

FEBRUARY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FRIENDLY HILLS

2014 - 2015 School Year



Dear Friendly Hills Families-

I hope you are looking forward to Spring as much as I am. February is usually the toughest month to get through during the winter, because everyone knows that warmer weather is just ahead. I'm really hoping that we will have a nice warm spring, and all of our sports and activities will have good weather, so students can be outside having fun!

We are busy getting ready for our MCA tests at Friendly Hills. Teachers are reviewing key points with students in Math, Reading and Science, so they are prepared to do well as they begin the test taking process. I will be meeting with students from each grade to go over test taking strategies, and ways students can get ready to do their best on each test. I am very encouraged at what I observe in classrooms each day, and feel as though our students will be well prepared as we head into the testing season.

We are preparing for our new Middle School Schedule that will take affect in September. Registration materials will be coming home with students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 in the next few days, and we really need you to help us and return those registration materials as soon as possible.

Finally, as we move into Spring, I would like to remind you to encourage your student to take part in the different sports and activities that are offered at school. We want our students to take part in as many different opportunities as possible to help prepare them for high school and beyond. They will be able to get exercise, think differently, and have fun with their friends.

Chris

Upcoming

Friday, February 24th:

3:45 p.m., Ski Trip to Afton Alps

Tuesday, February 24th:

8:45 a.m., Spring Picture Day

Friday, February 27th:

3:45 p.m., Ski Trip to Afton Alps

Friday, March 6th:

3:45 p.m., Ski Trip to Afton Alps

Monday, March 23rd:

6:30 p.m., PTA Open Meeting

Friday, March 27th:

End of Quarter 3

No School

March 30th - April 6th

Spring Break

No School

5TH GRADE

5th Grade Science: We have just completed our Models and Designs engineering unit which culminated with the construction of Hum Dingers and design-based construction opportunities utilizing Weird and Wacky Contraption Labs and Zoob Challenge kits. The fifth graders will now begin exploring simple machines in our Levers & Pulleys unit.

5th Grade Math: We have been working on fractions. Your child can work on IXL in section L to enhance his/her skills.

In Mrs. St. Fleur's fifth grade reading classes, students are learning about people with disabilities through an interactive read-aloud unit. Mrs. St. Fleur is reading the novel *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper to her classes. The narrator of the story is a fifth grade girl named Melody. She has Cerebral Palsy and cannot walk or talk, but is extremely intelligent. At this point in the book, Melody uses a communication board that has a selection of words taped on it. She uses her thumbs to point to the words she wants to say, but she is limited to only a set of words and there is so much more she wants to communicate.

The fifth graders took time in class to create their own communication boards and participated in an exercise with a partner in which they had to communicate answers to a series of questions nonverbally. It was a powerful exercise for the kids that helped them to see the way that Melody has to communicate on a daily basis.

Here are some quotes from a few of the fifth graders about the activity:

"I didn't realize how many words we need to just have a conversation. For us, not being able to talk is like not being able to breathe." – Olivia Geddes, fifth grader

"Through doing this activity, I realized that we only got a small idea of how Melody really feels. We did the activity for fifteen minutes. Fifteen minutes cannot compare to a lifetime." – Erin McQuillan, fifth grader

"Looking at my talking board, I saw how limited it was. I needed more words! Not being able to say what I needed to made me feel like I would explode!" – Emma Brown, fifth grader

"There was not enough space on my board for the words I needed. I didn't realize how many different types of conversations we have each day and all the words we need are so different. Communication is vital." – Russel Shaver, fifth grader

Like the character Melody, fifth grader Hayden Zeleny also has Cerebral Palsy. Hayden has been a great help in class sharing her knowledge and expertise about Cerebral Palsy and how it can affect a person's life.



6TH GRADE

Mrs. Cohen's 5th grade math classes were given the challenge of completing 10 hours on www.ixl.com (a math program) every two months. They have been so successful that they completed 100,000 math problems and received a certificate of achievement from IXL. Mrs. Cohen's class will be highlighted on the IXL website. Congratulations to all of the students!

