

Freedom Middle School



FROM THE MIDDLE

Mr. Ken Fisher, Principal

Phone 788-7945

April, 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

April 3 Scoopie Night
April 4 MAPSS Meeting, Principal Pen Breakfast
April 7 MS Musical, 6th grade GT students to College Days, Stevens Point
April 8 MS Musical
April 10 6th grade Pentemester 4 Ends
April 11 6th grade Pentemester 5 Begins
April 14 No School
April 17 – 18 No School
April 19 Midterm 4 Work Completion Day
April 21 8th grade to Milwaukee Art Museum
April 22 Saturday School
April 24 Board Meeting
April 26 Midterm 4 Report Cards Home

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR. FISHER

MIDDLE YEARS

This monthly publication contains many useful suggestions that will help the young adolescent navigate through the challenging waters of middle level education! As I read through each monthly issue, I wish I could have known about this publication when my kids were growing up! Please take a few moments to read the articles. I am sure you will find something useful and applicable!

TEEN FOOD & FITNESS

Fitness and nutrition are so important to the developing adolescent and I encourage the entire family to discuss these monthly articles in this publication. You will be able to shop together as a family to satisfy an adolescent appetite in a healthy manner and participate in family fitness activities outside as the weather turns warmer.



4th QUARTER WORK ETHIC

Typically the 4th quarter of each school year brings warmer weather and a slight decline in the work quality and effort among our student population here at Freedom Middle School. We could assume that students know how to be a good student by now and that they will devote maximum effort through the end of the school year; we don't assume anything and we have learned from past practice! I am asking parents/guardians to spend time with your child as we begin the final nine weeks of this school year to encourage them finish strong. Check your

child's work before they turn it in, help them study for upcoming tests and quizzes, and talk to them about their academic goals as they complete the current school year. Our middle school students are capable of quality work and through good organization their work will be handed in on time. This all comes down to choice and we are asking all students to give their best effort each day during the 4th quarter; the results could be amazing!

ACADEMIC AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

We have recently completed the 3rd quarter of the 2016-2017 school year and your child's teachers will be sharing information regarding the academic awards assembly. This is an opportunity to recognize the academic accomplishments and co-curricular participation of our middle school students. If at all possible I encourage parents to attend the academic awards assembly and support your child during their time of recognition. The academic awards recognized include honor roll, and academic excellence; students that qualify for these individual achievement honors will be given a certificate for their efforts.

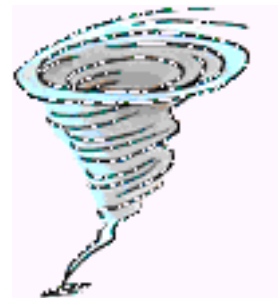


SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

We are fast approaching the season for severe weather in the state of Wisconsin. Governor Walker has proclaimed the week of April 17th -21st as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. School administrators, students and staff will take

time to go over the procedures used when severe weather strikes to ensure that staff and students are prepared in the event of an actual emergency. On Thursday, April 20, 2017 a statewide tornado drill is planned. This drill is an excellent opportunity for school staff and students to practice their safety procedures for severe weather. I have included in this newsletter safety tips from the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Division of Emergency Management, I urge you to review them with all members of your family:

- **1:00 P.M. CDT - mock (test) tornado watch is issued for all of Wisconsin by the Storm Prediction Center. Each NWS office issues a test tornado watch as well.**
- **1:45 P.M CDT - The NWS Offices in Milwaukee, Green Bay, La Crosse, Minneapolis/Chanhassen and Duluth will issue their mock (test) Tornado Warnings.**
- **2 P.M. CDT - the mock tornado drill ends with the issuances of test Severe Weather Statements by the five NWS offices.**



PROGRESS REPORTS

Believe it or not, the 4th quarter progress report will go home with students on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. Please take the time to carefully review your child's academic progress; this will send a message that you are putting their education high on

the priority list. The mid quarter progress report can contain good news for parents but don't rely on this report alone, check Skyward on a weekly basis to avoid any unwanted surprises. Work Completion Day for 4th quarter mid-term is Wednesday, April 19, 2017. Students must have all late work turned in by the end of their respective guided study/RtI time or they will be placed on the list for Saturday School to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017.

