

# Freedom Middle School



## FROM THE MIDDLE

Mr. Ken Fisher, Principal

Phone 788-7945

March, 2017

### IMPORTANT DATES

**March 4 Solo-Ensemble Festival**  
**March 7 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Expo fieldtrip**  
**March 13 MAPSS meeting**  
**March 14 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter work completion day**  
**March 14 – 31 On line registration for summer school**  
**March 14-15 Cadet band recital**  
**March 18 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Saturday school**  
**March 20 School Board meeting**  
**Forward Exam window opens**  
**March 22 7<sup>th</sup> grade Career Day**  
**March 23 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ends**  
**March 24 No school/staff in-service**  
**March 29 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 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. You will be able to shop together as a family to satisfy an adolescent appetite in a healthy manner and plan family fitness activities during the cold winter months!

Healthy  
Living

### WISCONSIN FORWARD EXAM

The new online assessment for the state will be aligned to the common core state standards and will assess our students on their knowledge and application of these standards. The FASD Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator; Jill Mussett has been attending meetings and sharing test details with our district staff. Middle school parents will be receiving a brochure that will provide an overview of this new assessment; please look for that information in the weekly envelope. As soon as we know the exact test dates, we will share those as well so that you can make sure your child is in school on test days! I have included a document that will give you an idea of the estimated test times. This is actually an untimed test but this will give you an idea of

how long each assessment will take to complete. Some of the longer test sessions will be broken down into smaller test sessions so that students don't fatigue and lose interest. The new company hired by the state has committed to a 6 year contract so this will give school districts a chance to look at longitudinal data through the test session ending 2022!

### **HELP YOUR TEEN WITH HEALTHY TECHNOLOGY USAGE**

Technology is a major influence in the lives of our middle school students and as you may know, technology can be potentially helpful or harmful depending on how it is used. I spend time researching best practice in teaching strategies as well as best practice in the use of technology. An article that I recently read; [Five Tips for Helping Teens Manage Technology](#) provided some of the best advice I have ever read for parents that want to help their kids navigate the tumultuous waters of technology and social media. I have included a hard copy of the article in this newsletter or you can simply follow this link;

[http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/five\\_tips\\_for\\_helping\\_teen\\_manage\\_technology](http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/five_tips_for_helping_teen_manage_technology)

### **SCOPIE NIGHT AT CULVERS**

MAPSS (Middle School Association for Parents, Students, and Staff) is sponsoring Scoopie Night at Culvers in Little Chute on **Monday, April 3, 2017 from 5:00pm-8:00pm**. FMS staff members and middle school parent volunteers will be serving meals to Culver's customers. This is a fundraiser for MAPSS and they will receive 10% of the profit during the three hour event. Please join us for a great meal or as a parent volunteer!

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE CAREER DAY**

On Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in a Career Day experience designed to expose them to many different career options. Speakers will meet our students in small groups and share information about their career. If you as a parent/guardian would like to be one of our presenters, please contact me and I will make arrangements for you to speak at our session on March 22<sup>nd</sup>

[kfisher@freedomschools.k12.wi.us](mailto:kfisher@freedomschools.k12.wi.us)

### **LUNCH CLUB AT FMS**

Lunch club is a noon study session that has been created to address the late and missing work among our MS students. Teachers supervise this noon study session and I feel this program will eventually eliminate the Saturday School program. Our goal is to have all students current on their daily work so that late work does not impact their final grade. *Parents/Guardians can offer support at home by helping your child establish a regular study routine that includes the following; (1) A set time devoted to study each day Grade 6 (60 minutes), Grade 7 (70 minutes) and Grade 8 (80 minutes) (2) A quiet location free of distractions, (3) a completed agenda book and a check off system when assignments are completed, (4) one take home folder each side labeled; "Assignments due" and "Assignments done", (5) some kind of incentive for a week with no late or missing work; MS students react well to incentives!*

### **SUMMER SCHOOL 2017**

**Summer school in the Freedom School District is just around the corner and it is time to start thinking about options for your child. Summer school provides an opportunity to continue the educational process, while keeping your child connected to learning over the summer months. The Freedom Area School**

District will be offering Summer School 2017, at Freedom Elementary School, for elementary and middle school students, in one session. The session will be five weeks: *June 12 through July 13, 2017*. No school on July 3 and July 4. You will soon be receiving information regarding something new in Freedom; Online registration for summer school 2017! I have been working with the administrative team, summer school staff and the technology coordinators in our district to build and launch this new and exciting registration process. You can mark your calendars with the following dates: **Online Registrations Window (March 14-March 31, 2017), Final day to pay course fees (April 13, 2017)**. We are excited to offer this new registration process that will utilize the convenience of modern technology.

