

# IRISH PRIDE PRESS



January 2016 Newsletter

## Principal's Corner

Happy New Year! I want to wish all of our families a happy, healthy, and productive 2016. In January, many of our students will be taking mid-year reading assessments, STAR and PALs (4K-2). Please continue to encourage your child(ren) to read at home. The more children read the better they become at reading.

This is also the time of year when many of us make our new year resolutions. In 2016, I will continue to lead Freedom Elementary School in being an outstanding educational environment for learning. Research shows that we need a strong partnership between home and school. Thus, we are asking parents to try to make the following part of their New Year's resolution:

1. To make education a priority by ensuring their child attends.
2. To attend at least three school activities per year.
3. To spend at least 15 minutes per day helping your child with home-work, reading, doing an enrichment activity or physical activity.

I encourage you to be involved in any way you can. The relationship between families and school is vital to our children. It will make a lasting difference.

## Welcome New Guidance Counselor



Ms. Nikki Hauser has been hired as the new full-time Elementary Guidance Counselor starting January 11, 2016. She lives in Kaukauna and grew up in the Fox Valley. Ms. Hauser attended UW-Green Bay and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development/Psychology. She then went on to earn her Master of Arts in Counseling from Lakeland College. She has worked as an Elementary School Counselor for the last 3 1/2 years in Gillett, WI. She enjoys spending time with her boyfriend and dog Riley, hunting, snowmobiling, reading and going on walks. She looks forward to meeting and working with all of students, parents, and teachers. Mrs. Kielpikowski will be transferring to Freedom Middle School and working two afternoons a week at the Elementary School starting just before the end of first semester.

## 4Kindergarten & Kindergarten

4Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration is scheduled for Friday, January 29, 2016 and Friday, March 4, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the school lobby. Information letters will be sent home to all families with pre-school age children, for the 2016-17 school year, prior to this registration date.

### Important dates:

- Jan. 1  
No School
- Jan. 4  
Classes resume
- Jan. 22  
No School  
Records Day
- Jan. 29  
4K & Kind.  
Registration  
8:00-3:00
- Dec. 21-Jan. 4  
Paper Recycling
- Plastic Bag  
Recycling  
Nov. 13-April 15

Continue to save  
**Box Tops for  
Education**

We are a NUT  
FREE School.  
**No** Homemade  
or Store Bought  
Baked Goods.



## Fang's Reading Club

Time is nearing for the start of Fang's Reading Club! It is an eight week incentive reading program for students in grades 4K-Gr. 5. Prizes are awarded every two weeks to the students who attain their reading goals. At the end of the program students who have achieved all of their reading goals and scored a home run have the opportunity to attend the Freedom Family Night, at the Fox Cities Stadium, on Friday, May 20, 2016.

Students who achieved their reading goals receive a free ticket to the game. Other immediate family members are able to attend the game by purchasing a ticket. More information will be sent home with your child in January. We will not be taking requests for group seats.

*Mrs. DeGroot, Coordinator*



## Battle of the Books

*The Battle of the Books* school-wide competition will be held on **February 2nd** and with the busy holiday season upon us, that's just around the corner. There is a voluntary book study session after school on Monday January 11th. Mrs. Ryan has been quizzing many eager Grade 4 and 5 Battle competitors during the afternoon and lunch recesses. Parents, please encourage your students to keep reading and to stop down in room 212 during recess, to get geared up for the February competition. The students are working hard on memorizing characters, events and authors for each of the 15 chapter books and five picture books.

Remember that the format of the test in February will require that students identify the correct book title and author after students are given a clue with specific character, setting, or plot descriptions. All **Battle of the Books** students must be present on **February 2nd** in order to compete in the school-wide competition, so mark your calendars! There is no makeup date. The team that will represent Freedom Elementary will compete in an online, statewide competition during the week of February 22nd. Freedom Elementary has had a terrific showing the past several years and we certainly want to continue the tradition! Happy reading!

