

MARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# FRIENDLY HILLS

2014 - 2015 School Year



Dear Friendly Hills Families-

I hope you are enjoying the Spring weather that is upon us. Students are eager to get out and enjoy the warmth and we are accommodating by working in a few extra minutes each day for them to run around.

We are very busy heading into Spring Break. I have listed a few highlights below. If you are getting away in the next few weeks, I hope you have excellent weather and a chance to relax with your family and friends.

- Congratulations to Mr. Tony Wittman on being chosen as a KS95 teacher of the week for March. Mr. Wittmann was nominated by student Nicholas Reisig. Congratulations!
- Congratulations to the Friendly Hills Odyssey of the Mind team for its first place finish in Division 1 Pandora's Box at the Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. Students Dain Dolan, Aidan Dolan, Oslo Martin Risch, and Nick Wendt (all 5th graders) were part of the team. Congratulations!
- The Spring sports season will begin as students return from Spring Break on April 8.
- Friendly Hills students are finishing up with their MCA Reading assessments. Students will finish the testing period on April 26. The Math MCA III test begins on April 28.
- The Spring Play "Dr. Who's School of Rock" has begun practicing. A lot of students are taking advantage of this opportunity and we look forward to their production on May 4.
- Follow me on Twitter: @chrishiti to get the latest news from school each day. My goal is to provide you with what our students are accomplishing in the classroom and around the building. There is a lot going on!

Happy Spring,  
Chris

## Upcoming

**Friday, March 27th:**  
End of Quarter 3  
No School

**March 30th - April 6th:**  
Spring Break  
No School

**April 7th:**  
School Resumes

**April 8th:**  
Spring Sports Begin

**Thursday, April 23rd:**  
7:30 p.m., District Orchestra  
Festival  
Henry Sibley High School

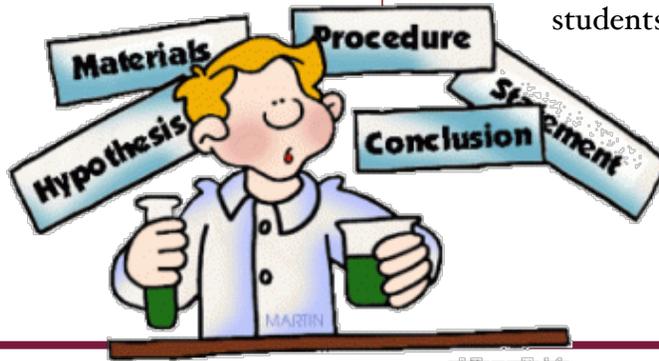


## 5TH GRADE

In 5th Grade Science students have been focusing on Earth Science. Specifically they have looked at the forces that create landforms and shape the surface of our earth, focusing on the roles of weathering, erosion, deposition and how the rock cycle works.

### **Students just completed Science Seekers:**

Hidden in the Rock, an interactive simulation, where the students worked to use their knowledge of rock types and landforms to correctly identify an area of Earth's surface likely to contain fossils.



## 6TH GRADE

The 6th Grade Science classes have been working in cooperative groups to produce a short video demonstrating and explaining terms that they have been studying in the Forces and Energy unit. The video is an annual project for the sixth grade science classes and requires the students to apply a variety of skills that they have been learning across subject areas. The project is intended to emphasize that science is all around us and learning the components of science helps us understand the many things that we encounter on a daily basis. It is also intended to increase the interest of science while breaking down the barriers that "science" may have with our students.

## 8TH GRADE

Mr. Reed's 8th Grade Science class explored the oceans. Students examined the varying conditions of different zones of the ocean, and upon student request, they did a research project on an ocean animal. Some focused on the bright colors of the reef, and some found mystery in the deep. Students either created a "Wanted Poster" or wrote an informational essay. They will spend the last weeks of the quarter exploring the atmosphere, wind and how they cause weather.



