

APRIL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FRIENDLY HILLS

2014 - 2015 School Year



Dear Friendly Hills Families-

I hope your Spring is off to an excellent start. We are enjoying the change of seasons at Friendly Hills, and all of the new opportunities for our students to

become involved in. I hope your student is involved in one or more activities!

In the upcoming weeks, I will be meeting with parent groups to help plan how to positively impact culture, values and expectations at Friendly Hills. I want parents to become an interactive part of the school day at Friendly Hills and feel welcome to be a part of the educational process. During these meetings, I will be soliciting parent feedback to help provide structure to this process, which will help create a bond between school and home. If you are called upon, I hope you can help.

As we move toward school year 2015-16, we are making some changes for back to school day that will hopefully prepare our incoming 5th grade parents and students in a positive manner, as well as make grades 6,7, & 8 a more efficient process.

We will be meeting with and handing out schedules/lockers with incoming 5th graders on August 26 from 6-8 pm. During this time parents and students will be attending meetings to meet teachers and learn about Friendly Hills. This will hopefully make a smooth transition from elementary school to middle school. It will give our school staff a chance to connect with students and parents and explain how everything at the middle school works, before the school year starts.

Grades 6,7, & 8 will have a schedule card/locker pick-up on September 1 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Students will be able to find their lockers, put money in their lunch accounts, and see their schedules. Teachers will not be on site for this event. There will be curriculum night on September 10, where parents will be able to meet teachers and hear about the curriculum that will be taught over the course of the school year. Pictures for all grades will take place in late September, allowing us to have more cameras on site for a quicker process.

We have also added 4 "coffee with the principal" sessions during the day for 2015-16. I want to meet with you, and share all of the great opportunities and accomplishments our students are achieving each day. I know everyone is busy, so these will be one hour meetings. I hope you will be able to attend.

We hope you will take advantage of some opportunities that are in the future. We want you to be part of the journey that takes Friendly Hills to the next level and ensure our students are prepared for high school and beyond.

Chris

Upcoming

Friday, May 1st:

Staff Professional Day
No School

Tuesday, May 12th:

7 p.m., Band Concert

Thursday, May 14th:

7 p.m., Grade 7 & 8 Choir Concert

Friday, May 15th:

9 a.m., Track & Field Day

Thursday, May 21st:

7 p.m., Grade 5 & 6 Choir Concert

5TH GRADE

Fifth Grade Science classes have recently finished their Environmental Science Unit and are currently working on reviewing and preparing for the Science MCA-III assessment that will take place the first week of May.

Last week students participated in our second field trip to the Dodge Nature Center to take part in a course called Physics on the Farm. Students had the opportunity to use a variety of simple machines to help them complete work on the farm. The hands-on exploration of different devices helped students understand just how great of a mechanical advantage simple machines can give us.



Fifth Grade Math: Remember that the MCA is approaching fast. Don't forget to utilize IXL to help your child prepare or send your child to math help! For Regular Math, the IXL MCA Review is due by May 4th for extra credit!

6TH GRADE

This week we are going to the Dodge Nature Center on Wed., April 29 & Thur. April 30 for the activity on Dakota Life.

The 6th Grade house will be celebrating Make a Difference Day on Thursday, May 7th and Friday, May 8th, and we have a busy two days planned!

Next week, students will be taking two field trips: One to tour the James J. Hill House and the Cathedral in St. Paul, and the other is to Second Harvest Heartland in Golden Valley. We will need 20 chaperones each day for the Second Harvest trip, so please let us know if you are able to join us!

Sixth Grade Social Studies students learned that MN was one of the 13 present day states that were a part of the Louisiana Purchase, known as the “greatest real estate deal in the history of our country.” They learned that the U.S. acquired 530 million acres from France, “for just pennies an acre.” Next, they will be learning about Fort Snelling, how MN became a state, the Steamboat era, and how and why the U.S. negotiated treaties with the Dakota and Anishinaabe. They will discuss the consequences of treaties on the Anishinaabe, Dakota and settlers in the upper Mississippi River region. Students will also be reading about James J. Hill “the Empire Builder”, the Steamships and the Great Northern Railway. Students will be learning about Minnesota’s businesses in lumbering, sawmilling, farming & flour milling.

