

Freedom Middle School



FROM THE MIDDLE

Mr. Ken Fisher, Principal

Phone 788-7945

December, 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 3 Freedom Christmas Parade

Dec. 5 MS/HS Winter Band Concert

Dec. 6 Mid-Term 2 Work Completion Day

Dec. 7 Mid-Term 2 Progress Report Cards Home

Dec. 8 Irish Band 7 & 8 to FES for Concert; Jazz Band Concert

Dec. 10 Saturday School

Dec. 12 MS/HS Choir Concert

Dec. 13 MAPSS Meeting

Dec. 19 6th Grade Pentemester 2 Ends; Board Meeting

Dec. 20 6th Grade Pentemester 3 Begins

Dec. 23 Fundraising Mega Party; Early Release

Dec. 26-30 No School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR. FISHER

MIDDLE YEARS/TEEN FOOD & FITNESS

The monthly articles in these two publications are always age appropriate and useful to the middle school students and the entire family. Middle Years talks about some of the daily challenges facing adolescent students related to academic, social, and emotional health. Teen Food & Fitness promotes a healthy lifestyle during

the developmental years in middle school. This publication offers advice on good nutrition and healthy physical activity for the entire family.



FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

The numbers are in and the profit from the annual fundraising effort is \$11,346.00! The money raised is placed in the Middle School Student Activity Account and used to support activities and opportunities for our students. The efforts from our students/staff and the support of our parents and local community is amazing! Enhancing the educational opportunities for our students will always be high on our priority list and I am so grateful to all that helped with this important effort! Special thanks to Debbie Reiter for the extra time and effort in organization, implementation, and processing; her attention to detail and outstanding work ethic are second to none!

I do understand that parents/guardians and possibly older siblings help to deliver the product after it is picked up from FMS; thanks to all that were involved in this annual fundraiser!

MUSIC IN THE MIDDLE

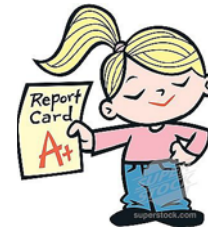
The month of December presents two excellent opportunities to enjoy the sounds of Holiday music that will no doubt put you in the Christmas spirit! The Middle School band will present their winter concert on Monday, December 5, 2016; this concert will be held in the field house beginning promptly at 7:00pm! The Middle School choir will present their winter concert on Monday, December 12, 2016; this concert will be held in the field house beginning promptly at 7:00pm! The middle school music department and our students are excited to share their talent with you; please mark these dates on your busy holiday calendar.



MID QUARTER PROGRESS REPORTS

Mid quarter progress reports for the 2nd quarter will go home in the weekly envelopes on Wednesday, December 7, 2016. Parents please take the time to sit down with your child and review this important report. Responding to your child's progress is an important step in helping them achieve at a high level. Students need recognition for a job well done and encouragement when things are not going so well. Please take the time to

make this a meaningful experience with your child. The progress report will provide a current grade average for each class. Details regarding individual assignments can be accessed on the skyward student management system. You can access Skyward by logging in on the district website, click on family and student access – online grading. The district website can be found at www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us



SATURDAY SCHOOL AT FMS

The next Saturday School will be held at Freedom High School Library on Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 8:00am-10:00am. Saturday School was developed and implemented to address chronic late and missing work. Students at FMS are held to high standards and the rigor of middle level education is certainly challenging for our young adolescents! Saturday school is a 2 hour study session devoted to helping students catch up on missing work and acquire the organizational and study skills needed to succeed in middle school. The staff here at FMS understands that we have 3 years to prepare our students to be successful in high school and we embrace the challenge! The next Work Completion Day is Tuesday, December 6, 2016. This means that all work must be completed and turned in to the teacher by the end of guided study on that day or students will be added to the Saturday School list.

Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend the Saturday School session to assist students with their work. If you have any questions

regarding Saturday School or your child's progress, please contact me anytime.

CHAPERONE OPPORTUNITY

We need chaperones for the fund raiser Big Blast Party on Friday, December 23, 2016 at the following times: Grade 6 (8:00-9:15), Grade 7 (9:25-10:40), Grade 8 (11:15-12:30). Chaperoning a middle school event is an opportunity for you to support the activities that involve your children; you are making an important connection and we do appreciate the support! If you are interested in helping us out, please call the MS office at 788-7945!