## 7TH GRADE

Mr. Hayes' 7th Grade Social Studies classes will be studying The Cold War.

In 7th Grade Language Arts, classes have finished up the testing strategies and students are taking the Reading MCA Test March 17-24. We are continuing to read *The Giver* and will be finishing after Spring Break. Students' Genre Study projects for Quarter 3, are due on March 20th and all work for Quarter 3 should be turned in by Thursday, March 26th. Have a great Spring Break!

Students in 7th Grade Math are working on geometry and measurement units, and will be moving on to data and probability in Math 7. We will be prepping for our MCA Math testing which will be April 28-30th. E-Math and Algebra students participated in Continental Math League this year. They took 5 very challenging tests throughout the year. Students were very competitive this year! See the pictures below!

We had fun celebrating Pi Day on March 13th. We did activities, enjoyed some Baker's Square pie, and had a digits of Pi contest!

Please encourage your child to access IXL math at home. This is a great way to prep for MCAs and review previous material.

CML 1st Place Winner: Thomas Richter



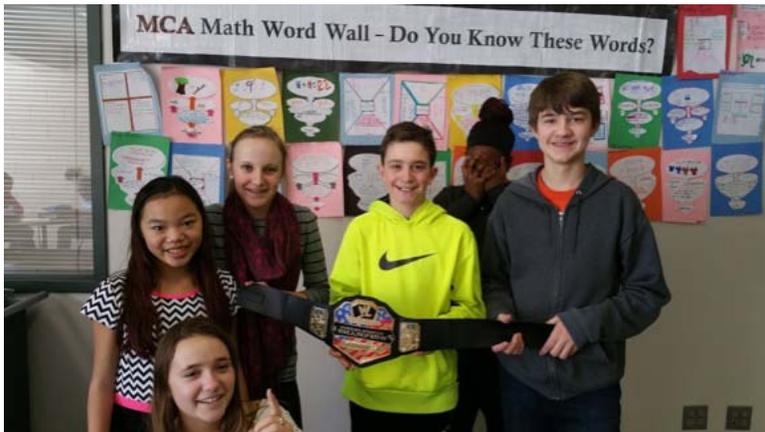
Digits of Pi Winners:  
Bryanna Davidson, Cameron Hahnfeldt, Joe Barnard



CML 2nd & 3rd Place Winners:  
Alex Keo(3rd), Jay Shaver (2nd),  
Charlie Torinus (2nd), Veronica Morse (2nd),  
Claire Allen (3rd) and Kaylee Robrahn (3rd).

# 7TH GRADE CONTINUED

## Mr. Hayes' 7th Grade World War II Trivia Winners



## GIFTED & TALENTED



Fifth Grade GT Students have been preparing for the arrival of their fish which arrived on March, 12. Students will be caring for the fish including monitoring the temperature, pH and nitrogen levels in the habitats.



Sixth Grade GT Students are finishing up their study of chemistry by designing their own experiments to test which factors affect the rate of chemical reactions.



Seventh Grade GT Students have been examining osmosis in eggs and will be learning about genetics and evolution in the weeks to come.



Eighth Grade GT Students have been busy learning about how pollution affects the water cycle and will be debating whether or not Minnesota should ban microbeads.

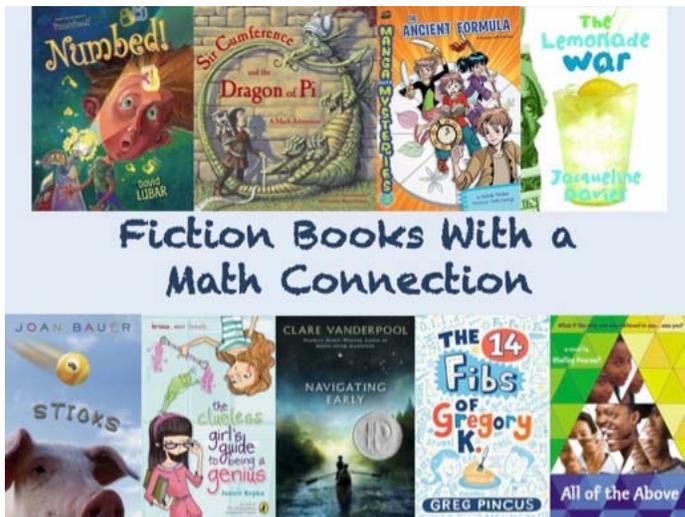
## LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