CYBER BULLYING PREVENTION

I have provided a link to a must see power point presentation on Cyber Bullying. The internet is an amazing tool for so many reasons and the opportunities for learning and enrichment are limitless. Unfortunately the opportunities for corruption and criminal activity are prevalent as well. With this in mind I am encouraging all parents/guardians to take the time to view this power point presentation with your child. We as a school and school district will continue to educate students regarding internet safety but the child's first and most influential teacher (parent/guardian) may also make the biggest impact. The link below will take you to the power point presentation and after viewing with your child, please email me with your comments or questions!

<http://goo.gl/S45NKR>

WHAT IS MAPSS?

MAPSS is the middle school parent group, the acronym stands for Middle School Association for Parents, Students, and Staff. If you were involved in PAC at Freedom Elementary School this organization is similar in many ways. I am extending a personal invitation to all middle school parents to get involved in this important organization. MAPSS has a link on the district website that contains information

about the organization; this link can be found under the heading Clubs and Organizations. Ideally MAPSS would like to have representation from all grade levels with one parent representative and one student representative. The officers for MAPSS include a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We meet one time per month as a group and help at MAPSS sponsored activities, please consider being an active member of a great organization!

PLEASE SUPPORT SCOOPIE NIGHT APRIL 3, 2017

On Monday, April 3, 2017 MAPSS is sponsoring a Scoopie Night at Culvers in Little Chute. The event runs from 5:00pm-8:00pm and 10% of the profit that evening will go directly to MAPSS. Thank you in advance to all Freedom families that dines at Culvers that evening, in doing so you will be helping a great school organization provide more learning opportunities for middle school students. I look forward to your continued support and involvement in all that we do here at Freedom Middle School. Did I mention that FMS staff members and MAPSS officers will be serving you your food that evening? Please join us, you will not be disappointed!



6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mr. Fellingner

We are currently studying the Roman Republic and Empire, and what causes led to its rise and decline. The Roman Republic came into power with the help of military innovations and a government system which represented the interests of all Roman citizens. The architectural techniques that were developed were astounding, such as the aquaducts and coliseum. Such notable characters such as Pompey, Crassus, and Julius Caesar helped to change the republic into an empire which some scholars believe may have led to its eventual downfall. The Roman Empire was the most influential empire throughout history, with its long lasting impression on future cultures. The empire was so large that it became divided into a western and eastern empire. Eventually it did decline in power due to political corruption, economic difficulties, and attacks from foreign armies. Our own modern day government, laws, and architecture have all been influenced by the Roman Empire.

6TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Wruck



The past month has been a busy one for students with regards to research. Biography Projects have been graded. Students shared that they enjoyed reading and learning about an important person in history as they worked on their projects.

Round two of Book Clubs has started! Students selected their top three choices

from book sets. They were placed in groups based on their reading levels and interest in the book selected. They are in groups reading and discussing these awesome books together. All of their reading in their Book Clubs will be done at school. Book Clubs will continue through the end of the year. Also, students will be taking part in a Poetry Unit soon. In addition to that, there will be more grammar work with pronouns and more word study with Greek & Latin roots.

We are hoping that students can spend more time reading at home. They are required to read at least 20 minutes at home. Please contact us if your child is not bringing home a book to read. You can do so by email terickson@freedomschools.k12.wi.us, dwruck@freedomschools.k12.wi.us or by phone 788-7945. Please do all you can to ensure that your child reads at home. We understand completely how busy we all get with activities, but help your young reader understand the importance of reading. Thank you to those of you doing this! Ask your 6th grade reader if he or she is keeping track of their reading on their log.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your support!



6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Runyon



It's hard to believe we are already pushing ahead into April. We started off our year with forces and motion and a look at rocketry. We have returned to where we left off with our 2nd look at forces and motion. We have been learning about Newton's laws of motion and doing a variety of experiments and demonstrations in class. One of those was a large double pendulum with bowling balls. Ask your son or daughter to explain how this works.