ATTENDANCE AND SUCCESS

Regular school attendance is not only the law in Wisconsin; it's a prerequisite to succeeding in school. When I first arrived at Freedom in 1999 I conducted a study and compared academic performance to regular school attendance. I found that there was a strong correlation between good attendance and good grades. The opposite was also true that a strong correlation existed between poor attendance and failing grades. I encourage parents to be tough on your children regarding their attendance at school because it matters in the end regarding their academic success. Excessive vacation days, appointments when school is in session and allowing kids to stay home because they "don't really feel very good" may lead to academic struggles. Students that have a fever or a contagious virus should of course stay home and get well before returning to school. Please talk to your child about the importance of regular school attendance and make every effort to have them here at school on a regular basis! If attendance becomes a concern, I will be contacting parents to discuss necessary action to improve daily attendance.

OVER-PROTECTIVE PARENTING – IMPACT ON YOUR CHILD

You may have heard the term "Helicopter Parent" but didn't really understand the implications it may have on impeding the development of your adolescent child. A parent/guardian's first instinct is to protect their child and at times it may be hard for an adult to differentiate between protective and enabling behavior. I know that all parents/guardians want the best for their children and that is precisely why I included the article titled: How to Stop Worrying and Avoid Helicopter Parenting: Don't Do These 6 Things, By: Debbie Pincus <http://goo.gl/Mj1J78>

WINTER RECESS OUTDOORS

I would like to remind parents that middle school students will be outside during the winter months for recess. Students are expected to dress appropriately based on their level of activity while outside. Hats, gloves, and possibly boots would be appropriate wear for the Wisconsin winter that is just around the corner! Now that the temperature has dipped below 30 degrees I still see middle school students walking in the front lobby entrance in the morning without a jacket, this will not work if they expect to spend time outdoors during noon recess. Parents are asked to be aware of what your children are wearing before the leave for school in the morning; please make sure it is appropriate for the weather conditions.



RIVER OF HOPE FUND DRIVE

The Freedom Area School District is participating in the 11th annual River of Hope drive for UW American Family Children's Hospital in Madison and the HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital in Green Bay. This fund raising effort is in memory of Riviera Lynne Konen; Mason, Hunter, and Sawyer Wiese's Cousin. Please see the attached memo with specific details regarding how you can support this worthy cause!

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mr. Fellingner

We are currently studying Egypt! It is full of many interesting feats of engineering such as the great pyramids of Giza, and irrigation canals. The Egyptians had a unique form of writing called hieroglyphics which used many forms of symbols and pictures to tell stories. The students will be presenting their Egyptian projects after Thanksgiving. We look forward to the presentations and what they will teach us! Whether it is the process of mummification or the secrets of the pyramids, we will soon find out!

6TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ARTS

Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Wruck



Greetings! We'd like to inform you about Word Investigation in 6th Grade. Word Investigation consists of learning the meaning and spelling of words by knowing word parts. Your son or daughter completed several activities in November for this.

Students practiced using context (the sentences surrounding an unknown word) to solve the meaning of an unknown word. They studied key vocabulary in our Shared Read, Escaping the Giant Wave. They studied 6 Greek and Latin roots and applied their knowledge to solve the meaning of new words containing these roots.

Exciting news! ELA students started their Book Clubs with Escaping the Giant Wave. It is in Book Clubs that effective collaborative conversation needs to be taking place. Students learned what this should look like and practiced collaborative discussion to prepare for this moment. You can help your child by making sure he/she does the assigned reading and tracks his or her thinking in the Thought Log. This will be something we will continue using throughout the year with several different texts. Sharing thoughts through effective discussion increases comprehension.

We sincerely thank you for encouraging your son or daughter to read at least 20 minutes each night. We assessed their Reading Logs at the end of Quarter 1. The students should be keeping track of each and every book they read. This is a valuable tool to help them reflect on books and authors they like or don't like in order to get them into books they can enjoy! We will continue to do checks on these logs throughout the year.



6TH GRADE MATH

Mr. Reed



In 6th grade math we are putting the finishing touches on our 3rd unit of the school year that dealt with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and decimals. Next, the students will be using the area concepts they learned in Unit 2, along with their knowledge of decimals and fractions, to find the surface area of 3 dimensional shapes like prisms and pyramids. In the past Unit 4 has been one of the more challenging units in the 6th grade curriculum. It is relatively short, but the idea of picturing a 3-dimensional shape and all of the sides that exist on that shape (even though some are not directly visible) can be difficult for some students. Therefore, we will take our time and review frequently during this unit.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Runyon



In 6th grade science we have continued our study matter. We all really enjoyed examining some of the unique physical properties of dry ice as well as a variety of hands on labs. The students built atom models that illustrated the atomic structure of basic common elements. Additionally, the students have begun to study the periodic table and basic chemical reactions.

