

Freeman Elementary School Newsletter

Dec 2008
Volume 5

Principal Andi Williams



Freeman Elementary School Mission Statement

At Freeman Elementary, our commitment is to empower individuals to be successful through high expectations in a place of pride where achievement is inspired by caring, effective instruction and respect.

I CAN! I WILL! I DO!

I can...be successful today!

I will... overcome the challenges I face today!

I do...accept responsibility for myself today!

-School Motto

Home of the Falcons



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UPCOMING EVENTS



<u>Mon. 12/1-5</u>	Holiday Shop - 12:30pm - 3:10pm
<u>Tues. 12/9</u>	PTA Meeting - 6:30pm
<u>Wed. 12/10</u>	Band/Orchestra Concert 8:45am - 9:15am
<u>Thur. 12/11</u>	Winter Music Program 7:00 pm
<u>Fri. 12/12</u>	DIBELS Day
<u>Fri. 12/12</u>	3 rd Grade Fraction Power Workshop @ 1:30 pm
<u>Mon. 12/15</u>	5 th Grade Field Trip to World Treasures Museum 11 am to 2:15 pm
<u>Thur. 12/18</u>	P.R.I.D.E. 9 Week Assembly @ 8:45 am
<u>Thur. 12/18</u>	P.R.I.D.E. Celebration Party 1:15 - 3:15 pm
<u>Fri. 12/19</u>	End of First Semester/2 nd Nine Weeks
<u>Fri. 12/19</u>	Sing-A-Long @2:00 pm
<u>Fri. 12/19</u>	Winter Parties 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
<u>12/22-Jan 6</u>	Winter Break - No School for students



REMINDER

Winter is upon us! Please make sure your child dresses for cooler weather and brings a coat to school every day. Don't forget the hat and gloves!



P.R.I.D.E

Preparation

Respect

Integrity

Discipline

Excellence

TITLE 1 TIDBITS

DIBELS Day at Freeman is Dec. 12. What is DIBELS? It is our district-wide reading test, taken three times a year. DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. Below is an explanation of the tests we use and which grades use it. Initial sounds – Students point to a picture that goes with a pronounced sound – (Kindergarten)

Letter Naming – Students say as many letters as they can in one minute. (Kindergarten)

Phonemic Segmentation – Students stretch apart a word sound by sound. Example: the tester says the word “cat” and the student makes the 3 sounds - /c/, /a/, /t/. (Kindergarten and first grade.)

Nonsense Words – Student sound out make-believe or nonsense words. The reason they are nonsense is so we can clearly see if they know the letter sounds and not just that they may recognize the word. Example: can you read the word or make the sounds for these letters? jaf (Kindergarten and first grade.)

Oral reading – Students have one minute to read as much of a story as possible, correctly. They are counted off if they say the word wrong or don’t know it. Then they have to retell about what they read for one minute. This is repeated 3 times and they receive the middle score. (1st – 5th grades.)

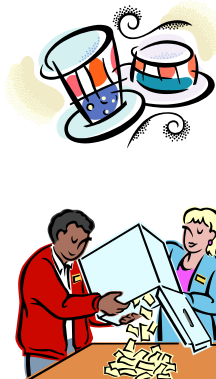
Many of these activities are things you can practice at home and I hope that you will do so. Thanks in advance for your participation in your child’s reading at home!

Freeman, A Wonderful World Where Everyone Belongs...

As you may know, this is our slogan for a bully-free school. The staff at Freeman Elementary wants to create a bully-free atmosphere where everyone belongs, where every child feels valued. We will see to it that every student and staff member at Freeman Elementary receives the T-shirt with our message that everyone belongs. Those shirts will be ready for students in January. You were recently asked to provide your child’s t-shirt size. We will do our very best to ensure accuracy. Those T-shirts will be FREE to all students. Additionally, if you would like to make a donation to sustain our cause, if even for only one dollar, you may do so. Please make checks payable to Freeman Elementary, donations to sustain that cause can be given at any time. Once everyone has the T-shirts, we will wear them regularly and refer to them often keeping the message front and center that Freeman is a place where everyone belongs. Thank you to those of you who have already donated, and thank you in advance to those of you who will. Your generosity is immensely appreciated!

KIDS VOTING

The second grade classes hosted a building wide voting process on November 4. The students had many fun jobs. A few of these jobs were passing out voter registration cards, handing out stickers, and counting the ballots. All Freeman Falcons were able to cast their votes. John McCain won by a few votes. The second grade students worked hard to make this a fun and exciting day for everyone at Freeman.



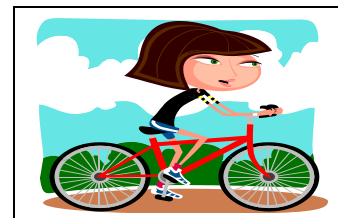
EXERCISE IS FUN

Need an exercise partner, try your kid!

Exercise experts tell adults that if you want to stay motivated in your workouts it's best to have an exercise partner. If you have kids, you're already one step ahead of the game with a built in exercise partner.