**A summer school class listing is included in this newsletter.**

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Mr. Fellingner**

We are currently studying Ancient Greece and all the historical influence it has had throughout history. We began with the Minoans and Mycenaean cultures which brought us the Minotaur, Labyrinth, and the Trojan War. Currently, we are studying the Greek city-states of Athens and Sparta. Those two city-states couldn't be more different from each other. In spite of their differences, they had to unite in a common war with Persia. Next, we will study how the Greeks provided us with great art, architecture, plays, science, mathematics, philosophy, the Olympic Games and much more. When we finish our unit on Ancient Greece, we will begin studying the Roman Empire with its great advances and contributions to history!

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Wruck**



In ELA, our Non-Fiction Unit will continue into the second week of March. The Biography projects are coming together. Students are working on reading, researching, and writing their Biography reports for their projects.

The first round of Book Clubs was a success. Students are now in their new groups/books for the second round of Book Clubs. Readers will continue collaboratively discussing the text as they read, but will also be doing some writing in relationship to what they read. Watch for "Inner Voice" sheets and other reading response writing in the upcoming weeks.

Now that our major research project is coming to an end, we are hoping that students can spend more time reading at home. They are required to read at least 20 minutes at home. This is in addition to whatever reading they do at school (such as during Guided Study).

If your child is not doing his or her nightly reading, please contact us and we can follow up here at school. It might be as simple as making sure your young reader has a book of high interest.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

Mr. Reed

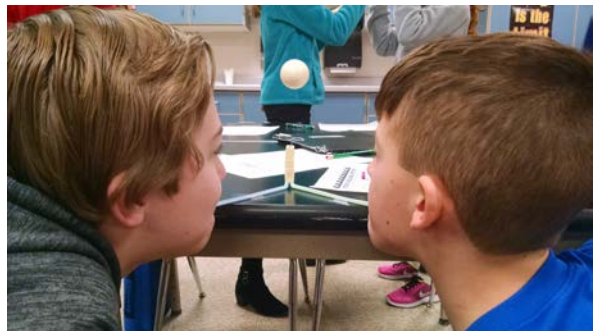


In 6th grade math we just put the finishing touches on our algebra unit. There were many new concepts taught in this unit that students may not have been exposed to in elementary school. There will be more practice with the new concepts in 7th grade as well. The next unit will be about finding the volume of rectangular prisms. Parents, if for some reason we were not able to connect on Wednesday, February 22nd during parent/teacher conferences don't hesitate to give me a call or e-mail and I would be happy to discuss your son or daughter's math progress.



## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Runyon



(above: Casey and Bennett created this to levitate a ping pong ball during an engineering and design challenge in class.)

As we powered our way through February towards March students learned about energy sources and their impacts and influences on our world. The students spent time focused on both non-renewable and renewable types of energy. They learned about how energy is produced and harnessed from each source and also advantages and disadvantages of each.

As we march forward toward spring we will begin to study force and motion in more detail. We will focus our study on Newton's laws of motion and building a practical understanding of how force and motion interact in the world. We will roll into this through a variety of engaging activities.



## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Mrs. Juelich and Mrs. Lingnofski**

For the month of March, in ELA, we will be continuing with our public speaking newscast unit. The week prior to the presentation, you will receive an email with information regarding a student practice log and how you can help with constructive criticism at home. Students will have a week to practice in and out of class with their note cards prior to the presentations. Two groups will present each day. Those two groups will be drawn at random at the beginning of each day and posted outside the ELA classrooms. This way, everyone has to be ready to present each day. If a student is absent on the day of their group's presentation, the group will still present. On one of the other presentation days, the absent student will sit with his/her group before the class and present.

Once we finish the public speaking unit, we will move into argumentative (persuasive) writing. We will begin small with students coming up with reasons for a certain side of an argument. We will move on to writing argumentative paragraphs focusing on writing to a specific audience. Then we'll move on to writing three argumentative letters: one as a group, one individually without research, and one with research. For the final letter, sources will be provided to students, and we will start the planning process as a group.

In literature, we'll be returning to the textbook our school is piloting for a unit on media. Students will be working individually and in groups with a number of nonfiction pieces dealing with TV and advertising.

The third quarter book project will be completed in class starting the week of

February 27th. State reference books from our school library will be available in the classrooms for one week of work on this book project. Students will focus on unfamiliar vocabulary, interesting facts, and a visual aid.