As we move forward the focus of our study will shift to electricity and magnetism. We will have a variety of unique and challenging learning experiences in class that will challenge students' preconceived notions about electricity and magnetism. We will specifically study Ohm's law and investigate how electricity is used in our everyday lives including: circuits, resistors, insulators, conductors, and transformers.

7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Juelich and Mrs. Lingnofski

As we start fourth quarter, we will be continuing with our argumentative writing unit in language. The final assessment in the unit will be a research-based letter regarding the addition of a community pool in the town of Freedom. Research will be provided, and we will begin working with the research as a whole class prior to students choosing their own reasons for the argument. The Freedom Pursuit has been gracious enough to publish the best two letters. Letters will be narrowed down by the

ELA teachers and judged by outside sources.

In literature, students will be finishing the Tom Sawyer play by reading aloud in class and comprehension questions. There will be a short activity to review characters and characterization prior to a test review and a test centered upon literary elements. Once we finish up Tom Sawyer, we will move into the novel Bar Code Tattoo. This is a dystopian novel set in the near future. We will continue our work with literary terms and making predictions.

Mrs. Juelich will have a student teacher fourth quarter. Nicole Gardner is coming to us from St. Norbert College. She has just completed an elementary placement third quarter.

7TH GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

Mr. Atwater



We are going to be spending most of 4th quarter in an ecological dynamic unit. We will very soon be investigating experimental design using engineering strategies. We will then discuss carrying capacity of an ecosystem and symbiotic relationships. From there we move into energy flow. We will also look at human activity on the Earth and design a scientific, biological monitoring system using engineering design perspective.

Bird of the month: (not a bird, just a fact) Lots of birds have started to migrate back already. If you have gotten up before the sunrise, you may have heard what is called the "Dawn Chorus". That's when the birds are singing the loudest defending territories

and attracting mates. Several scientific studies have been done as to why birds sing at dawn. They have come up with several hypotheses such as: there are fewer predators out at that time; sound seems to carry further at this time due to the thinner air pressure and less wind and others. Enjoy the migration. If you see anything interesting out there, shoot me an email.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mr. LeBrun

Wow, I don't know about you, but for me the 3rd quarter just flew.

In class this month, we are coming to the end of discussing the Revolutionary War. In April, we will start working on Jefferson Era, including the Louisiana Purchase, and the Lewis and Clarke expedition.

I would also like to take the time to recognize Reid Westphal whose National History Day exhibit qualified for state.

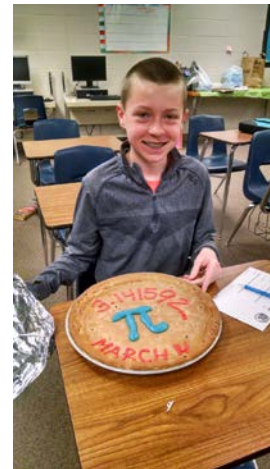


Any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call.

7TH GRADE MATH

Mrs. Runyon

We just started the second half of the geometry unit with measuring figures. This chapter will include real-life problems involving area, surface area, and volume to be solved by using formulas.



Pre-Algebra

In Pre-Algebra we just finished up a chapter on equations and inequalities. The next chapter is on linear functions. At the end of the chapter the students should be able to determine how linear functions are used to model proportional relationships.

Thank you again to all the families that brought in food items for Pi Day. We had a large group of students that tried to memorize the most digits of Pi. The top places were as follows:

1st place: Ryan W & Cole J memorized 164 digits pass the decimal point.

2nd place: Jamison R memorized 122 digits pass the decimal point.

3rd place: Justin B & Mantha B memorized 90 digits pass the decimal point.

4th place: Blake K memorized 85 digits pass the decimal point.

5th place: Hayden H memorized 80 digits pass the decimal point.

8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Fogarty and Mr. VanRossum

Happy spring, everyone! The start of the fourth quarter seems to sneak up every year, and this year is no exception. We've accomplished a lot so far this year, and we plan to finish the year strong with many things yet to come in ELA.

Our current class novel is *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Students are expected to work on reading portions of this book outside of class for homework in addition to what we read together in class. Student discussions and questions allow us to analyze, infer, and evaluate the text.

