

# FRIENDLY HILLS

2014 - 2015 School Year



Hi Friendly Hills Families-  
I can't believe we are on the doorstep of Winter Break. The fall has flown by, and there have been a lot of active students at Friendly Hills. I really enjoy working with our teachers and students each day, and I am very impressed at the questions students ask and the projects they complete. Below I have

listed some key points and events that have taken place or are upcoming:

- The building curricular focus this year is on Math. As a teaching staff, we are committed to improving our overall MCA Math scores for each student. We have been very focused in looking at student data and strands that tell us where students are having problems. We have focused our instruction on those problem areas in order to increase our overall achievement. We have also utilized several math computer programs that students are currently using in order to help them become more proficient in math. Each subject area teacher is working with their grade team to provide students with supplemental support throughout the day. This support will look different in each class but math conversations and instruction are taking place in all subject areas.
- Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who packed over 15,500 meals on November 25 for Harvest Pack. Harvest Pack (which is similar to feed my starving children) will use the meals that were packed to feed people in Haiti and provide meals to local food shelves. It was great to see our students working together for a very worthy cause.
- I am very excited for our upcoming Music concerts. Our students and teachers have been working very hard throughout the fall in order to provide everyone with what will be a great concert! It is always fun to hear the progress each day as students get used to each piece. I hope you will be able to attend and enjoy the great sounds of our wonderful students.
- Our 4R weekly drawings have been very successful. Students get a Falcon Ticket when they are caught showing Respect, Responsibility, Readiness, or Relationships during the school day. They take their ticket and put it into a bucket and a weekly drawing is held on Friday. The name selected gets a gift certificate to a local restaurant.
- Hopefully you have seen our 4R postcard. As a staff we are looking for students who are displaying 4R behavior throughout the school day and we are recognizing that positive behavior by sending home a postcard that includes a positive message.

## Upcoming

### Tuesday, December 9th:

7:00 p.m., FHMS gym  
7th grade band, choir and orchestra

### Thursday, December 11th:

7:00 p.m., FHMS gym  
8th grade band, choir and orchestra

### Tuesday, December 16th:

First day of Hanukkah

### Dec. 22 - Jan. 2nd:

Winter Break - No School

I hope everyone has a fun, relaxing break. Thank you for the support you provide our school, and for your involvement in your child's education. Happy New Year!

Chris



## **Choir News**

The 7th Grade Winter Concert will take place in the FHMS gym on Tuesday, Dec. 9th, at 7:00 p.m., featuring the 7th grade band, orchestra and choir.

Please mark your calendars, we hope to see you there!

The 8th Grade Winter Concert will take place in the FHMS gym on Thursday, Dec. 11th, at 7:00 p.m., featuring the 8th grade band, orchestra, choir and Summit Singers.

Thank you for supporting your student's music education, and we look forward to seeing you then!



## **Orchestra News**

The 7th and 8th grade orchestra students have their first concert of the year this month! The 7th grade concert will be taking place on Tuesday, December 9th and the 8th grade concert will be taking place on Thursday, December 11th.

Both concerts will be taking place in the Friendly Hills gym and will begin at 7:00pm. Students should arrive at 6:30pm, meet in the orchestra room, and wear white on top, black on bottom. Should be fun!

5th and 6th grade orchestra students are starting to get ready for their first concerts of the year which will be taking place on January 27th (6th grade) and January 29th (5th grade).

Friendly Fiddlers will also be performing at the 5th grade concert.

Hope to see you there!



## **Band News**

Band students have continued to work on rhythms as a focus this year. Along with working on concert music, classes have also been working on method book material and rhythm studies.

Audience members will be able to hear this hard work through the music that will be performed at our upcoming concerts.

7th and 8th grade Band students will experience their first concerts of the year on December 9th and December 11th.

5th and 6th grade Band students, along with Jazz Band members, will perform at the end of January.

8th grade students will also perform at the end of January in our annual 8th grade Bridge's Concert at Sibley.

So much progress on playing skills has been shown by all band students. They are excited to perform for family and friends.

## GIFTED & TALENTED SCIENCE

5th grade students are applying their understanding of springs to build marshmallow catapults. They will be finishing up their Force, Motion and Models unit in the next few weeks.

6th grade students are learning about chemistry and continuing to develop their Future City projects by creating scale models of their cities.

7th grade students have been studying microorganisms. They have written haikus about bacteria, designed their own experiments about protists and dissected mushrooms.

8th grade students are currently investigating rocks, minerals and plate tectonics to answer the question "Should the United States Mine Rare Earth Elements?" In the next week students will use the information they have gathered to make a decision and share with the class.



## FROM THE HEALTH & PHY.ED DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Stremmer-Birr's 7/8 classes will be in health, covering healthy relationships and conflict resolution (Ch. 9-10), for December and then move on to the great outdoors with cross-country skiing and broomball for most of January. 5/6 classes will be participating in floor hockey for December and then start their outdoor unit in January as well.

Mr. Friemann's 7/8 classes will be participating in floor hockey in December and then move into the health room for the early part of January. 5/6 classes will participate in Floor hockey for December and then move to our rock-climbing unit in January.

Mr. Reddy's 7/8 classes will be participating in our outdoor unit in December and then switch to volleyball for most of January. 5/6 classes will also be in our outdoor unit for December and then begin floor hockey in January.