This is a great way to spend some one on one time with your son or daughter and to make lasting memories. Some ideas for you and your child could be to take an evening walk around the neighborhood, shooting hoops in the driveway, passing the football around in the backyard, air those bike tires up and bike a couple miles around the park, be that soccer hero you always wanted to be and kick around the soccer ball for that winning goal. If it's snowing outside, bundle up, dust the sleds off and hit the slopes! What a great way to get you and your kids off the couch and start exercising together. First of all, you will feel better and second you will enjoy the time you have together with your child making healthy fitness choices!

HAVE A GREAT WORKOUT!.....COACH KELLEY



PTA NEWS

During the month of December, PTA will be having a Giving Tree. It is like an angel tree with a list of supplies the teachers need in their classrooms. It will be set up in the lobby. Please stop by to see the teacher's wish lists.



Music Programs



There will be a Band/Orchestra Concert on Wednesday, December 10th from 8:45 am to 9:15 am in the gym.

There will also be a 3rd and 5th grade Music Program on Thursday, December 11th in the Freeman Gym at 7pm.

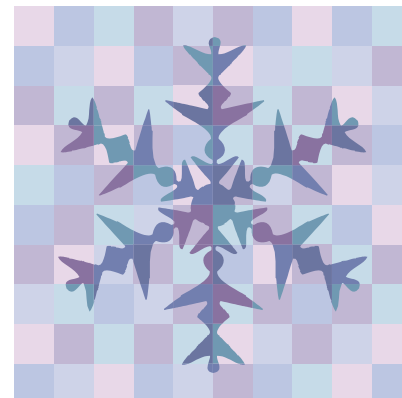
COUNSELING NEWS

Students in first through fifth grade are busy using what they learned during Red Ribbon Week. The third grade classes are creating posters for the hallways. Their poster must highlight either facts about the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco, ways to say NO and remain DRUG FREE or healthy alternatives to drug use. Fourth grade students can choose from three options to show what they know. Students are making drug free fact cubes, an acrostic, or a flip book. These projects will be shared with other classes before they go home with the author. The second grade classes will be sharing a poem about self esteem with kindergarten and first grade students. Fifth grade students continue to work on communication and conflict resolution skills. We will be learning and practicing the steps to say “No to trouble” and KEEP friends. After the students feel comfortable with the steps through some in class role plays, we hope to perform for the younger students. Most classes have had their Drug Free Lottery drawing. While the t-shirt and football were the most popular items, students could select mechanical pencils, erasers, bookmarks, pins, candy (Hugs Not Drugs), and bubble gum (It’s your health—don’t blow it by using drugs).

Even though Friendship, BIONIC Leadership, and Survival Skills groups meet at lunch we have managed to do a variety of things. The Friendship groups have focused on the power of a compliment. We distinguish between a simple and bulls eye compliment. The first is commenting positively on something a person is wearing—“I like your shirt.” where a bulls eye compliment is a positive comment about the behavior or character of a person. An example might be “I like the way you are so patient with me.” Both can make a

difference in a person’s day. Paying attention to others is a BIG friendship skill too. We practice being really observant of others with the game Change One, Change Two, Change Three. This is an activity where we really LOOK at a person from head to toe. That person leaves the room and changes one thing—for example they may roll up a sleeve and return to the room. Then the group states what the change is. Older students can change 2 or 3 things—it’s important to notice the details. Every other week we spend lunch recess playing games to include EVERYONE. So far we have played the Race with the Ring, Compliment Countdown, and Lean on Me. The BIONIC kids have begun setting some personal goals they wish to accomplish and will be creating an action plan to use. The Survival group is working on communication and trust. Our lessons will target specific skills as following directions, respecting authority, contributing their fair share on a project, dealing with teasing and putdowns, managing madness, and fair fighting techniques. This group will be responsible for the counseling door decoration contest for November. Their theme is “Survive with PRIDE.”

Patty Wellman, Counselor
554-2265 or pwelldman@usd261.com



“Paying attention to others is a BIG friendship skill too.”



MORE COUNSELING NEWS

KZSN Radio personality Rockin Rick has asked for community help in a letter writing campaign. He has several service personnel who have not received any letters from home. Several classes at Freeman are helping him get mail from home. I have included his message to me below. If you would like to send a letter of appreciation simply write a letter or card or draw a picture and simply following the directions below.

Hi Everyone,

My letter writing Hero's! I love you all and what you are doing. Let me give you a little instruction.

The mailing address is the name followed by the apo. I think that enough of us are letter writing that all of these folks will get mail without assigning names. Try to do a few names each and we will cover all of these brave people. Thank you so much for listening and stepping up we can all be very proud of our actions.

Tell these folks about your family and your favorite sports team. Talk about friends and faith and encourage them to write you back. Tell them about stuff going on at home.

Just a few examples

Soldier's name
USN Law & Order Det - PMO
APO, AE 09366

Soldier's name
USN Law & Order Det - PMO
APO, AE 09330

Just put a name with the address below

Evette Asay Walter Banaszak

Wayne Escudero Tambey Barsik

MaryJane Carig Corey Johnson

Todd Green Barry Jones

Samuel Guerrero Perry Windsor

Cynthia Milligan Margarito Dela Fuente (male)

Jasper Mercado

**USN Law& Order Det – PMO
APO, AE 09366**

These troops are at a slightly different location

Jennifer Blythe Giniva Rodriguez

Jeff Rickenbach

**USN Law & Order Det – PMO
APO, AE 09330**