After the textbook unit, we'll be moving on to drama. We'll be working with a play version of Mark Twain's classic "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." We will read in class as well as complete reading guides and discuss literary elements. This unit will culminate with some small in-class projects and a test.

The March AR test is due on March 31st. We will visit the library the last week of March to choose an AR book for April.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LIFE SCIENCE**

**Mr. Atwater**



We are going to be discussing Ecosystems, interactions of energy and dynamics as well as human activity for our next unit. These topics will investigate current and local environmental issues as well as look at global resource usage and long term impacts of human activity. After that, we are going to do an engineering design project on energy usage as it relates to biological systems. This should take us through the rest of the year.

**Bird of the month:** Horned Lark. This time of year if you are going for a drive down a quiet road, you may notice a small bird sitting on the side eating grit. This bird may be a horned lark, one of our earliest migrants. If you get a close look at it, notice its small devil horns on each side of the head

and black mask. Listen for its high pitched twinkling call.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

**Mr. LeBrun**

We have returned to a little more normalcy now that National History Day is over, but we do want to wish good luck to those students who are moving on to regional's. Regionals will be taking place on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at UWGB. Look for an update in next month's news letter.

The students have been studying about the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. In March students will be learning about the Declaration of Independence and the battles of the Revolutionary War. Hope to see all of you at conferences.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

**Mrs. Runyon and Miss Miller**

Students recently finished chapter 6 focusing on equations. This was a difficult chapter and I believe the students will be excited to set aside negatives for a few chapters. Before starting chapter 7 we took a few days to relax and work on some computer coding/programming skills. This is an enjoyable activity for many students.

The next chapter we will begin is chapter 7. The focus of this chapter is geometric figures. Students will draw two- and three-dimensional figures. They will also solve problems involving scale drawings of geometric figures.

**Pre-Algebra – Mrs. Runyon**

Pre-Algebra is getting close to finishing their chapter on expressions. They will be moving into equations and inequalities next. This chapter will have students determining

how equations and inequalities are used to describe and solve multi-step problems.

At the end of our proportional relationship unit we found mullet ratios ~

$$R_m = \frac{\text{height of party in the back}}{\text{height of business in the front}}$$

Below is a picture of students working on finding the ratios with their own hair.



## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**Mrs. Fogarty and Mr. VanRossum**

First, we'd like to thank all the parents who attended parent-teacher conferences. It was good to see so many families. Now that we are well into the third quarter of eighth grade, students should have established habits that will help them be successful in high school. By rising to the challenge of the routines established in eighth grade ELA class--which include regular reading, writing, speaking, and skills in grammatical conventions--students can be assured that they are prepared for the rigors of high school English.

Currently, we are in the midst of piloting a new textbook series called *Collections*. The theme of the unit is "Approaching Adulthood"--a fitting theme for eighth graders. Students are working on analyzing difficult texts, both fiction and nonfiction, and are working on citing textual evidence to back their ideas and opinions.

Once our pilot unit is wrapped up, students will read The Boy in the Striped Pajamas.

We are expecting students to work on reading this novel outside of class for homework in addition to what we read together in class. As we read, student will engage in discussion questions with groups. This novel will bring up some controversial topics for students to debate and write about. In their writing about the novel, students will continue to work toward mastery of using text evidence to support an answer.

As it's been all year, students are required to pass an AR test during March 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.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns. Thanks again for supporting your children's education.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE

**Mr. Bins**



Over the last six 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 fresh water. Included in this group, we talk about groundwater, watersheds, and surface water.

Our next unit takes us into an exploration of oceans and atmosphere. Although this seems very different, they are very much the same. We will dive in and soar high during this unit!

I am looking forward to seeing what the four months have in store for our eighth grade students as they develop both scientifically and as leaders of our school!

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH

**Ms. VanEperen**



Students in Algebra recently finished up Chapter 7 on exponents and exponential functions. They are now working their way through Chapter 8 which contains quadratic

equations and functions. They are being introduced to polynomials and factoring, something that will be very fundamental for high school!

Students in Math 8 are just finishing up Chapter 3 on linear equations. They worked a lot with slope-intercept form, another concept that is very important for high school. The ending of Chapter 3 will have students go even further and look at systems of linear equations, which they will find solutions of using varying methods.

Please continue to contact me with any questions. If your child needs additional help, I encourage them to use all of the resources available to them, including the online book website (self-check quizzes/tutorial videos) and the practice tests. Furthermore, encourage them to ask me questions!

