

December

Friendly Hills Middle School

Hi Friendly Hills Parents/Guardians-

There are a lot of exciting things going on at Friendly Hills. Our students continue to do an amazing job each day in the classroom, as well as other activities they are involved in. Here are a few of the highlights:



Our student council and WEB leaders did an excellent job at our Quarter 1 PBIS school assembly. Students took part in relay races and individual challenges performing in front of the entire school. Our WEB leaders led the school in a couple of different dance activities, and everyone enjoyed burning off some excess energy in a positive manner. A student "Warrior Ticket" was drawn from each grade level and the 4 winners received a \$15 itunes card. It was a lot of fun!

This is a great time of the year to continue to work on reading and vocabulary with your student. Students should be reading 30 minutes each night on a book that is within their lexile range. Students also have access to vocabulary.com, which is loaded on their ipad and helps them learn the meanings of new words as well as refreshing their memory on words they already know. Friendly Hills was the top Middle School in Minnesota for the Month of November in the Vocab.com challenge. Congratulations to our students!!

Thank you to everyone who attended our winter 7th and 8th Grade concerts. The concerts were excellent and our students performed at a very high level. Hats off to our Friendly Hills music department and the great work they do each day with our young musicians. I am looking forward to our upcoming 5th and 6th grade concerts on January 8th and 9th respectively.

We had 460 Friendly Hills students on the Quarter 1 Honor Roll. Our students were rewarded with an Honor Roll medal, and will be awarded an Honor Roll pin for their achievements during 2nd and 3rd Quarters. If a student did not achieve Honor Roll status during Quarter 1, but does so during Quarter 2, they will be rewarded with an Honor Roll medal at that time. Please encourage your son/daughter and remind them the importance of performing well in school. Handing out our Honor Roll medals is one of the highlights of the year for our staff, and we take time to recognize the time and energy spent by our students!

Ipads will be collected from students on December 20, and will be kept at school over winter break. Students will have their ipads returned to them in their homeroom classes when school resumes on January 2, 2018.

I hope your holiday season is filled with fun and joy. Enjoy your friends and family! I love working with our students each day!

Best Wishes,
Chris

5th Grade

Math

5th Graders have been working very hard in math this year! In 5th Grade Go Math classes, we have just finished Chapter 2- Division. In December, we will be starting Chapter 3- Adding and Subtracting Decimals. Students will be given homework on both IXL and the HMH player throughout the unit.

Accelerated:

We just finished Chapter 4 on polygons. We will work through Chapter 5 (Ratios and Rates) and Chapter 6 (Integers and the Coordinate Plane) all before Winter Break. It will be a very busy time. Don't forget to utilize Math Help on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during homeroom and Tuesdays and Thursdays during recess! IXL can also be a great resource for extra practice!

Science

Students are finishing up their FOSS Airplane system investigations. Students identified variables that could be changed incrementally within the system. They experimented with number of winds, slope, mass, and number of rubber bands.





6TH GRADE

Science

During the first half of November, 6th Grade students have been learning about Technology and Engineering in science class. They have been working in teams to design and build a product that solves a problem. The second half of November students will be studying the properties of matter.

Language Arts - We are well into Quarter 2 and students should be continuing to read independently for Read Like a Warrior! All summary sheets for quarter 2 RLAW are due Monday, January 22nd - before we know it, that time will be here. Please make sure your student is reading at least 10-15 minutes each night at home. Students are given 20 minutes each Tuesday/Thursday for independent reading. During this time, they respond to a reading post in Seesaw once a week and Mrs. Taschek and Ms. Laird check-in with students to see what book they're reading, the page they're on, and have a quick chat about their reading.

At the end of Quarter 1, students participated in a Book Talk, where they chose their favorite book they read in the quarter and share it with classmates. It was great to see in all our classes the conversations between students and how excited they were to share their favorite book! Some students shared on an entire series they read, while others shared a single book they were very passionate about. As a part of their book talk, they created mini posters that outlined the book including a significant quote and how it was important to the story, the book cover, and a brief summary (no spoilers!).