*Mrs. Ryan, Battle of the Books Advisor*



## School Closing

School closing information is located in your School Handbook, pages 7 & 8. A call-out Alert will go out to all families. Listen to the television stations and radio stations for updated information. **Please do not call the school office.**

## Dress for the Weather

Dress for the weather! Students will be outside when the weather is zero or above with the wind chill. Students need to have coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, and snow pants. Just a reminder, students need boots to leave the blacktop when it's wet or snowy. It is a good idea to label your child's clothing. We have many "lost and found" items in our containers by the cafeteria. Stop in and look through them for lost articles.

## Bus Routes

We have 725 children at Freedom Elementary and are requesting that all children be sent with notes if there is a change in their drop off site. You will also need to call **Lamers Bus Company** if your child is taking a different bus, at **920-687-2671**, press 2 for bus services.

If you forgot your note, please call the office **before 2:00 p.m.** at 920-788-7950 or children will be sent home to their regular drop off site.

# PAC (Parent Activity Committee) News

The Holiday Shop was a success again! The kids couldn't wait to get into the shop after school and again on Saturday morning. PAC is very thankful for our volunteers from National Honor Society, National Art Society and Girl Scouts for helping the children pick out gifts, work within their budget and wrap the gifts. We had about \$2800 in sales. This is not a fundraiser, just a fun activity for the kids. We hope everyone had a great time and enjoys the "gifts" they receive.

Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Presteen, Mrs. Culotta and Mrs. DeGroot (Tue/Thur) classes had the highest sales of cookie dough and received pizza parties.

We are doing an amazing job with the **Plastic Bag Recycling** effort. For November we collected 135.7 pounds!! The school that collects the most plastic will receive a bench, though all schools that participate receive an item made from recycled plastic. You can continue to drop off clean bags in the bins by the front office until April 15, 2016. Good Job Freedom Elementary!

We are having a **Paper Recycling Drive** from **Monday, December 21- Monday, January 4**. The dumpster will be in the front parking lot. Please do not put in wrapping paper!

Mark your calendars! The Sock Hop is scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2016. Family Fun Night Carnival is scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2016. The Brain Bowl will occur the first part of February. Watch for more information to come.

"Like" us on **Facebook at Freedom Elementary P.A.C. (Parents Activity Committee)** or subscribe to our posts on the web at **freedompac.org**.

Our January meeting is set for **Monday, January 18**, Room 22 (Art room), 6:00 p.m. Free babysitting is provided by the Freedom High School National Honor Society. Please come join us!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Erin Lenhardt at 920-851-3266 or aelenhardt@gmail.com



## Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home with students on Wednesday, January 27. If there are any concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

## Student Council Food Drive

The Freedom Elementary Student Council sponsored a food drive benefitting the Freedom Food Pantry during the week of December 7th. Students and staff were asked to bring in canned goods and personal hygiene items to school. Mrs. Braun's second grade and Ms. Kurkiewicz's first grade classes helped organize and box up the donated items to be taken to the high school. Mr. Champeau and a group of high school students picked up the items and took them to the food pantry. This year 702 pounds of food was collected, up from 391 pounds last year.

The Freedom Elementary School Student Council and advisors would like to thank the families who donated items to make this event so successful. We appreciate all you do to make FES a great place to be!

## Winter Reading Program

The Kimberly-Little Chute Library will be offering an all-ages winter reading program in January. This will be a fun BINGO-style program where patrons read and do other literacy activities to complete a BINGO row and earn a prize. We will have fun weekly prizes and chances to earn grand prizes. The theme is "A Minion Reasons to Read." Sign up starts December 28.



### Bike Winner

We would love to share some happy news with you. Kindergartener, Jack Pelkin, won a new bike from a coloring contest. Instead of keeping the bike, he decided to donate it to a classmate who didn't have a bike of his own. Way to go Jack!