As we move forward over the next month we will look at different types of chemical

reactions and the evidence a reaction has occurred. Additionally, we will examine some practical ways these reactions influence the world we live in and how material science continues to change in our ever changing world.

7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Juelich and Mrs. Lingnofski

In the language half of the block, students have just finished up the Burmese Python informative essay. Students will revisit this piece in January when they tackle a new topic, baseball great and Civil Rights activist, Jackie Robinson, more independently. We will be using the majority of December on a grammar/usage unit that begins with a short review of subject and predicate. These two concepts will be key as the remainder of the unit covers active and passive voice, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and sentence combining. The concepts covered in this unit will be critical to our writing throughout the duration of the year. This unit will culminate with our third of four benchmark tests. Students need to earn a 75% on the test in order to not require a retake. Students will be immersed in two days of review in class prior to the test. On the second benchmark test on coordinate adjectives back in early November, all students earned above the necessary cut-off and no retakes were needed. We hope to see this again with the next test.

Just before our holiday break, students will be writing a Christmas anthology. The main piece of this is a compare/contrast essay. Part of the planning of this essay will require students to interview a parent or grandparent about how s/he celebrated the Christmas holiday in their youth. Please look for this interview during the first full week of

December. Students will have one week to have the interview completed. It is imperative that students are interviewing the family member and writing on their own- not just giving the sheet to the family member to write down the answers.

In the literature half of the block, students should continue to work on reading their chosen AR book 20 minutes daily outside of class to help them in meeting the Dec. 22 AR deadline. Students are encouraged to take notes while they read. If they need help with this task, they should see their ELA teacher.

In class, we will be wrapping up some selections out of the pilot textbook: Collections. After that we will jump into our second class novel: Mildred Taylor's Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. This book's plot centers upon the plight of African Americans living in the South in the 1930s. We will start with some preliminary background activity before we start reading. Some chapters will be read aloud to students while students will be responsible for reading some on their own. Time will be provided in class for the reading.

7TH GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

Mr. Atwater



We are taking a deep look into the nucleus of the cells regarding how the cells divide (mitosis and meiosis). From there, we are going to investigate how DNA and RNA replicate as well as how proteins are assembled using DNA and RNA. We will be moving into a genetics unit after that.

Just a heads up as time progresses. First quarter is generally the best for not having missing assignments and completing the agenda books on a daily basis. Don't forget to keep checking the agenda books and Skyward making sure that all homework gets done and handed in when they are due.

Wisconsin Bird of the Month: The Pine Siskin. This bird often shows up in the winter months at bird feeders. It usually is found in mixed flocks with Goldfinches. They look like a cross between a House Finch and a Goldfinch. Look for a dainty bill, striped belly and yellow in the wing and outer tail feathers.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mr. LeBrun

It's a very busy time of year in 7th grade history class. This month students have been busy researching and writing their paper for National History Day. The due date for the research paper is Dec. 12th. Soon after the research paper is done students will start working on the exhibit. Also this month students are learning about early settlements like Jamestown and Plymouth as well as the founding of the original 13 colonies. Students will be learning how religious differences were a big reason for the area on the East coast dividing into 13 small colonies. The geography Bee will also take place before the Christmas break as well. Look for the results in January's news letter.



7TH GRADE MATH

Mrs. Runyon

We have just finished Chapter 3 on Integers. I have been so impressed on how well the students did on this chapter. I could tell that many students went home and studied the rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing negative and positive numbers. Students are reminded not to simply forget these rules, because we they will be using them throughout the rest of the year and for their next 5 years of school.



We began Chapter 4 Rational Numbers in the beginning of December. In this chapter, your student will learn how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions. Also, we will be writing fractions as decimals and decimals as fractions. In this chapter students will be expected to now use the rules they learned in Chapter 3 throughout Chapter 4.



Pre-Algebra

Students have been working through chapter 4 on "Power and Roots". This is a difficult chapter, and the students were determined to have a deep understanding of these concepts. This also finished our first unit on "Rational Numbers and Exponents".

Unit 2 is "Proportionality and Linear Relationships". Chapter 5 will focus specifically on ratios, proportions, and similar figures. If your child is struggling please remind them to see me during guided study on either Tuesday or Thursday for additional help.