In Ms. Laird's classes, the students are working on Informational Text (nonfiction). They are creating Informational Text Notebooks, which will be turned in at the end of the unit (roughly before winter break). So, check-in with your student and ask them to see the pages they are creating! Most of the work is done in class and they will receive a cumulative grade for the entire notebook at the end of the unit.

In Mrs. Taschek's classes, they've started reading *Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich - the first book in the four book series, *The Birchbark Series*. Ms. Laird's classes will start this book after winter break, and then Mrs. Taschek's classes will begin Informational Text.

As a reminder, students should also have daily spelling homework with a post-test every Friday. Please make sure students are completing their homework each evening and studying their spelling words!



6th Grade Cont.

Social Studies - In December, all 6th Grade students will participate in the qualifying test for the National Geographic Geography Bee, with the opportunity to progress onto the school and state bee. Students are learning about the Fur Trade in MN in the 1700s, the voyageurs who paddled the canoes, and the role of the Native Americans and Europeans in the Fur Trade. They will study the routes of the fur trade and discuss the location of fur trade posts. We will read about the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux that was signed in Mendota, MN in 1851. Students will create a native american leather craft that requires sewing and designing leather.

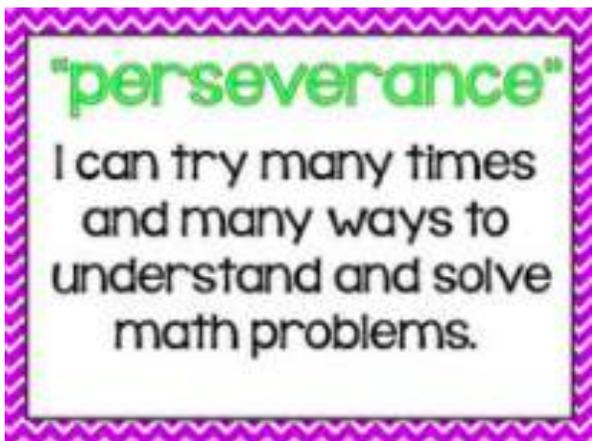
Writing -

We focused on what is unique about a personal narrative. Students heard several personal narratives and wrote one as well.

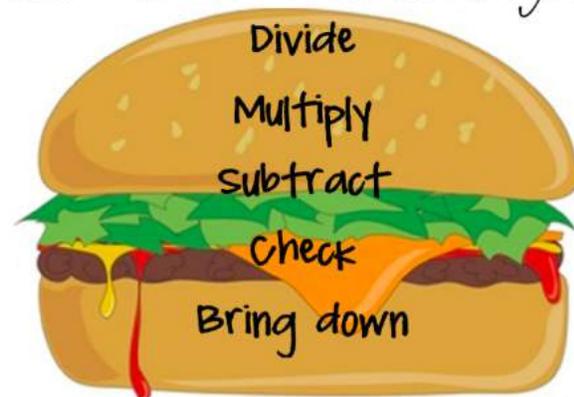
Math -

We recently started Module 5 (Decimal Operations) in 6th Grade Go Math. It started with a review of long division. Students have been using a phrase from 5th Grade, "Does McDonald's Serve/Sell Cheese Burgers?" to help them remember the long division procedure (divide, multiply, subtract, check, bring down). Now we are deep into decimal operations! We have used visual models and manipulatives to help students develop deep understanding of the concepts while working on fluency with the standard algorithms.

Each day we begin with a math warm up that provides opportunities for students to develop number sense and foster their growth mindset. Our number talks focus on mental math strategies and utilizing various approaches to stretch our thinking. Our mindset work has focused on grit and perseverance this month. Be sure to share any examples from your own life which required you to have grit or perseverance!



Does McDonald's serve Cheese Burgers?



