

**FRIENDLY HILLS***2014 - 2015 School Year*

Dear Friendly Hills Families-

Summer has arrived. I remember when I was a kid, we never called it "summer vacation" we called it project season. We were always moving dirt, digging, and hauling heavy materials. We did things the "old fashioned way" by hand. My dad, a former teacher, always said he was building skills that we would be able to use in school. We thought he was nuts. In hindsight, there were a few skills that came in handy.

It has been an outstanding year at Friendly Hills! There have been a lot of wonderful accomplishments that have been achieved by our students. Students have taken on many challenges, and have added a lot of tools to their toolbox that they will be able to use as they continue their journey through school. We wish our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class nothing but success as they head to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade. We have enjoyed working with them over the past 4 years and know they will be successful in the years ahead.

Please remember to keep challenging your daughter/son over the summer by making trips to the local library, talking about current events, and giving them opportunities to help solve real world problems. Providing ways to challenge students helps keep them sharp as fall approaches, and a new school year begins. There are plenty of opportunities available in the school district over the summer. Please call the office if you would like more information.

Thank you for supporting our students and school over the course of the 2014-15 school year. We appreciate every hour you donated to help school events run smoothly, your support and cheering at our sporting and activity events, and all of the help with organization and attention to finishing homework and other academic projects that took place over this past year. Without your support we couldn't be as successful as we were this year. Thank you!

Have a great summer! I hope everyone is able to relax and enjoy the beauty of our state.

Sincerely,  
Chris

## Upcoming

**Monday, May 25th:**

No School, Memorial Day

**Friday, May 29th:**

Young Author's Conference

**Friday, June 5th:**

1:30 p.m., Talent Show

**Monday, June 8th:**

2 p.m., 8th Grade Recognition

**Monday, June 8th:**

Last Day of School 8th Grade

**Tuesday, June 9th:**

12 p.m., Last Day of School



## 5TH GRADE

Fifth Grade Math is finally FINISHED with testing! It has been a long process, but all the hard work put in this year is paying off! We will get to play a few math games we skipped from the Everyday Math curriculum! We will also complete one more project where students will get to make a plan for how they would spend \$1,000,000 and then present to the class!

Fifth Grade Students have been learning about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. On Monday they will start working on Bill of Rights projects focusing on Amendments 1-10 using iMovie and Pages.

Fifth Grade Social Studies, with help from Mr. Trebisovsky, has been participating in interactive forums using Flipgrid on the iPads to further classroom discussion.

All Fifth Grade students participated in Track and Field Day on Friday, May 15. The event was run by the phy.ed. teachers and the Fifth Grade teachers. It was a very fun event!



## 6TH GRADE

Sixth Grade Science classes are finishing the year working in their Sound and Light Unit. This consists of understanding how the many different types of waves work and how the ear and eye work to interpret them. This unit concludes a year of study that also involved Technology, Scientific Formulas, Chemistry, and Physics. The students have developed a better understanding of how the world around them operates and explains many of their questions about the interactions they have with these concepts.

On May 7th and 8th, the Sixth Grade Students packed 7,153 pounds of food at Second Harvest. The students also raised \$470 dollars during a penny war contest and the money was donated to Second Harvest. The Sixth Graders also brought in 500 items for Neighbors, Inc. These events were a part of "Make a Difference Day" that began with a worldwide recognition of hunger experienced by the kids through a rice hunger simulation. This simulation allowed the kids to better understand the affects of economic differences throughout the world and how the availability of food is a continuing issue.



## 7TH GRADE

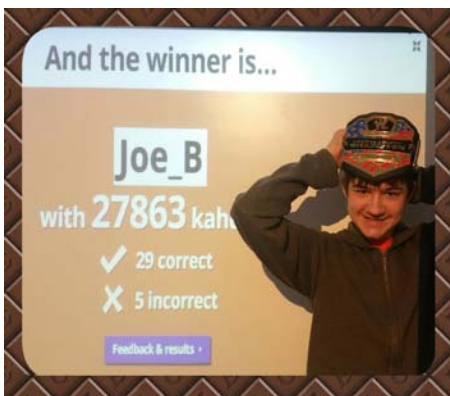
Students will be celebrating the end of the school year with a field trip to PINZ in Oakdale on Monday, June 8th. We will spend our time bowling, in the arcade, and having a pizza lunch. Permission slips will be handed out in Social Studies on Friday, May 22nd, and are due by Friday, May 29th. Upon our return from PINZ, trivia winners from Mr. Hayes' class throughout the school year, will compete in a Trivia Battle.

Seventh Grade Math just finished up MAP Math Testing last week. Math 7 students are working on Geometry concepts, and will finish out the quarter with a project. Enriched math students finished equations, and will end the year with sequences. Algebra students are finishing up with quadratic functions. All students will take an end of the year assessment. This will be used as another piece of data for math placement in 8th Grade. IXL accounts will continue to be active during the summer months. This would be a great way for students to continue to build and maintain their skills over the summer.