Students will continue to master the skill of writing using textual evidence from *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. This novel will bring up some controversial aspects for students. Upon novel completion, we will compare the written literature to the dramatized version and conduct an in-class debate.

Shortly after we wrap up *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, we will start our final novel, *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry. There are many activities and lessons that go along with this novel. The students will be expected to complete some work outside of class.

Students are required to pass an AR test during April as a part of their independent reading accountability. We do still designate one day per week to read in class; nevertheless, students should be reading outside of class as well. We appreciate all support from home that encourages the students to read regularly.

During the fourth quarter, students will be writing and presenting a *This I Believe* essay

and composing a tongue-in-cheek letter of advice to a future FMS eighth grader.

Students will continue to apply all aspects of writing technique that we've covered this year by practicing in their writer's notebook journal entries and in the two final formal pieces listed above. As if that isn't keeping us busy enough, we will continue our grammar unit on using verbs correctly in April.

On that note, students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge on both the Wisconsin Forward Exam and the STAR test during April and May.

8th GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Bins



Over the last seven months, it has been a true pleasure to work with the class of 2021 in Eighth Grade Earth Science. They have demonstrated the ability to think abstractly, question the world around them, and have fun along the way!

Our previous unit took us into an exploration of Earth's oceans and atmosphere. These two areas of our planet are vital to our planet's function and they set up our next unit - weather.

As mentioned above, our next unit takes us into an exploration of Earth's weather. Included in this unit are storms, cloud formation, precipitation, and more. It should prove to be a good time.

I am looking forward to seeing what the three months have in store for our eighth

grade students as they develop both scientifically and as leaders of our school!

8TH GRADE MATH

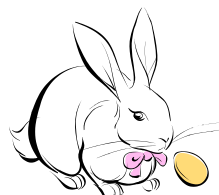
Ms. VanEperen



I cannot believe the third quarter has already come to an end. Students did a great job this quarter and got to end it on a high note by celebrating Pi Day, where they were allowed to eat cookies and play games.

Math 8 recently finished up Chapter 3 where they were introduced to solving systems of linear equations. This was a difficult topic for the students, but they did a great job persevering through it! They are now working their way through Chapter 4, which has them bringing back quite a few concepts involving slope and y-intercept. After this chapter, students will go back to geometry material and learn about transformations.

Algebra recently finished up a chapter on polynomials. The students learned how to add, subtract, and multiply polynomials as well as how to factor them, which will all be key concepts used in high school math classes. The students' current chapter is introducing them to quadratic functions. The remaining chapters in the book continue to be full of information that will be a basis for high school courses, so please encourage your children to stay focused throughout the remainder of the school year, even though I'm sure summer will be on their minds soon (if it isn't already)!



SPANISH

Mrs. Drammeh

Feliz abril! 6th grade is still in pentemester 4 with me until our last day on April 10th.

Then they will move on to their last pentemester class, which is art. We are getting ready for our final exam and after that, watching "La Leyenda de la Llorona" which is an awesome, authentic Mexican movie. 7th and 8th grade just changed to my 4th quarter class on March 27th. We are reviewing topics from last year before moving into the new units. Students are doing great remembering how we do our daily trivia and warm-up conversations all in Spanish. Please ask your child to tell your some fun facts they are learning through our daily cultural trivia and what cool questions & phrases they practice through conversation.

UPDATE FROM MR. MAVES' CLASS

Mr. Maves and Mrs. Stingle

In all areas of life the quest for continuous improvement is critical. This improvement is especially important for all of us as we work to stop doing things that cause us to not succeed and start doing things that will encourage personal success. Anger is one of the key areas in our lives that we work to not use in a destructive way. As a result of staying away from the thinking error of inappropriate anger, we have a better chance at daily success and better relationships.

Thinking Error:

ANGER

This thinking error keeps others away and helps us avoid other unpleasant feelings like shame, sadness, or fear. Rather than focusing on our real feelings or actual actions, the thinking error causes us to focus on the anger and not the real issue at hand. When we throw tantrums, act aggressively,

respond sarcastically, or fly into a rage, we get others to focus on the thinking error, the anger.