**All students must have on a jacket, gloves, and hat in order to participate in our winter outdoor unit.**

Bike/hockey helmets are optional, however, you must bring your own.

Cross-country skiing, broomball, snowshoeing, and sledding are possible activities for our winter outdoor unit.



# HEALTH OFFICE, LIFESKILLS & PBIS

Parents:

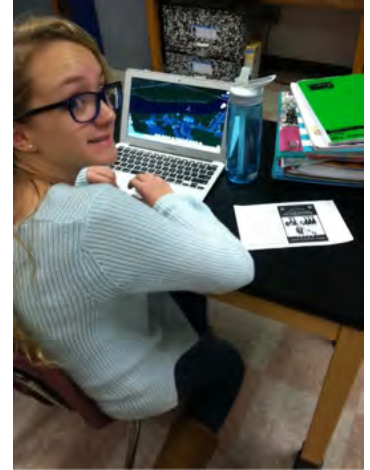
With cold weather here, please make sure to send your children to school with hats, gloves, jackets, snowpants, boots, and warm clothes. It is important to dress appropriately for the cold weather to keep students safe during transportation to and from school and when students are at school.

If you are unable to obtain needed winter clothing, please contact me in the Health Office at [651-403-7602](tel:651-403-7602) or [jennifer.rockow@isd197.org](mailto:jennifer.rockow@isd197.org) or 360 degree Family Support Worker at [651-403-7747](tel:651-403-7747).



This month 5th grade LifeSkills will be talking about:

- Techniques for conflict resolution
- Developing and practicing assertiveness skills.
- Officer Jennifer Fordham (Sibley Safety Resource Officer) and Master Boltz (a local Martial Arts expert) will be speaking with students about Cyber Safety and Bullying.



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## PBIS Corner

For the month of December, we are focusing on demonstrating the 4Rs on the bus.

We can show **RESPECT** by making room for others.

We can show **RESPONSIBILITY** when waiting for the bus by staying on the sidewalk until the bus has stopped. We can be responsible on the bus by sitting forward in our seats for the duration of our bus ride, and by using inside voices and keeping our hands to ourselves.

We can show **READINESS** by getting to the bus stop on time.

We can build **RELATIONSHIPS** by using our manners with other riders and the bus drivers.

**Have you discussed where and how your child can show the 4Rs at home?**



## 5TH GRADE

In math class we are finishing our unit on division. Please have your child practice section H- Division, and section I- Division with Decimals on IXL. Students will be taking the test on Friday, December 5. We will be beginning a unit on algebra beginning next week.

In science we have just finished up our Investigation on flight and our experimentation with our FOSS airplane systems. We are going to be spending a couple of days working through our first Science Court series on Data & Inquiry this week. We will then be completing our fourth and final Variables Investigation and experimenting with catapult systems.

In social studies they are working on a colonial advertisement as part of their study of colonial life in America.

Just a reminder...

Fifth graders will go outside for recess unless the ambient temperature or wind chill is below zero. Please make sure your child comes to school with appropriate outdoor winter weather gear. Thanks to generous donations from parents and staff, we do have some extra outdoor clothing. If your child is in need, have him/her see Ms. Schiltgen.



## 6TH GRADE

Over 70 sixth grade students read 1,000 pages or more first quarter for Friendly Hills 500. They celebrated together on Wednesday, November 19th with a pizza party and some AMAZING karaoke! We are hoping that even more students will be partaking in the pizza party for second quarter. Keep on reading!!

On Thursday, January 22nd, the sixth graders will be taking their next field trip to the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul as part of our Minnesota History social studies curriculum. Each student will take part in a an hour long lesson on either Minnesota Inventors or Indians and the Fur Trade. They will also be given ample time to explore all of the museum exhibits.

## 7TH GRADE

Social Studies: Students are studying the rise of big business, immigration, and World War I.

Science: Students are studying vertebrates and invertebrates, and will be dissecting worms before winter break.

Language Arts: Students are continuing with their novel, *Freak the Mighty*, and working on the parts of speech.

Math: Every 7th grader has access to IXL Math. Students are encouraged to keep up with their math skills over winter break.

The IXL link can be found on our school website!

## 8TH GRADE

The 8th grade team would like to welcome the new language arts teacher, Mrs. Maas:

“Hello Friendly Hills families!

My name is Melissa Maas and I'll be the 8th grade Language Arts teacher for the remainder of the year. This is my 9th year of teaching, but my first year in Minnesota. I am a recent transplant from New Mexico and I am actually enjoying the cold! I will send home further information very soon, but if you should need to contact me feel free to email [melissa.maas@isd197.org](mailto:melissa.maas@isd197.org) or call [505-350-9088](tel:505-350-9088). I am looking forward to spending the rest of the year here.”

In Mr. Reed's science class, students will be continuing their study of how plate tectonics shape our world. Students will be using the US Geological Survey's data to create a map of worldwide earthquakes that happen every minute. After that, they will research volcanoes and how they're studied, Eventually, they will create a model of that volcano out of food.

**8th Grade math:** Please use IXL at least 30 minutes a week. If you need your child's login/password information please contact Mr. Wichman. It's a great resource for review for quizzes, test, and basic skills. The link to IXL can be found on Mr. Wichman's homepage.



8th grade students designing virtual cities using Sims Software