Seventh Grade Language Arts is working on their last project of the year: an Oral Traditions research project where students are comparing two gods/goddesses of different cultures, i.e. Greek goddess of the forest Artemis vs. Norse god of the forest Vidar. Students will be researching their pair of gods and using this research to write a report and create a presentation for the class. We are finished with the textbooks for the year, so if students checked one out, they can start returning them to their Language Arts class.

Seventh Grade Social Studies will spend May exploring the Civil Rights movement. The students will finish up the year on the 90s and 2000s.

### Cold War review game winners



## 8TH GRADE



Eighth Grade Science explored planets, moons, stars and light. Student discussed the Space Race and how it has affected our scientific advancement and the development of our space program.

Next, students are going to build alka-seltzer rockets and compete to see who has the most efficient rocket and system.

Class will wrap up by working on individual interest activities and a lab and Socratic seminar on the current issue of climate change.



## 8th Grade to Valleyfair

Thursday, June 4th, 2015  
8:50-5:30 P.M.

- Please pick up students in the front and park in the lot at 5:30.
- Carpooling would be welcomed.
- Students should dress accordingly to the weather. Sunscreen, water bottle, backpack.
- Phones and money should be in plastic bags to prevent getting wet.



Reading during the summer is an important step in maintaining all of the previous year's learning. Research shows that students who do no reading during the summer, come back to school in the fall up to a half a year behind, losing much of the progress from the previous school year. Reading during the summer is good for the brain and helps retain learning in all subject areas by stimulating the parts of the brain that help long term memory. The good news is that just a little bit of reading can help a lot! Reading one book a month is a starting point and reading 1000 pages over the summer is a reasonable goal. Summer reading does not have to be hard work – choose books that are fun and are at a comfortable reading level. Students don't need to write reports or create vocabulary lists – even re-reading an old favorite is good for the brain.

Do you need ideas for great books to read? Check out Mr. Sackett's 2015 Summer Reading List at this link:

<https://sites.google.com/a/isd197.org/friendly-hills-imc/home/mr-sackett-s-favorites-and-reviews/summer-reading-list-2015>

There are also many great summer reading programs where students can win books and other rewards. Check out these links:

Dakota County Library:

For Kids:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Programs/Kids/Pages/summer-reading-program.aspx>

For Teens:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Programs/Teens/Pages/teen-summer-reading-program.aspx>

Download a Summer Program Brochure

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

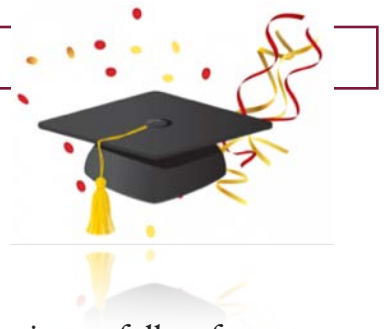
Red Balloon Book Store:

<http://www.redballoonbookshop.com/summer-reading-2015>

Barnes and Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/summer-reading/379003570/>

## 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.



Also, Fourth Grade orientation tours will be happening in May.

Fourth Graders from our feeder schools will be visiting with their teachers for a tour with WEB leaders. And will finish with a question and answer session with a panel of 5th Grade experts from their feeder school.

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## PBIS CORNER

For the month of May, we are focusing on keeping the 4Rs fresh even as we end the school year. We have a few upcoming end of the year events as well as duties we need to perform before we leave for the summer.

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

We can show RESPONSIBILITY by taking care of any obligations we have.

We can show READINESS by making sure we keep classrooms clean and get our lockers cleaned out.

We can build RELATIONSHIPS by showing courtesy to others despite our excitement.

\*Remember that the end of the year brings celebrations, but we can't forget about our 4R expectations.



## **CHOIR**

Choir Students end-of-the-year project will be a creative sound effects project (comedy, commercial, or scary). You may work with a partner or by yourself. The final days to present will be June 4th/5th.

Eighth Grade Choir will be choosing a graduation song to be sung at graduation. Singing at graduation is voluntary. However, choir students who are missing their last voice sectional may make up their points by participating in the choir at graduation. Also, Eighth Graders in orchestra and band who would like to sing the graduation song are invited to join us.

Talent Show:

The talent show will be on Friday, June 5th. Tryouts will be held on May 27th and May 28th.

The Summit Singers/Jazz Band/Friendly Fiddlers will be going on tour to Mendota and Pilot Knob Elementary Schools, as well as three senior citizen centers, on Monday, June 1st.



## **BAND**

Congratulations to all Band Students on a great concert on May 12th. Everyone worked hard all year and the final concert showed how much progress was made. Everyone can be proud of their accomplishments!

Students will spend the rest of the year finishing the keyboard unit, performing scale tests, turning in old music and receiving music to work on over the summer, and experiencing a mini-unit in Guitars.