## **SPANISH**

### **Mrs. Drammeh**

Feliz marzo! 6<sup>th</sup> grade is in encore pentemester 4 already and just getting into all the fun, educational activities we do in class. We have the routines down for trivia and our daily conversation warm-up. We have learned basic conversation and are moving on to learn about the alphabet, numbers, and colors next. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is still in my 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter class, which ends on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have reviewed all topics previously learned and have taken a big test to prove that. 7<sup>th</sup> grade is currently on an animal unit, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is currently finishing up a community unit. Espero que este mes podamos disfrutar de una hermosa y calida primavera!

## **UPDATE FROM MR. MAVE'S CLASS**

### **Mr. Maves and Mrs. Stingle**

As students in the classroom continue to improve in their social skills and academics, their point of view or position on academics and social skill performance becomes critical to their ongoing success. This position, or point of view, becomes a choice between either **working for something or working against something**. This contrast in these two choices is incredibly visible in a student's actions and the resulting consequences.

When a student is **working for something**, there are three noticeable actions that clearly indicate the student has made this choice. These three actions are body language (about 60% of communication), voice tone (about 30% of communication), and word choice (about 10% of communication). When these actions are used to work for something, they reflect being positive, helpful, and productive. All these actions result in very good consequences.

When a student chooses to **work against something**, the same three actions of body language, voice tone, and word choice are used. Except now these actions are used in the opposite direction to be negative, stubborn, and nonproductive. These actions produce negative consequences.

## **PYHSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Mrs. Wehlage, Ms. Vandenberg and Mr. Springstroh**

We had a change of schedule with our units for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade this past month. With limited time in the field house for class because of various activities taking place we are just wrapping up our basketball unit and will be starting our climbing wall and volleyball units next Monday. This will be a



brand new activity for 7<sup>th</sup> grade as we do not start the students on the wall until then. This is a great unit for many students to learn trust, responsibility and overcoming obstacles. For many students the wall is challenging and our expectation is that they try to push themselves past their comfort zones to try new and exciting activities! This will be different for every individual student as students are at different levels of comfort on the wall. This is an exciting unit for many students and I can reassure that it is extremely safe. We double check all harnesses, knots and helmets before climbs. The belay system we use is called an Australian Belay which keeps all students engaged and is very safe for everyone. All of the students in Mrs. Wehlage's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade PE classes should have brought home a permission slip for the climbing wall. **It is important that these permission slips are returned by the time we start the wall unit on Monday, February, 20<sup>th</sup> otherwise the students cannot participate in any of the climbing activities.** Mrs. Vanden Berg's classes will bring the permission slips home in about 2 weeks before her classes start the climbing wall.

## COMPUTERS

### Mrs. Helmila

The new pentemester started on Thursday, February 16. If your son/daughter has computer class 4<sup>th</sup> Pentemester, he/she should be bringing home a course outline. The course outline is important because:

1. It explains what your son/daughter will be learning in computer class this pentemester.
2. It explains how grades will be determined.
3. It lists any materials that are needed for the class.

4. It lists my name and contact information . . . just in case you have any questions.

The course outline needs to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to me. So, if your son/daughter does not bring home a course outline from computer class . . . please ask him/her about it! ☺

Please do not hesitate to contact me throughout the pentemester if you have any questions. I look forward to having your son/daughter in class!

## HEALTH

### Mr. Springstroh

Here are some of the recent topics we have been discussing in the health classroom. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is currently transitioning between encore classes. Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> a new group of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin health class. We will begin class discussing proper hygiene practices. In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we are about half way through the third quarter. We have recently finished discussing the consequences of illegal drug use and how to properly use OTC drugs and prescription medicines. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade just started our alcohol unit. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class has just finished discussing the purpose of our endocrine system and is about to begin discussing growth and development.

## 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.

## **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**

### **Mr. Rusch and Mrs. Seibert**

7th Grade Programming continues to expand and develop concepts from earlier in the year. Right now, we are working to deliver an exceptional user experience. Students are developing ways to increase the depth and meaning that we are trying to convey to the users of our programs. Many students have implemented ways for the projects to take different actions based on the user input that is collected while the program runs. To put this into computer programmer language, students are learning to use conditional statements and variables, along with logical arguments. Soon we will add methods and modularization. We still have two major projects coming up for the current unit, the Pass It On, and an interactive children's book that I hope to share with our 1st graders.

## **INTRO TO AGRICULTURE**

### **Mr. Larson**

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders in this encore class are in the middle of their plant science mini-unit. The students are each germinating monocot and dicot seeds and learning the differences in how they grow and produce. The students will be monitoring growth rates and working at meeting the plants growth requirements. This lab allows them some hands on

experience with various medias in the greenhouse and proper planting and care of seeds and seedlings.