6th Grade Cont.

Science -

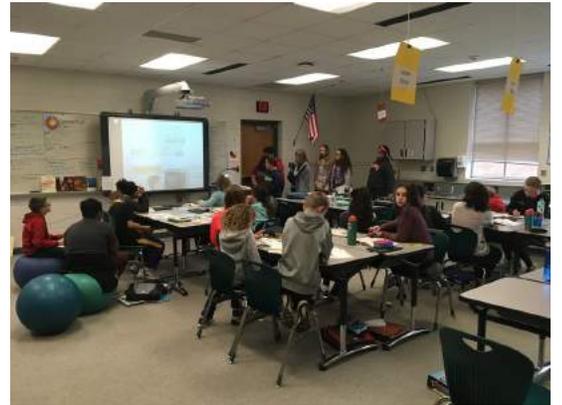
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Science: Engineering Design Challenge



Students presenting Ch.4 Engineering



Brittany & Ellie



Designing & Building



Building scenario 3-bandages



Joe & Fisher building a prototype



Engineering Design: Step 4: Build a prototype



Ryan

6th Grade Cont.

Science Cont.



Bjorn, Miguel, Asad - Brainstorming & Building



Alonzo Building



Lucy & Mia - Troubleshoot & Redesign



Seventh Grade Social Studies is currently studying Immigration and Industry and will be looking at WWI in December. We are also in month 2 of our passport club. Passport club is a monthly geography test. In November we explored South America and December will be Europe. Students take the test at the end of every month and can achieve extra credit in their social studies grade for passing the test. Good luck and keep studying. Congratulations to those who did well on November's South America test.

- Charlie C.
- Miles D.
- Matt E.
- Nina G.
- Makda M.
- Eleanor M.
- Lucy P.
- Jacob S.
- Duy H.
- Katie J.
- Lilly K.
- Han N.

7th Grade Cont.

Language Arts - with Maas, Robinson, and Petersen has been reading *Freak the Mighty*. This novel references Arthurian Legend quite a bit, so we've been studying the basics of the King Arthur story to relate to the text. Ask your 7th Grader to give you a summary of the novel's plot and maybe tell you about a favorite character. Or consider watching together a film or tv adaptation of the King Arthur legend.

All students, Grades 5-8, start preparing now for the grade level Geography qualifying test in December. Study world geography using links in your Passport.com Canvas course or other online resources.

BEE PREPARED!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE
30 YEARS

ARE YOU A GEO-GENIUS?

1. Which Great Lake is farthest north—Lake Superior or Lake Ontario?
2. A dune is a mound of sand that is formed by which force—wind or rain?
3. Plymouth, site of one of the first successful settlements in the English colonies is located in which state—Massachusetts or New Jersey?
4. Which state straddles the Tropic of Cancer—Hawaii or Alaska?
5. Deepwater Horizon is associated with which environmental disaster that affected the Gulf Coast—oil spill or nuclear meltdown?
6. Angel Falls, the world's tallest at 3,212 feet, is located in which South American country?
7. Madagascar, one of the world's largest islands, is located off the eastern coast of Africa in which ocean?
8. Coffeehouses are a cultural tradition in the European city of Vienna in which country?

DOWNLOAD THE APP AT NATGEOBEE.ORG
Study on the Go! Download the new and improved Geo Bee Challenge app at NatGeoBee.org

GET THE OFFICIAL STUDY GUIDE
Check out the latest study guide, *How to Ace the National Geographic Bee: Official Study Guide, 5th Edition*, available for purchase online at shopng.com/geobee.

STUDY WITH THE FAMILY
Practice Bee questions with Amazon's Alexa by activating the skill *Geo Quiz*.

HOW TO ACE THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE



Spelling bee eliminations are in full swing! Students took a test in Language Arts/Reading classes recently and the top scorers will soon be competing for spots in the District 197 Spelling Bee. If your student got an invitation letter to the grade-level spelling bee you can check that for the date and access to study materials. Email melissa.maas@isd197.org if you have questions.