We need parent volunteers to take home a bag of leather and trace and cut patterns & punch holes in leather to prep for our craft project. Please email kathleen.lynch@isd197.org or rachel.cafferty@isd197.org if you can help. We will also need more leather cutting scissors and hole punchers for leather, which can only be purchased at Tandy Leather in Roseville. We have some but are in need of more. Please contact Mrs.Lynch or Mrs.Cafferty if you can lend us a pair or would like to make a leather project donation.

Thank you!

Grade 6 team: Lynch, Cafferty, Cohen, Taschek, Hiti, Power-Theisen, Solberg & Holtz (ELL)



7TH GRADE

Seventh Grade Language Arts classes are finishing up the novel study of *The Giver* and then will be reading the drama *The Monsters are Due on Maple Street*.

The important dates for Quarter 4 genre study are: Check-in 1 due April 24th, Check-in 2 due May 8th, Check-in 3 due May 22nd and Check-in 4 with the project due June 3rd.

Seventh Grade Social Studies is finishing up the Cold War next week and will be spending most of the month of May exploring the Civil Rights movement. Will be finishing out the school year looking at the 90s and 2000s.

Seventh Grade Math classes are gearing up for our Math MCA next week by reviewing and checking out all of the features on the online test.

Testing schedule:

Monday, April 27th: 1st and 2nd hour

Tuesday, April 28th: 3rd and 4th hour

Wednesday, April 29th: 5th and 6th hour

Thursday, April 30th: All classes finish during their Math class period

Please encourage your child to use their IXL account at home to continue to review and build their skills.

In Math 7 we are finishing up probability, and will be working on a data project. Algebra students are finishing up polynomials and factoring, and will continue on with Quadratic Functions after testing. The

8TH GRADE

8th Grade Field Trip to Valleyfair

Thursday, June 4th
8:50 am - 5:30 pm

**Permission Slips and \$\$ due
by Monday, April 27th**

FROM THE COUNSELOR

8th Grade Recognition is coming soon!

Help us acknowledge all of their hard work and wish them well as we send them off to high school.



Please join us for a ceremony on Monday, June 8, at 2pm in the gym.

Reception to follow from 3:00-3:15.

Dance and party in the cafeteria for FHMS 8th graders only from 3:15-5:15.



GIFTED & TALENTED



Fifth Grade students have been studying Earth materials and learning about soil, weathering and erosion. Students have learned about "earthworm" invaders, the difference between weathering and erosion, and will be designing their own experiments using river tables to investigate a question they developed collaboratively.

Sixth Grade students have been working at their own pace on the Forces, Motion, and Energy unit.

Seventh Grade students have been examining DNA and its role in genetics and evolution. Students extracted DNA from strawberries, researched either a genetic disorder or a genetic technology of their choice, and participated in a "back channel" discussion during their peers' presentations.

Eighth Grade students have finished up their study on weather. They will be studying astronomy and getting ready for the science MCAs over the next few weeks.



CHOIR

All of the FHMS choirs and the Summit Singers are getting ready for their spring concerts! The 8th Graders have some exciting, "out-of-the-box" things planned for their final concert at Friendly Hills, including an instrumental collaboration with some band members, guitar and ukelele accompaniment, small group acts and emcees!

Mark your calendars now!



7th and 8th Grade Choirs with Summit Singers:
Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

5th and 6th Grade Choir with Summit Singers:
Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m.

BAND

Students are spending class time working on piano keyboard lab assignments as well as getting ready for the upcoming May 12th concert.

We are finalizing our concert selections and there will be a wide variety of musical styles that will be heard throughout the evening.

The May concert will be bands only, and will start with 5th, 6th and Jazz Bands at 6:45pm. There will be an intermission and then the 7th and 8th grade bands will start at 7:45pm.

More information will be sent out before the actual concert date.

ORCHESTRA

The District Orchestra Festival will be taking place on Thursday, April 23rd at Henry Sibley High School at 7:30pm.

Students have worked very hard in preparation for this event! It will involve all orchestra students in grades 5-12.

Hope to see you there!



LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

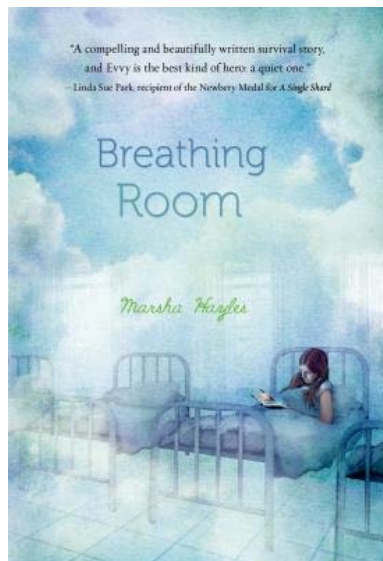


Each year Friendly Hills students participate in the Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award, the Minnesota Student Choice award. Each year 20 books are nominated; 12 are part of Division I for grades 3-5 and 12 are part of Division II for grades 6-8. Mr. Sackett introduced students to the books and by the end of March, if students have read at least 3 of the books, they are eligible to vote for their favorite. FHMS votes are combined with those from schools all around the state to determine the winners. This year 50 FHMS students were voters; 6th grade led the way with 28 voters!



Each year the winners are announced on Maud Hart Lovelace's birthday, April 25. Maud Hart Lovelace was a Minnesota author, most famous for the Betsy-Tacy series. Betsy and Tacy are based on Maud and her best friend from childhood. They lived across the street from each other in Mankato and today the houses are the Betsy-Tacy Society Museum. Visit their website and plan a family trip!

<http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/visit>



This year the winners of the Maud Hart Lovelace Award are **Belly Up** by Stuart Gibbs (for grades 3-5) and **Breathing Room** by Marsha Hayles for grades 6-8.



ART

This quarter, Ms. Rodrique and Mrs. Timmerman are excited to have the 6th Graders in our classroom. Our main focus is a 2-point perspective drawing and painting of a treehouse. We have been spending a lot of time learning the vocabulary and history of perspective drawing. We have been applying what we learn to create a variety of drawings. Next week we will begin to draw our final treehouses in 2-point perspective. After the houses are drawn we will learn about creating texture and color with crayons and watercolors to finish the pieces.



PBIS CORNER

For the month of April, we are focusing on demonstrating the 4Rs on Field Trips.

We can show **RESPECT** by following all directions given by adults.

We can show **RESPONSIBILITY** by doing what is asked of us on the bus and at the destination.

We can show **READINESS** by making sure we turn in permission slips and wear the appropriate clothing.

We can build **RELATIONSHIPS** by helping out our peers.

This month, ask your child about upcoming field trips and how they can show the 4Rs!

FROM THE NURSE

Students need to have Sports Physicals with completed Sports Physical Exam Forms given to school to participate in school sports. Sports Physical Exam Forms are available in the Health Office or online at ISD 197 website (click on Services, then click on Health Services and scroll down to Health Forms and click on SportsPhysicalExamForm link).

Please contact the Health Office with any questions via phone [651-403-7602](tel:651-403-7602) or via email jennifer.rockow@isd197.org

Thank you!

LIFESKILLS

The winner for the Dakota County Anti-Drug and Violence poster contest is **Oslo Martin Risch**.

An honorable mention was given to **Alexander Ortiz**.

We will be celebrating the winners and honorable mention students with an Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northern Service Center in West St. Paul.

Ms. Popelka would like to send out a special thanks to all the students who worked so hard and submitted such wonderful posters.

PHY ED & HEALTH

Fifth Grade is well into the track and field unit. We are excited for the culminating meet on Friday, May 15 at Sibley. 6th Grade just completed the base games unit and will be starting Speedball. Seventh and Eight Grade Health class will focus on personal safety. Topics discussed included skin safety, concussions, bike and water safety as well as watching a training video on the AED machine. The final fitness log for the year will be due April 30. The units covered in PE this quarter include softball and track.

All students will be completing the spring fitness tests as well.

We would like to recognize the students who completed 90 or more lines during the winter Pacer test. We have new records to report as well. Joseph Juliette broke the boys' record for most lines run - 132 and Lindsey Reyes-Jungwirth broke the girls' record with 108 lines run.



AROUND FRIENDLY HILLS



Benji Jauregui

Ms. Schiltgen's students working hard to master the 5th grade math standards!



Molly Meyers



Paige Kruse



5th graders dressed up for movie character day during Spirit Week