Below are pictures of students attempting to solve a "Traffic Jam." They tried to see which group could move the traffic along the route following specific rules in the least amount of moves.

8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Fogarty and Mr. VanRossum

We have reached the point in the year when time seems to fly by. Students have just finished reading the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. This novel tied into our non-fiction and current events topic of bullying.

Students have been writing and reflecting extensively on the topic of bullying.

Currently, students have begun a newspaper unit. They start by learning the vocabulary that encompasses a newspaper. We also go over the layout of the paper. Students have completed a scavenger hunt to locate terms and are reading to gain further information and analyze articles. We will continue to utilize newspapers to broaden their current events and non-fiction reading and writing.

At the end of the unit, students will write their own news story article about our bullying unit using the techniques they learned about.

On a different note, please encourage your child to read each night! By reading twenty minutes a day, literacy skills increase, as well as future outcomes. Studies show that students who score highest on standardized tests are those who read regularly.

As a reward and wrap to the year, we would like to provide a café style atmosphere for the students to read on Thursday, December 22, 2016. We are looking for donations of hot cocoa, mini marshmallows, spray whipped cream, candy canes, sprinkles, or apple cider. If you would be so kind as to donate something for this event, we would appreciate it. Please send any donations with your student to school by December 16, 2016. We appreciate anything you can provide, and we will supplement the rest.

We truly hope you find time to relax during this holiday season. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns.

8th GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Bins



Over the four 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 rocks and minerals. Here we learned about the role rocks and minerals play in our lives. We also dug into the classification of these items and the importance of classification in science.

As we enter our next unit, we will discuss plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Although we do not deal with these items in Freedom, Wisconsin - the concepts learned here are earth-shaking.

I am looking forward to seeing what the six 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 holiday season is almost upon us! The Math 8 students have recently finished Chapter 8 on volume and surface area of 3-dimensional figures. Students did very well learning multiple formulas at once, and they had an ample amount of practice using certain keys on their calculators, which will greatly benefit them in high school.

Students in Algebra are wrapping up Chapter 4 on linear equations and are ready for Chapter 5 on linear inequalities, their last chapter before break. Students will also be completing a project involving equations of lines where they have to draw a picture on a coordinate plane using only straight lines, which they will then have to write the equations for. These pictures will hopefully be some nice decorations for my room as we near the holiday season! The students have done a wonderful job making sure to get a deep understanding of this material, which is very important as these skills will be the foundation of many high school courses. As we dive deeper into this material, students are reminded to utilize all of their resources available to them. Of course I am always open to questions and extra help, but I am continuing to encourage the students to make sure they are using their notes from class to refer back to and study from. As always, please continue to contact me with any questions or concerns. I enjoyed working with you and your students these first few months and am excited for what is yet to come! I wish you all a very happy holiday season!

SPANISH

Mrs. Drammeh

We've been learning so much and having a lot of fun while doing so en la clase de español!

6th grade has finished units on basic conversation, colors, numbers, alphabet, calendar, and is working on a school unit. Our last day will be December 19th, when the pentemester ends. 7th and 8th grade just switched at the quarter and have both been in the review stages before we get into the new content. I am lucky to have these two grades until the end of the quarter on January 19th. Feliz Diciembre!

UPDATE FROM MR. MAVE'S CLASS

Mr. Maves and Mrs. Stingle

Students exhibited continuous progress toward stronger social skills and academic skills. This continuous progress is the result of each student beginning to understand they are in control of their thinking. In addition, they are starting to understand they are 100% responsible for their choice of actions. As a result, when they make responsible choices in social behaviors and academic behaviors, positive consequences occur. When they make irresponsible choices the consequences are negative.

The students further learn to understand that all choices start with thought and then move to words, actions, and so on. They use the following writing to help remember this important sequence:

Watch your thoughts,
They become words;
Watch your words,
They become actions;
Watch your actions,
They become habits;

Watch your habits,
They become character;
Watch your character,
For it becomes your destiny.

Author Unknown

Mrs. Stingle and I work every day to help our students be their best and do their best so their destinies may be brighter.

ART NEWS

Mrs. Glynn



WOW!!! I can't believe that it is December already! The students have all been working so hard on their art projects. Here are some of the projects we have been working on.