Communications - Students are in the middle of the Media Literacy and Advertising Unit. They are busy learning about the 5 Concepts of Media Literacy which will help them learn how to "read" an advertisement. By the end of the Unit, students will be able to apply everything they have learned about advertising to create either a new store or a new magazine. Please check-in with them about what activities they are completing and what they choose as their final project! As always, you can keep up-to-date with daily class activities by becoming an observer on your student's Canvas account.

Language Arts - Petersen/Maas Language Arts, we finished reading the short story version of *Flowers for Algernon*. We are using this story as a basis for our first formal writing assignment. Students will have the opportunity to write about a variety of topics that stemmed from our discussion throughout the novel, such as the negative effects Charlie's increased intelligence had on him.

We continue to write in our Ideabooks each Monday, learn a new root word weekly, and Read Like a Warrior (independent reading) on Fridays. As always, you can keep up-to-date with daily class activities by becoming an observer on your student's Canvas account.

Language Arts - Students in Mrs. Barrick's classes wrote their first-ever Character Analysis papers this year, in which they developed a claim, provided evidence to back it up, and analyzed that evidence. They worked on this for several weeks, and finished by typing, editing, revising, and printing final copies. The pictured students received 100% on their papers!

Period 1- Audrey Parnell, Elizabeth Hernando, Emma Hendricks

Period 3- Bella Green, Violet Daleiden, Haley Redding

Period 4- (not pictured- Nathalia Villafuerte)

Period 5- Emma Brown, Grach Koch, Caleigh Tautges, Engelina Melgard, Morgan Lauer (not pictured Dillon Lynch)

Period 6- Alexander Lopez, Hodan Abdi



physical education



5 / 6 Rotation Quarters 2 and 3

*Friemann's class split in 5th Grade. Half class w/ Reddy and half class w/ Stremmer-Birr

Dates	Reddy	Stremmer-Birr	Friemann
7 Days 11/13 to 12/14	Rock Climb	Basketball	Basketball (6) *Split (5)
6 Days 12/15 to 1 /24	Winter Unit	Badminton	Badminton (6) *Split (5)
6 Days 1 /29 to 2 /22	Badminton	Winter Unit	Rock Climb (6) *Split (5)
7 Days 2 /23 to 3 /22	Basketball	Rock Climb	Rock Climb (6) *Split (5)

7 / 8 Quarter 2 Rotation

Dates	Reddy	Stremmer-Birr	Friemann
6 Days 11/13 to 12/1	Badminton	Health	Rock Climb
6 Days 12/4 to 12/19	Health	Badminton	Winter Unit
6 Days 1 /2 to 1 /18	Rock Climb	Winter Unit	Health

All classes have PE 12/20, 1/19, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24

7 / 8 Quarter 3 Rotation

	Reddy	Stremmer-Birr	Friemann
6 Days 1 / 29 to 2/13	Winter Unit	Health	Badminton
6 Days 2/14 to 3/2	Health	Rock Climb	Basketball
6 Days 3 /5 to 3/20	Basketball	Basketball	Health

Reading Boost

Take reading materials with you on outings. Encourage your child to read while riding in the car, waiting at the doctor's office, passing time between activities.

Recommended Reads:

I recently attended a conference titled: "What's New in Young Adult Literature?" The following titles are some of the presenter's top middle school picks.

Fiction:

The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade by Jordan Sonnenblick

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling

Poetry:

One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance by Nikki Grimes

Graphic Novels:

All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

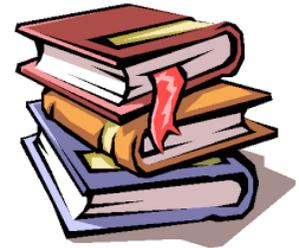
Brave by Svetlana Chmakova

Nonfiction:

Super Women: Six Scientists Who Changed the World by Laurie Lawlor

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin

Survivor's Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz by Michael Bornstein



Counseling Office

Naviance lessons are continuing. The themes for November and December with our 7th Graders are "Learning Styles" "Habits for Success" and "School and Social Rules for Success."

