).

Other performances may be added and additional information on all of these events will be provided as we get closer to the time they are scheduled to occur.



## Coach Kelley, PE Teacher

Here at Freeman we are involved with the "Lets Move in School" movement to support our school in providing a comprehensive school physical activity program based on quality physical education to include all children during the school day.

## "Lets Move in School" .....

- ❖ Encourages a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity before, during, and after school to improve health and learning.
- ❖ Is supported by national educational leaders.
- ❖ Provides educators with tools to create an active learning environment.
- ❖ Develops physically educated students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be physically active for life.

Quality Physical Education gives students opportunities to practice and enjoy physical activity both at school and other events. With this program we hope to provide students with the knowledge of movement and fitness concepts, health related fitness, personal and social responsibility, and to value the benefits of physical activity thru their lifetime.

"Lets Move in School" has some facts about Physical Activity that make you think why physical activity is so important for everyone: "When a substantial amount of school time is dedicated to physical activity, academic performances meets and may even exceed that of students not receiving additional physical activity."

"95% of parents of children under 18 believe physical education should be part of a school curriculum for all students in Grades K - 12."

We appreciate your support for our students in physical education class. All the students have done so well in being prepared for class each day by wearing proper sport shoes and socks. The students love to wear their sport shoes in class and know that they can move in physical education class in a safe manner.

### "Wellness Trivia"

- It takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown.
- You use 200 muscles to take one step.
- Muscles of the eye move more than 100,000 times a day



## Mrs. Johnson, Technology Teacher

The first nine weeks are almost over and your students ARE Empowered Learners. This first ISTE Standard has been addressed to all student's grades Kindergarten-Fifth Grade. Your students learned about: computer parts, mouse skills, basic internet searching, home row, and keyboarding. In grades three-five students also became Digital Citizens and learned how to be safe online and make good choices through a curriculum offered by Common Sense Media. Check it out at <https://www.common sense media.org/>.



During the second nine weeks all grade levels will continue with the Empowered Learner standard. Third-Fifth graders will start working on the Knowledge Constructor Standard which will involve learning how to use research tools: online data bases and resources from the Kansas State Library. These resources are available for your use at home at <https://kslib.info/>.



All students will be working on the Computational Thinker standard which involves coding during our second nine weeks. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event. One-hour tutorials are available in over 45 languages. No experience needed. **Ages 4 to 104. This event takes place during the second week of December. Check it out at <https://hourofcode.com/us>.**



### Did you know... Most Important Inventions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Bluetooth Technology (1999)
- iPod Portable MP3 Player (2003)
- AbioCor Artificial Heart (2001)
- Mozilla Firefox (2002)
- Skype (2003)
- Facebook (2004)
- YouTube (2005)
- Nintendo Wii (2006)
- Apple iPhone (2007)
- BBC iPlayer (2007)
- Amazon Kindle (2007)
- Google Android (2008)
- Spotify (2008)
- 4G (2008)
- Apple iPad (2010)
- Nissan Leaf (2010)
- IBM Watson Winning Jeopardy (2011)
- Google Driverless Car (2012)
- Tinder (2012)