Sometimes, we use this thinking error to try and intimidate or threaten others, so we can remain in control. Sometimes this thinking error may go underground. For example; “I don’t get mad, I get even!”

Students of all ages develop skills to be successful in life. Learning the skill of appropriate use of anger is critical to their success.

ART NEWS Mrs. Glynn



I cannot believe that we are already into the fourth quarter!! The middle school students have all been working on various projects so far.

The 6th graders are just completing a group project of a famous painting. Their table had to choose and agree on a famous painting. From there they each had to draw a portion of the painting and make it fit all back together to create one large painting. This turned out awesome!

The 7th and 8th graders just finished up the quarter this past week. I have received all new 7th and 8th graders this last Monday. They will begin working on still-life, then move into clay and finally 1 and 2 point perspective in the weeks to follow.

Have a Great Spring Break!!!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Wehlage, Ms. Vandenberg and Mr. Springstroh

I can’t believe the third quarter is coming to an end. Mr. Springstroh and Ms.

Vandenberg’s 6th grade classes have been working hard playing speedball and running in the cardio room.

The students are learning how to take their heart rate and evaluate their workouts based on a ten point

exertion chart. They enjoy getting in the cardio room and pushing themselves to work harder. Speedball is a combination of soccer and basketball. The objective is to score points by either shooting a three pointer, kicking the ball in the goal, or catching the ball in the end zone. The students are allowed to run with the ball in their hands until they are tagged. Once they are tagged they must pass the ball to an open teammate. If the ball happens to hit the floor the game is then played like soccer. The only way to get the ball back up is to kick the ball up to yourself or a teammate. They enjoy playing and it’s a fun way to get your heart rate up.

The 7th and 8th grade classes are finishing up their climbing wall and volleyball units. Next, we will be starting golf and archery. For both the 7th and 8th grade, the golf unit will be brand new to them. We will be using the field house to practice skills and technique and hopefully it warms up to go outside to practice chipping. The archery unit will also be brand new to the 7th grade class. We will be learning safety and

RATING OF PERCEIVED EXERTION	10	Maximal Exertion Cannot push any harder
	9	Very Hard Activity
	8	Hard Activity Difficulty breathing, unable to speak
	7	Hard Activity Heavy sweating, difficulty speaking
	6	Moderate Activity Moderate sweating, able to speak
	5	Moderate Activity Speaking is easy, light sweating
	4	Light Activity Breaking a sweat, comfortable speaking
	3	Light Activity Comfortable, slight difficulty breathing
	2	Minimum Activity Barest exertion
	1	Resting No exertion

technique when it comes to shooting. Once they understand safety and technique we will be shooting at targets in the dome. The 7th and 8th grade classes continue to work hard with each other as well as individually during class.

COMPUTERS

Mrs. Helmila

In 6th Grade Computers, we just finished Lesson 18 . . . which means all the students have learned/reviewed the entire alphabet on the keyboard. Students also took their third timed test this week (March 20 and 21). Their goal was 25 words per minute with at least 90% accuracy. Twenty-three out of 27 students are at the goal of 25 words per minute. I have seen **AMAZING** progress in each student's keyboarding skills! I have 2 students who have increased their keyboarding speed by 13 – 16 words per minute! I have 3 students who have increased their keyboarding speed by 10 – 12 words per minute! I have 9 students who have increased their keyboarding speed by 6 – 9 words per minute! And, 10 students who have increased their words per minute by 4 – 5 words per minute! **These are amazing results!** There are still two more keyboarding timed tests left . . . so I will see even more increases!

If your child would like to practice keyboarding at home, they can log into EduTyping and work on the lessons we have covered in class. Students should know their username and password for EduTyping. However, if there is a problem logging in, you can always contact me for help. My email address is bhelmila@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

HEALTH

Mr. Springstroh

Here are some of the recent topics we have been discussing in the health classroom. The 6th grade class is currently talking about body systems. We have just finished discussing the skeletal, muscular and nervous systems. We have just recently started discussing the circulatory system. In the 7th grade students have finished talking about drugs, alcohol and tobacco. We are spending the last week of the quarter discussing basic first aid skills and learning CPR. The 8th grade class has just finished discussing growth and development and are currently discussing shaken baby syndrome.