Musical performances still to come:  
Jazz Band/Summit Singers/Friendly Fiddlers  
Performance Tour on Monday, June 1st

Jazz Band performance at the Talent Show on  
Friday, June 5th

Eight Grade Band performing at Eight Grade  
Recognition on Monday, June 8th.

## **ORCHESTRA**

Great job Orchestra Students at the District  
Orchestra Festival last month!

This month, Orchestra Students have been  
working on solos/small groups, new concepts  
from their method books, scales, and a little bit  
of guitar!

Starting in June, each grade level will finish the  
year up by studying a musical! 5th grade will  
study "Newsies," 6th Grade will study "Oliver,"  
7th Grade will study "Sound of Music" and 8th  
Grade will study "West Side Story."

Thanks for a great year! Hope everyone has a  
wonderful and relaxing summer!



## LIFESKILLS

Congratulations again to our winners of the 2016 Dakota County Anti Drug/Violence poster contest! They enjoyed an evening of celebration, prizes, and awards with County Attorney James C. Backstrom.



Pictured: Amariae English (Heritage), Mary Popelka, LifeSkills/Chemical Health, Oslo Martin Risch (Friendly Hills)

Not pictured: Ruby Guzman (Heritage), Alexander Ortiz (Friendly Hills)

## CHEMICAL HEALTH

The most recent Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) in Dakota County indicates an increase from the 2007 study in the amount of students who smoked marijuana in the last year. It found that 6.5 percent of 8th graders and 15 percent of 9th graders report they had smoked marijuana in the last year. With the onset of legal marijuana in Minnesota this summer, it's likely kids will have more questions about marijuana and how it can be safe for medicinal use and not for recreational use.

This year in LifeSkills we have spent time talking about their developing brains and the research that shows how the earlier people start using any addictive substance the more likely they are to become addicted, regardless of initial intention. Continued reinforcement of the importance of their developing brains may be one way to talk about staying away from drug use and making good choices.

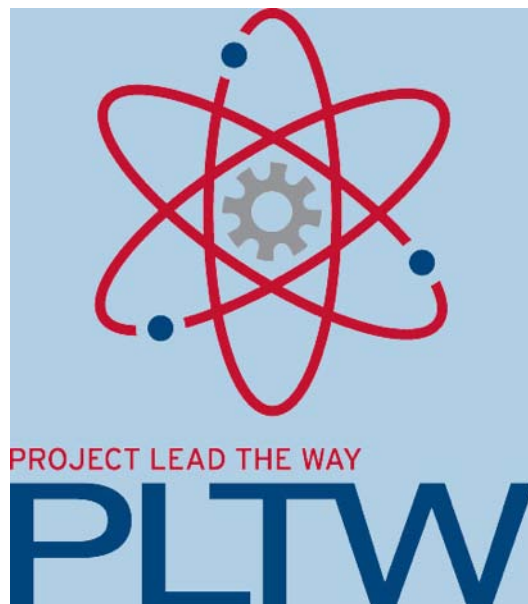
For more facts about marijuana please refer to the National Institute on Drug Abuse fact sheet (NIDA) at <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

The quarter began with students researching and presenting on an engineering career type.

They then learned about mechanisms. Using VEX parts, students built a series of 10 common mechanism types. This week they are applying this knowledge to design and build a pull-toy.

Next week students will begin learning how to program a VEX based robot using the ROBOT C program. Once students program the robot to use all of its motors, they will complete a series of programming challenges, some of which will require the addition of sensors to complete.



## MINDS IN THE MIDDLE - SUMMER ACADEMY

The Minds in the Middle program is a fun and engaging way for students to continue practicing important math and reading skills over the summer in order to prevent summer regression and increase academic performance. There is no homework or tests and quizzes, just fun projects, games, and activities to continue developing academic skills. We have expanded our YMCA Club and Junior Achievement college and career offerings again this summer so it should be better than ever!

**The program is completely free and includes free breakfast and lunch as well as free transportation for families living within the district boundaries. The program will be held at Henry Sibley High School and be will offered July 13th - August 6th, Tuesdays - Thursdays mornings from 7:30 - 12:30.**

Students will be excused for vacations, camps, or summer sports/activities as needed. It is for students entering 5th - 8th grade next fall.

If you would like to sign your child up for this wonderful opportunity you have several options:

1. Pick up a paper form in the front office, fill it out and return it to the front office.
2. E-mail ([seth.ney@isd197.org](mailto:seth.ney@isd197.org)) and he will register your student for you.
3. Call Seth at [651-403-7638](tel:651-403-7638) and leave a message and he will register your student for you.
4. Register online as well by clicking the following link: <https://docs.google.com/a/isd197.org/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dExaRDVnVVRQTKxIYoxHTmEyWWxaM2c6MA#gid=0>

This is a great program that has been helping students gain academic skills for the last six years.

We would love to have your child join us this summer!