Also, all of the math students in sixth grade were very excited to celebrate **"I Love Math Day"** on Thursday, 2/12. Using Skittles they learned about mean, median, mode, range, decimals, fractions and percents. And, of course, there was a taste test to determine their favorite colors.

As a final project for our immigration in MN unit, the social studies classes studied 4 immigration court cases and did a fantastic job of presenting the 4 cases in a mock trial.

Social studies classes researched Famous Minnesotans for our Valentines Day party. Students dressed up as their famous person, presented the person to the class and then gave out Valentines to & from their famous person persona.



7TH GRADE

7th Grade Social Studies: We will be studying WWII and the Holocaust during the month of February.

7th Grade Language Arts: We are finishing up literature circles and students are creating book trailers for their lit circle book. We are also working on testing strategies to prepare for the reading MCAs on March 17-19 and will be starting our final class novel *The Giver* soon.

7th Grade Math: We are working on our Algebra skills in Math 7 and Enriched Math 7. In Algebra, we are currently studying data and probability, and will move on to a geometry unit next. We will also be prepping for our MCA math test in all classes, which will be April 28th, 29th, and 30th. Please encourage your child to continue building their math skills by using their IXL accounts at home, and seeking extra help when necessary.

7th Grade Science: Students are currently studying the human body. Students will investigate the systems of the human body, diseases, and disease prevention. Seventh grader's are finishing research projects and presentations on a disease. The unit will conclude with the much anticipated frog dissection.

7th Grade Great Depression Trivia Winners



Charlie Torinus



Hope Korte



Bryanna Davidson



Sean Gehrts



Rachel Ziskin

8TH GRADE

8th Grade Math: Classes should keep practicing on IXL for upcoming MCA and MAP tests.



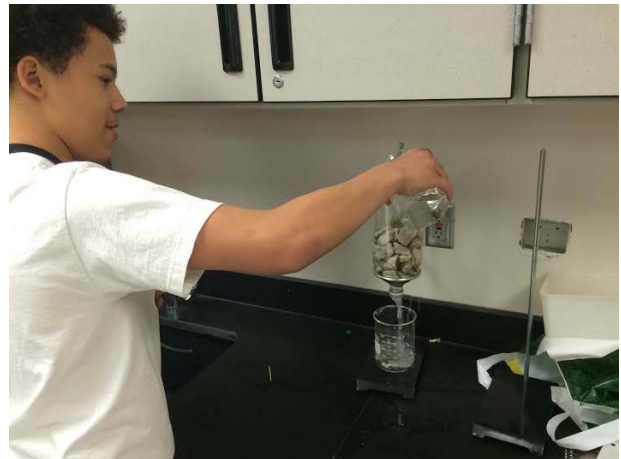
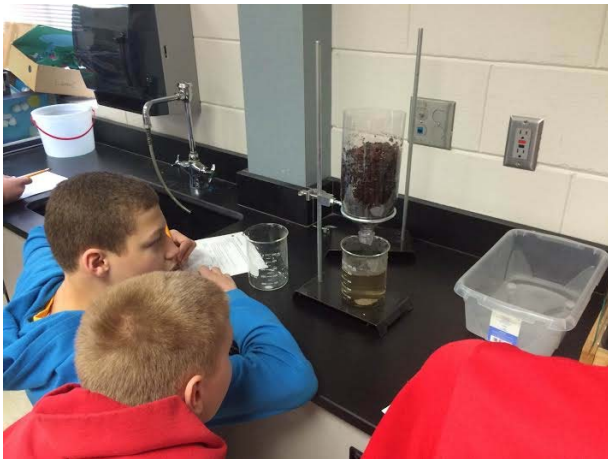
8th Grade Science: Classes created and presented dioramas of the water cycle to model how energy from the Sun drives these processes.

Students researched issues of water pollution in the United States and abroad, and students had a Socratic Seminar/Philosophical Chairs discussion to decide if they thought that boycotts of polluting companies or products are effective ways to solve the

problems of toxic textile dyes and plastic microbead pollution. We will finish fresh water with glaciers, lakes, aquifers and potable water scarcity.