TECH ED

Mr. Rupiper

Students in the 8th grade tech ed are getting the chance to experience some very cool technology we have at Freedom. Students started the quarter using the 3D CAD software Solidworks. They had the opportunity to draw some very simple items that just scratch the surface of the programs capability.

Students also had the opportunity to use our 3D printers which allows them to print the part in 3 dimensions that they drew up in Solidworks. Once this unit was complete the students have been researching simple machines and creating a Rube Goldberg setup. Students have been designing creating and building their own simple machine to Perform a task. All students have shown a great deal of enthusiasm getting to use the cool technology and a wide range of tools in the department.



CHOIR

Mrs. Maves



Music is the greatest way to unify different cultures, different countries, and different people. When your child learns music, he/she is learning a universal language. Your child has the capability to go anywhere in the world, and make music with others. When a group of people learn to make music together, they are also learning how to work together. What greater way to change our world than uniting to create something beautiful in this world. In the process of creating beauty, we also change ourselves. Our heart beat unifies with others in the room. Our breathing also unifies with those in the room. We become united in our purpose. We become vital to a community of value. We become valuable. We become important. We can change the world.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES

Mrs. Langner

As I write this newsletter on March 21, “March Madness” was alive and well in the MS Instrumental Music Department. It started with Solo and Ensemble Festival at Xavier High School on March 4, 2017. FMS had 20 entries at District Solo and Ensemble Festival. I was so proud of our students! Their performances were all awesome and they received many positive comments from the judges.

The Cadet Bands had their recitals on Tuesday, March 14th and Wednesday, March 15th in the band room. The instrumentalists did a wonderful job. Irish Band 8 students performed for the school

board on Monday, March 20th and they all played beautifully.

Composer Darryl Johnson II will be coming to FMS to work with the Irish Band 7 and 8 members on his piece “Zeros and Ones”. On April 27th, Cadet and Irish bands will participate in WSMA Large Group Clinic Festival. Dr. Michael Arau from Lawrence University will be our clinician.

Our Spring Concert is on Monday, May 8th, at 7:00 P.M. in the field house. We are working on the band field trip to the Maritime Museum. Letters will come home when arrangements are complete.

We look forward to seeing you at our Spring Concert. The quote for Music in our Schools Month is “We are all fortunate in that through music we can connect with people on a level that is virtually impossible to reach by any other means...”



EXPLORING MUSIC

Mrs. Seibert

Sixth grade has been putting nontypical instruments together for a rhythm routine. They have made pitched instruments, such as dulcimers, and nonpitched instruments. They are now creating stomp routines and are having fun doing them.

Seventh graders have made their own guitars and have learned what it takes in order to make these instruments. They have focused on the parts of the guitar and have become familiar with every detail.

The eighth grade class has focused on electric guitar. They are learning what it is like to set the amp and plug in a guitar to get a good sound. They have learned to tune the instruments and are now learning what it is like to play as an ensemble. They have to match tone, dynamics, and tone and change pitch at the correct moment. They are quickly finding out that music moves through time and the time has to be the same when playing together.

The middle school musical is on April 7 and 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the lecture hall in the high school. Join these middle school students for a night of fun and laughter as they perform "The Perfect Impossibility."

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Kielpikowski



Hard to believe Spring is here! I look forward to warmer temperatures. I love being outside and can't wait to go hiking!

In 6th grade ACP, the students just finished creating power points about themselves and sharing them with the class. They did a great job! Be sure to ask your son/daughter to share it with you as well. It is something they should be proud of.

In 7th grade ACP, we are just at the start of a new quarter. We have done some getting to know you activities, and will be soon focusing on study skills.

On Thursday, May 25th, there will be a speaker coming to talk to 7th and 8th grade ACP classes from the Sexual Assault Resource Center.

Finally, I have begun my small group counseling groups for spring. I look forward to learning more about the students and helping them through their concerns.