The themes for November and December with our 8th Graders are "Success, Risk and Failure" "Working through Stress" and "Redefining Success-internal vs. external success." Be sure to ask your student to log in to their Naviance account to show you all it has to offer!

Lunch groups have started. If you would not like your child to participate in a group, be sure to contact your child's counselor.

Anxiety has become more prevalent for school age children across the US. Here is a great reference to look at on how you can manage and minimize anxiety in your child

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/what-mentally-strong-people-dont-do/201711/10-reasons-american-teenagers-are-more-anxious-ever>

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360 Community

From the Family Support Worker:

Friendly Hills has a small Food Shelf available for students and families. Students are welcome to pick up a bag from the Family Support Worker's office, or they can be discreetly placed in your child's locker for them to bring them home. Bags would include non perishable food items such as canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta's etc. Please call Alicia the Family Support Worker for more information. 651-403-7751.

Friendly Hills tiene un pequeño dispensa de comida disponible para los estudiantes y las familias. Los estudiantes pueden recoger un bolso de la oficina del trabajador de apoyo familiar, o pueden ser colocados discretamente en el casillero de su hijo para que ellos los traigan a casa. Bolsas incluiría alimentos no perecederos como las sopas enlatadas, conservas de verduras, pasta, etc. Por favor llame a Alicia la trabajadora de apoyo familiar para más información 651-403-7751.



From Mr. Wilfahrt and Mrs. Zellmer:

5/6 Movie Night a success!!

On Thursday, November 9 Friendly Hills held their first 5th and 6th Grade movie night. We had around 110 students show up to watch *Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory*. The students were great and followed the Friendly Hills 4R's throughout the movie. The next movie date and movie choice is already being discussed.

The 7th and 8th Graders completed ACT Aspire Testing in the month of November. This assessment is one of the first steps for students in District 197 to help prepare for college and career readiness. The assessment is an early predictor of how students may score on the actual ACT they take when they are in 11th Grade. The assessment consists of four separate tests in the area of Math, Science, Reading, and English. Students will receive their scores on this test in January 2018. Counselors will then visit classrooms and discuss scores with students and help bridge the information to college and career readiness.

The district is in transition to administer this test to 7th Graders only when they are in middle school. This will be the only year the test is offered in both grades at the middle school level. Moving forward into 2018 and each year thereafter, the test will only be given to 7th Grade students in middle school. Please click on the link if you would like to learn more about this assessment.

PBIS Warrior Rally #1 is complete

On Tuesday, November 21, we held our first Warrior Rally. Our Warrior Rally is to celebrate our 4R behavior and to bring the school together and acknowledge groups and individuals for their 4R behavior. During the first assembly we recognized students in grades 5-8 that have had perfect attendance during the Quarter 1. The WEB Leaders led some cheers and our student council led fun relays for students and staff to keep the crowd entertained in between the recognition of students. We also drew names and handed out gift cards to those students who have received warrior tickets and turned them in during first quarter. Our future Warrior Rallies will have 4R criteria that students will have to meet in order to attend. Second quarter's focus is Readiness - having the student iPad at school and charged for the day.



FHMS Winter Hats are here!!

**Chunky Knit Beanie
Fleece-lined Beanie**



Pictured are the Chunky Knit Beanie

Your Choice with FH logo!

\$15.00 each

Available in the Main Office

UPCOMING

December 20 - Ski/Snowboarding Club Starts
December 21-January 1 - NO SCHOOL Winter Break
January 8 - 5th Grade Band, Choir, Orchestra Concert
January 9 - 6th Grade Band, Choir, Orchestra Concert