When we move on to oceans, we will discuss not only the phenomenon of currents and geography, but we will examine the various ways in which life has evolved to thrive in even the most hostile parts of the ocean.



8th grade students evaluating the way different materials filter water

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

In Project Lead The Way (PLTW) students have been introduced to engineering and technology and their connections to math and science and society.

Students are currently creating and presenting a Google Slides Presentation on a technological artifact of their choice. Students will then learn about the Design Process and learn how to create and draw Isometric and Orthographic drawings.

By the end of the month we will begin a measurement unit where students will practice measuring and converting from metric to standard units and fractions to decimals. Students will then draw and assemble a Skimmer car they will test by measuring and recording distance traveled and using the data collected, calculate the mean, median, mode and range.

CHOIR

5th and 6th Grade Choirs

Both the 5th and 6th Grade Choirs had their first concert during the last week of January. I was proud of all their performances and participation in the large groups, small groups, and song introductions. During February, we will be learning new choir songs, learning to play World Drums, and studying a musical ("Newsies" in 5th grade, "Oliver" in 6th grade).

7th Grade Choir

During January, the 7th Grade Choir had been learning beginning guitar and practicing the songs "Smoke on the Water," "Ode to Joy," "Tom Dooley" and "Iron Man," among others. We have also started on our spring concert music, singing "You're the One That I Want" from Grease. In February, we will begin studying the musical "The Sound of Music."

8th Grade Choir

The 8th Grade Choir just participated in the 6th Annual Choir Bridges Concert and field trip this past Monday, February 2nd. Prior to our visit, the Sibley choir students sent personal welcoming letters to each 8th grade student. That day, we went to Sibley to rehearse with the Sibley Concert Choir and Heritage, and shared a pizza lunch with them. That evening was our concert, and I was very proud of our choir's performance and participation!

We also just finished our Garage Band Composition unit, and the students learned to create a unique song from the pre-recorded loops on the laptops. Each student needed to include an introduction, a melody instrument, a drum of some sort, a solo-instrument, a sound effect, and a fade-out ending. Although our allotted class time with the laptops is over, if a student needs more time to finish, he/she can work on it during their homeroom time and then save the file to my drop box (ask me or Miss Angel for help doing this). I will not mark off for late submission, but it is a 60 point project, so make sure it is turned in!

Moving forward, we will be learning new songs for our May concert, and also studying the musical "West Side Story." I am also encouraging students to think about performing a solo or in a small group (singing, guitar, piano, etc.) or volunteering to be an emcee for the spring concert; it will be in a variety show format, performed on the stage in the cafeteria.



BAND

Now that the winter concerts are completed, along with working on new music, the bands will also be experiencing some mini-units. These mini-units will include piano keyboards, guitars, a musical unit and world drums. We will start in February with the musical unit.

Students will discuss the history of musicals and fill out question packets as they view the musicals in class. The following musicals will be viewed:

5th - The Newsies (rated PG/Disney 1992 version)

6th - Oliver! (non-rated/1968 version)

7th - The Sound of Music (rated G/ 1965 version)

8th - West Side Story (non-rated/ 1961 version)

Students will still be expected to bring their instruments to class. Students will play instruments for half the class, and then watch the video for the other half of class. This will take several class periods to complete.



ORCHESTRA

Great job 5th and 6th Graders with your January concerts!

This month, all orchestra students will be working on their concert pieces for the District Orchestra Festival.

They are also starting a piano keyboard unit. Students will be spending part of class playing their concert music and the other part working on a keyboard assignment.



GIFTED & TALENTED

Fifth Graders are currently exploring plant and animal adaptations. They will be looking specifically at fish adaptations and animal coloration. Right now, they are designing experiments to see how color vision affects camouflage.

Sixth Grade G/T students are collaborating to make a timeline of the history of the atom. They are researching important scientists and their contributions to the model of the atom. We will continue our study of chemistry in the next few weeks.

Seventh Grade students have just finished up a project based unit called Mystery Disease. Students identified an E. coli outbreak and analyzed data to find the most likely sources of the outbreak. Students also presented action plans for preventing further outbreaks.