The 6th graders have been working on still life. They've been practicing overlapping, shading techniques, and value. These are ways to help make objects appear 3D on a 2D surface. They did an excellent job on this project. We then moved onto working with clay. They learned about what will make clay "explode" in the kilns (wet clay, too thick, air pockets, etc.) to name a few. They also learned what score and slip is..... scoring is the marks you put on clay and slip is the clay's glue. Right now we are working on comics by creating our own characters. We will be getting into 1 point perspective and complementary colors.

The 7th graders are new. We just began working in clay. They learned what scoring and slipping is along with what makes the clay explode in the kiln. They are making realistic food plus a free time project of their choice. We will begin soon working on still life. After that we will journey on into 1

point and 2 point perspective, contour line drawings and make believe paintings.

The 8th graders are new as well. We just began working in clay. They had to make a container plus a free time project. They also reviewed all the clay techniques. They learned the difference between a coil container and a slab container. We will begin later this week working on still life. The next few projects will be 2 point and 3 point perspective and a painting on canvas board.

All classes must work in their sketchbooks on a drawing for the week. Please feel free to stop in and see what the students are working on at anytime.

P.S. DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THE ART CLUB/NATIONAL JUNIOR ART HONOR SOCIETY WILL BE SELLING HANDMADE GIFTS. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO ADOPT-A-FAMILY HERE IN THE FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT. THIS IS A PROGRAM THAT HELPS OUT FAMILIES WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Wehlage, Ms. Vandenberg and Mr. Springstroh

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students started the new quarter off playing either nitroball or badminton. Ms. Vandenberg's and Mr. Springstroh's classes are playing nitroball; while Mrs. Wehlage's classes are playing badminton. All the classes get very competitive when playing both of these games. There is a lot of cheering on teammates and long rallies. A favorite game to play in badminton is, "King of the court." Each game is played for three minutes and at

the end of the game you either move up a court or down a court. The goal is to make it to the “King” court. Nitroball is a new to our curriculum. The students picked it up fast and enjoy playing. It’s played on a volleyball court, but with a lower net. Before the students can pass, set, or hit the ball they must let it bounce. They get three tries to get it over the net. If the ball bounces twice, goes in the net, or out of bounds the other team gets the point. We will wrap these units up the week of Thanksgiving and start new units when they get back from break.

COMPUTERS

Mrs. Helmila

In 6th Grade Computers, we have completed Lessons 1 through 11 in EduTyping (our online keyboarding program). Students have learned the following keys so far:

- Home row (A, S, D, F, J, K, L, ;)
- H and E
- I and R
- O and T
- N and G
- Left Shift and Period
- U and C
- W and Right Shift

The students also received their first homework assignment last weekend (November 11). The purpose of homework assignments is to help prepare students for their timed tests on Mondays. Homework assignments are given on Fridays and are due the following Monday. The students took their first timed test this past Monday (November 14). The goal was 20 words per minute with at least 90% accuracy. If the students did not achieve the goal, they did get an opportunity to retake the test this past Tuesday (November 15).

The students will receive their second homework assignment this Friday (November 18). The homework assignment is due on Monday (November 21). The students will also take their second timed test on Monday (November 21). The goal for this timed test is 23 words per minute with at least 90% accuracy.

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. In the 6th grade class we are about to finish working on the skeletal system. In the 7th grade, we are talking about medicine and illegal drugs. The 8th grade class is currently on the topic of mental health. We are discussing the affects of mental illness and the characteristics of people who suffer from these diseases.

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 of 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.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Mr. Rusch and Mrs. Seibert

The 7th grade programmers are adding new concepts and skills to their programming knowledge. The core ideas for late November and December are parallelism, reset and sprite events. Parallelism features a sprite doing two or more things at once, and developing good reset understanding has been a big relief to many of the programmers, it's nice when things can start over the same way every time. Sprite events allow our sprites to communicate with each other and signal when the next sprite should start. We will practice these three concepts in a variety of ways during the month. We wrote a short skit, we put together a band and made some noise, and there will be some entertaining stories and party invitations coming soon.

INTRO TO AGRICULTURE

Mr. Larson

As we get going with Quarter number two, we start our discussion about agriculture in Wisconsin. Agriculture is the number one industry in Wisconsin, generating \$88.3 billion in economic activity for Wisconsin. Agriculture offers over 300 career options for students to consider as they prepare for life after high school and post secondary education. Careers include everything from animal and plant sciences, food science, natural resources and the green industry careers just to name a few. Often people think of agriculture as farming, while that is certainly an important part of the make-up of agriculture, it is only about two percent of all the career options. The 7th grade Introduction to Agriculture class is designed to provide experiences for students in many of the areas of agriculture. The course looks at agricultural careers, commodities, plant science, seed lab, animals, wildlife and natural resources. Students will work individually or in groups on various projects and conduct several labs related to agriculture. Looking ahead to the future, Wisconsin will be short over 132,000 employees by the year 2020, so agriculture will provide a lot of opportunities for students as potential careers.