The IMC is back in full swing for the 2nd semester and Mr. Sackett is helping students find great books to read. Reading and Language Arts classes come to the library once every two weeks for an IMC lesson and book checkout time. The IMC is also open every morning from 8:20 (when the busses arrive) to 8:40 (when classes start) for student checkout.

IMC lessons cover a wide range of topics. Recently, 5th Graders learned about the Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award. Sixth Graders learned how to use the IMC catalog as an alternative to Google searches for class work in science and social studies. Seventh Graders learned about authors who use pseudonyms, including Dr. Seuss, Mark Twain, and Rodman Philbrick, who wrote *Freak the Mighty* that they read in class. Eighth Grade has been looking at the wide range of books on World War II and the Holocaust.

Mr. Sackett has been reading some picture books to classes, especially as a way to introduce historical events. Fifth Graders listened to the story *Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson, about a family whose ancestors made quilts to guide slaves to the underground railroad. (See photo of a quilt that Ms. St. Fleur brought in to help bring the story to life for her classes.) Eighth Graders listened to *The Cats in Krasinski Square* by Karen Hesse to learn about life in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II and to learn more about an author they had already studied. Seventh Graders listened to the story *One Grain of Rice*, a mathematical fable from India. This story is just one way that Mr. Sackett has been helping students see connections between reading and math.

In preparation for the Math MCA tests in April, Mr. Sackett has been recommending some fiction books with a math connection (see picture). You can find out more about these books on this part of Mr. Sackett's web page: <https://sites.google.com/a/isd197.org/friendly-hills-imc/home/genres/fiction-with-math-connection>



You can also access this page by scanning the QR code. Mr. Sackett has been using QR codes in the library to help students access information about books and genres.



## CHOIR

5th Grade Choir: We finished studying the musical "The Newsies" and are learning to sing the song "Seize the Day" from the show. We also have been learning about World Drums, practicing the high tone (edge of the drum), low tone (middle of the drum), echo response, and question and answer response.

6th Grade Choir: We finished studying the musical "Oliver!" and are learning the songs "Consider Yourself" and "Pick a Pocket" from the show. We also have been advancing our World Drum skills by reviewing simple echo and question and answer, and learning how to play three different rhythms in an ensemble. This is not easy!

7th Grade Choir: We finished studying the musical "The Sound of Music" and started learning to sing the song "Cat's in the Cradle." We also had a three-day mini-unit learning to use the Garage Band program on the laptops. Students worked by themselves or with a partner to compose a song from pre-recorded sound tracks. The past few days we have been sharing them in class.

8th Grade Choir: We finished studying the musical "West Side Story" and have been learning a Beatles mash-up of "Let It Be" and "Hey Jude." We are also in the process of selecting some of our other concert songs from a class-nominated list of 20; we voted and narrowed it down to six songs, which we will discuss and vote on next week. Our spring concert will be in a Variety Show format, featuring large-group performances (the entire choir) and small-group performances (vocal solos, piano, guitar, combos), as well as emcees. Please talk to your son/daughter over Spring Break about how they would like to get involved!

## BAND

Students have been playing their instruments as well as working on a musical unit in which students viewed a musical and answered questions about that music in a packet.

The Musical unit is now completed and the bands will be starting a short unit on Keyboards.

