

IRISH PRIDE PRESS



2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2017 Newsletter

View newsletters at www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us

Important dates:

- Jan. 2
Classes resume
- Jan. 20
No School
Records Day
- Jan. 27
4K & Kind.
Registration
8:00-3:00
- Dec. 19-Jan. 2
Paper Recycling
- Plastic Bag
Recycling
Nov. 15-April 15

Continue to save
**Box Tops for
Education**

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



Principal's Corner

Happy New Year! I want to wish all of our families a happy, healthy, and productive 2017. 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 2017, we will continue to make Freedom Elementary School 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 homework, 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.

We are looking for Substitute Playground Supervisors and Substitute Aide positions.

Please contact the office if you are interested.

4Kindergarten & Kindergarten

4Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2017 and Friday, March 3, 2017 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 2017-18 school year, prior to this registration date.



Bike Winner

Congratulations to Zayda Byers, one of our first grade students, who won a new bike from a coloring contest.

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 19, 2017.

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 Tuesday, February 7, 2017 and with the busy holiday season upon us, that's just around the corner. I have been quizzing many eager fourth and fifth grade *Battle* competitors after school at our meetings. I will continue holding meetings on **Tuesdays** after school until the battle, and may add a Thursday for those students that feel they need more time with me since I am not available during the lunch hour to work with students. If students would like to stay on Thursday as a group to work with me as a group, they may do so, but they must have signed parent permission to stay. (This should have been communicated in the calendar that was sent home before break.) Parents, please encourage your students to keep reading, to share their books with you, and to stop in to Room 212 to get geared up for the February competition. The students are working hard memorizing titles, authors, characters, and events for each of the 15 novels and the 5 picture books.

As I have told the students, the format of the test in February will require that students accurately identify the correct book title and author after students are given a clue with the specific character, setting, or plot descriptions. They must give the complete title and author's complete name in order to get credit for the answer. All *Battle of the Books* members must be present on **February 7, 2017** in order to compete in the school-wide competition, so mark your calendars! There is no make-up date. The Battle of the Books team that will represent Freedom Elementary will compete in an online, state-wide competition during the last week in February 2017. Freedom Elementary has had a terrific showing the past several years and we have so many great, enthusiastic teams this year! We certainly want to continue this tradition and we look forward to February! Happy reading!



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 700 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

Mrs. DeGroot (Tue/Thur) 4K class, Mrs. Williams' 1st grade, and Mrs. Van Handel's 1st grade classes had the highest sales of cookie dough and received pizza parties.

We are doing an amazing job with the **Plastic Bag Recycling** effort. 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, 2017. Good Job Freedom Elementary!

We are having a **Paper Recycling Drive** from **Monday, December 19- Monday, January 2**. 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 3, 2017. Family Fun Night Carnival is scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2017. The Brain Bowl will occur the end of January and the first part of February. Watch for more information to come.

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

Our January meeting is set for **Monday, January 16**, 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 25. If there are any concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Student Council Food and Sock Drive

The Freedom Elementary Student Council sponsored a food and sock drive benefitting the Freedom Food Pantry and local charities during the week of December 12th. Students and staff were asked to bring in canned goods, personal hygiene items and socks to school. Ms. Schmidt's third grade, 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. The socks will be donated to a homeless shelter in the Fox Cities.

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!



Freedom Elementary Students and Staff collected food for the Freedom Food Pantry and socks that will be donated to the Homeless Connections. Thank you to everyone who donated items.