CHOIR

Mrs. Maves



Choir concert is Monday, December 12 at 7PM in the field house. We are working hard to help you get into the Season! Middle School boys will need black pants, black socks and shoes, and a white shirt with a tie. Girls will wear black bottoms, white top with a "pop" of red. (hair tie, ribbon,

scarf, pin, socks, bracelets, necklace, etc.) If girls are wearing a dress or skirt, please wear black leggings with it (unless it is very long). Please, no bare legs. As always, no cleavage, cracks, jeans, phones, electronics, or tennis shoes on the “stage”.

This year, we are having a bake sale and silent auction to raise money for the high school trip to Nashville! If you are like me and like to have different types of cookies and candies for the season, here is an opportunity to acquire home-made goodies to make it look like you have been spending a lot of time in the kitchen making Christmas cookies and candies... (I won't tell ;) The silent auction has some great Christmas gifts available.

As in past years, I will be having the group yearbook pictures taken before the concert. Therefore, times for arrival will be staggered according to grade level. Please arrive 10 minutes before your appointed time. I could really use parental help to keep students from running around when they are not on stage. I will have a designated “holding area” in the field house for those children not in the picture taking process, look for grade level signs.

8th grade 5:55PM
7th grade 6:05PM
6th grade 6:15PM

Thank you for your help and support. We couldn't do this without you!



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES

Mrs. Langner



It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving will be here shortly and Christmas is right around the corner. As I write this letter on November 14, FMS bands are working hard to prepare for the Winter Concert. Hopefully, many of you will have the opportunity to attend our concert on Monday, December 5, at 7:00 P.M. in the field house.

I want to **THANK** everyone who helped to make the Veterans' Day Program the great success it was. Staff and students, your hard work and efforts are truly appreciated! The program was wonderful.

Congratulations to: Jadyn Feucht, Ryan Retzlaff, and Nicholas Piepenburg on their excellent performance with the St. Norbert Middle Level Honors Band on Saturday, November 5. These students had the opportunity to work with clinician Mr. Evan Marlowe. The concert was awesome!

This month's musical quote is: **“To me outside of human love, music is the most beautiful thing on the planet ... there's nothing like it.”** Ron Cohen

The Instrumental Music Department hopes to see you on December 5, at 7:00 P.M. in the field house for our Winter Concert. Wishing you a blessed and safe Holiday Season!

EXPLORING MUSIC

Mrs. Seibert

Exploring Music classes are combining technology and studying guitar. We have a Google docs classroom set up for practicing. The students can practice from anywhere they have computer hookup and a guitar. Some students have started taking guitars home to do this.

The Music and Drama class has learned about stage terms and has gone through the first read-through of famous speeches. The students have critiqued each other and the class will, therefore, be putting the critiquing process into application. They will perform the speeches one more time with the suggested changes. American music will be studied and used for these classroom performances. They now have their names the classroom electric guitars and some of them have started checking them out to practice at home.

Congratulations to those middle school students involved in "The Wiz." The musical was a success! Good job to all!

Please look for a tryout notice after Christmas for the middle school musical.

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Kielpikowski



I hope everyone has had a wonderful fall! As I write this, colder temperatures are just around the corner. I enjoy aspects of all seasons, but not looking forward to the frigid temperatures.

I have just begun getting my small group counseling groups together. It is a great

opportunity for students who have similar concerns to be able to talk about it with their peers. Often peers have valuable insight and help with problem solving.

In my second semester of ACP, they are just beginning their career unit. The students have begun using a career website called www.careercruising.com. They are looking at their interests and matching them to potential careers. They have also researched careers of interest to learn more about them. One new thing we are doing this year is inviting parents in for a career conference with your son/daughter. When they have finished this portion of the class, I will be contacting you with further information.

Second quarter 7th grade ACP is just under way. I have a great group of 7th graders. We are working on a study skills unit currently. They are assessing where they are at academically and looking at what they can improve on. We will then move on to a career unit where they will learn more about themselves and some careers that match their interests. We will be using the website www.careercruising.com.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and upcoming Christmas season! Wishing you peace and happiness as we wind down 2016!