## **CHOIR**

### **Mrs. Maves**



As we are in the throes of winter, we are continuing to hone our sight singing skills. The daily practice can seem to get us nowhere, yet, it is in the discipline of the daily practice that we make great strides. Day by day it seems nothing changes, yet, when the year has passed we realize, so much has changed! The awesome part of this is how our brain changes according to what we are training it to do. Changing brains is hard work. Yet, it is only through the hard work and discipline of life that we are able to accomplish anything of value. Please continue to encourage us, as we diligently prepare for the future.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES**

### **Mrs. Langner**



As I write this on February 14, I first want to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day! It's hard to believe that we are almost half way through February, time is flying by.

Congratulations to Amanda Green and Mackenzie Hennes on their participation in the NBA-WC All State Junior Band. They along with 93 students from 37 schools around the state, spent an intensive day in rehearsals, and performed on January 21st at North High School in Appleton. The concert was fantastic!

Congratulations also to: Jadyne Feucht, who was accepted into The North East Conference Middle School Honors Band. They rehearsed and performed on Saturday, January 28th at Clintonville Middle School, in Waupaca. The students performed a wonderful concert.

The Middle School Instrumental Music Department is heading into "March Madness". March is "Music in Our Schools Month". Our "Music in Our Schools Month" will begin with Solo and Ensemble Festival at Xavier High School on March 4th. Cadet Bands will be having their recitals on March 14th and 15th, in the band room, at 11:25 A.M. Selected Irish band members who performed at Solo and Ensemble Festival hope to perform for the school board before their March meeting.

All of the bands are busy working on the music for our spring concert, which will be held on Monday, May 8th, at 7:00 P.M., in the field house.

The quote for the month is: **"Music is not something at the periphery of life; it's absolutely at the center of life."**

## **EXPLORING MUSIC**

### **Mrs. Seibert**

Music discovery students are learning what it takes to get a good sound out of instruments as they construct their own instruments. Sixth grade students are

making dulcimers and learning how people that play dulcimers get pitch from the instruments and what it is like to play as an ensemble with these instruments.

Seventh grade students are making their own guitars; giving them an understanding of what it takes to make one of these instruments and how to design the fret board so they can get pitch. They are utilizing math and science with music to get the strings to make pitches.

Eighth grade students are working on the Star Spangled Banner on electric guitar. They will also know five chords in one month.

## **THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

### **Mrs. Kielpikowski**



It sure does seem like spring is coming with these warmer temperatures, but we know winter will likely return soon. This is Wisconsin. It sure has been an interesting winter. Hope you are getting out to enjoy some of the winter activities.

In my 6<sup>th</sup> grade ACP, I just started with Pentemester 4, so this class is just getting started. We are doing some getting to know you activities these first few days. My goal is for students to talk to and learn more about each other to bridge acceptance. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade ACP, we are in the middle of a career unit. They did an assessment to learn how their interests match up to potential careers. They had the opportunity to research some careers of interest and learn the educational requirements, job description, working conditions and

earnings to see if this is something they would enjoy.

Fourth quarter 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ACP classes will have a speaker from the Sexual Assault Resource Center to talk about online safety as well as bullying/harassment. The date is yet to be determined.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to attend a Career Expo. During their time there, they will be able to explore many different career areas and speak to individuals who work at those businesses.

I plan on starting small groups very soon. Your child(ren) will be getting information soon on how to join them if they choose to. If you feel your child could benefit from a small group, please let me know.

### **PIE FACE FUNDRAISER**

#### **Mrs. Zick**

HUGE Thanks to all who donated to our Pie Face fundraiser throughout the month of January! It was a huge success and due to all the student and family donations, Mr. Bins, Mr. Fellingner, and Mrs. Zick were "pied" in the face at the Pep Rally on Friday, February 17, 2017! The money will be used to purchase items the family could use to keep the kids busy on the road trips, during dialysis treatment and while at the hospital. A special Elsa dress will most definitely be purchased for sweet Ellie as that is her favorite Disney Character! We will also be donating toys and items to keep other children busy at the Children's Hospital-Dialysis Center in Milwaukee where Mr. Reed's daughter receives her treatments three times each week! The Genius Hour project of Allison Mielke and Kailey Rose turned out better than they could have ever imagined thanks to your generosity! Mr.

Reed and his family are also very appreciative of all that was done to honor their family!



## **Happy St. Patrick's Day**