Students will continue to play their instruments and work on music for the upcoming concert on May 12th, but will also spend part of the class in the Keyboard Lab learning basic piano skills. Additional "mini" units in World Drums and

## ORCHESTRA

Students have completed a mini unit with keyboards introducing them to basic piano playing skills.

Our goal now is to get ready for the District Orchestra Festival that will be taking place on Thursday, April 23rd at Sibley.

Additional rehearsal and concert information will be sent out soon!



## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

In Project Lead The Way (PLTW), 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students have finished units in measurement which focused on accuracy and unit conversion. This resulted in the creation of a Skimmer car which students tested for distance traveled.

Students are currently doing a surface area lab where they wrap a rectangular prism and cylinder in paper and label and measure the length, height, width and radius. They then use these values to determine the object's surface area. Students will discuss the similarities and differences between surface area and volume. Then they will apply this knowledge to a real-world problem involving painting pool surfaces.

The last few days of the quarter students will work on the Autodesk Inventor and become familiar with how to use the program to create simple geometric shaped parts and combining these parts together.

## PHY ED & HEALTH

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade classes will be participating in base games and fitness activities until we can get outside. Once outside we will start track and field, along with speedball.

In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade the classes will be finishing up floor hockey or their nutrition unit based on where they are at in the rotation. In April we will begin softball in physical education and first aid and safety for the health portion of class.



## PBIS CORNER

For the month of March, we are focusing on demonstrating the 4Rs in the commons area.

We can show RESPECT by using inside voices so we do not disrupt other classes.

We can show RESPONSIBILITY by working on what the teachers ask when we are in the commons.

We can show READINESS by making sure we get to our classes on time.

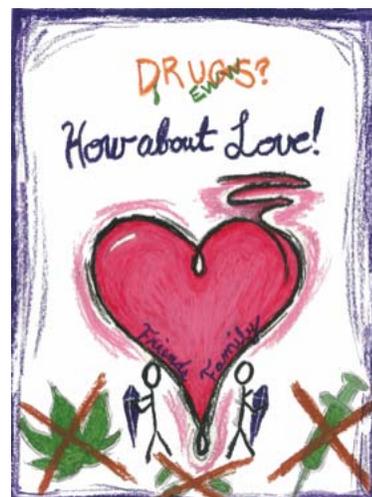
We can build RELATIONSHIPS by talking kindly to our peers and working together.

This month, ask your child about classroom activities they've done in the commons and how they have show the 4Rs!

## LIFESKILLS

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students have been invited to participate in the Dakota County Attorney's 2015 Anti-drug/Violence post contest for the 2016 Calendar.

Students are excited to work on their submissions which are due to Ms. Popelka, LifeSkills, on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.



## ART



The 8th Grade Art and AVID students had a lovely field trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design on Friday, March 13!

They started the morning off with a presentation from the Head of Admissions at MCAD. While there, students learned that Minnesota is one of the most lucrative places in the country to be employed in the arts - artists in Minnesota earn more money than the professional athletes do! Students learned about higher education opportunities in the visual arts along with careers to pursue in the arts, after earning a degree.



After the presentation students walked across campus to the Minneapolis Institute of Art, to take part in its 100th birthday celebration. They broke into 5 groups and took hour long guided tours of the Art Institute's collection that pertained to what they are learning about this quarter in art. The tours included modern pieces from artists such as Georgia O'Keefe, Vincent VanGogh, and Romare Bearden. Students also explored sculptures and some even experienced an installation.



## AROUND FRIENDLY HILLS

Gifted & Talented students address  
City Hall!



Molly Molene (6), Reagan Rapp (6), Joseph Juliette (8)  
and Aidan vanNatta (6)



Mrs. Alger and Mrs. Cohen  
ready to celebrate Pi Day!!



Congratulations to Mr. Tony Wittman on being  
chosen as a KS95 teacher of the week for March.  
Mr. Wittmann was nominated by student Nicholas  
Reisig.