Eighth Grade students are investigating water quality issues, preparing informational presentations and will be debating water issues in class.

ART

Ms. Rodrique and Ms. Timmerman will be taking the 8th Grade art and AVID students to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design: *MCAD* and the Minneapolis Institute of Art! The field trip will take place on the morning of Friday, March 13.

We will be going to a presentation at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. After the presentation, we will be taking a 1-hour guided tour of the permanent collection at the MIA and hopefully see some of the pieces on loan for the museum's 90th birthday including a piece by African American artist Romare Bearden.

Permission slips will be going home soon. Please email Molly Timmerman if you are interested in chaperoning at Molly.timmerman@isd197.org

HEALTH & LIFESKILLS

To Parents/Students:

If anyone is able to donate some supplies to the Health Office, it would be much appreciated. Here is a list of supplies that are needed:

- granola bars
- small containers of plain applesauce
- juice boxes
- sandwich or quart-sized ziploc bags for ice bags
- kleenex
- girls or boys sweatpants or windpants in any size

Thank You!

Mrs. Rockow, BS, RN, LSN

February in LifeSkills we will be talking about the physical effects of tobacco products and the dangers of alcohol abuse.

PBIS CORNER

For the month of February, we are focusing on demonstrating the **4Rs** in the lunchroom.

We can show **RESPECT** by using manners and keeping our food on a table.

We can show **RESPONSIBILITY** by cleaning up any messes or reporting spills to an adult as well as using an appropriate voice level.

We can show **READINESS** by making sure we know the balance in our account .

We can build **RELATIONSHIPS** by inviting others to sit at our table and looking to help others.

This month, challenge your child to invite someone new to their table or sit with a new group of students

PHY. ED

Mrs. Stremmer-Birr's classes have welcomed Ms. Kapping to her classes for the next six weeks. Ms. Kapping is a student at the University of Minnesota working on her master's degree in Physical Education and Health.

Currently students are finishing up the pickle ball unit. Starting Feb 17, the 7th and 8th Grade classes will switch to health where they will learn about nutrition. 5th and 6th grade students will start rock climbing.

Mr. Friemann's classes are finishing up the outdoor unit. Starting February 17 all classes will begin pickle ball.

Mr. Reddy's 7th and 8th Grade classes are finishing up their nutrition unit in health. Starting February 17, all classes will be starting pickle ball.

All students will be running the Pacer test which is part of the FitnessGram program that measures cardiovascular fitness.

AROUND FRIENDLYHILLS



Mr. Wilfahrt and Mr. Hiti braving the weather at the back bus circle.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

This week Henry Sibley High School is celebrating its annual week of fundraising for charities. This week is called GOFA (Give Once For All).

One of the charities they selected this year is ALS TDI, an organization dedicated to ALS research. They selected ALS TDI in honor of Mr. Steve Lufkin, and also in memory of Sibley student, Mike Winston (class of 2002) who passed away in 2013 from ALS. As many of you know, Steve Lufkin, husband of eighth grade social studies teacher, Stacy Lufkin, was diagnosed with ALS last year. Mr. Lufkin is a math teacher at Sibley. He has been teaching and coaching there since 1989.

You can get involved with ALS awareness and research through a project sponsored by the FHMS student council called "Angels for ALS". The concept is simple: make a snow angel, have someone video it or take photos, and then upload it to #AngelsforALS on Facebook and Instagram. Then share it with others and challenge them to do the same. The students would like to have many people participate. Their goal is for this to spread and for 30,000 snow angels to be made.....one for each person in the United States with ALS so each one of them has an angel watching over them. View the video here:

<http://youtu.be/uzygOghbQ7U>

Last night on the Channel 4 News at 5:00, a story was aired about Mr. Lufkin and Sibley's GOFA week:
<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/02/11/sibley-high-rallies-around-teacher-with-als/>

If you are so inclined, donations for ALS TDI may be made online at <http://community.als.net/stevelifkin> or checks may be made to ALS TDI and brought to the office at Friendly Hills or Sibley.

Thank you for supporting the Lufkin Family and all of us who are part of the Warrior Family as we work together to help make a difference in the lives of those with ALS.