



Faris Elementary



September, 2017

Volume 3, Issue 1

Welcome Back! - Dan Ackland

Welcome back to the 2017-2018 school year! We've had a great start to the new school year. Students are settling in - figuring out new routines, expectations, and building relationships with new staff.

This year we welcome some new teachers and support staff to the building - Jane Keehn (Kindergarten), Barb Meitler (1st grade), Leslie Kagle (1st grade), Katrina Gurney (3rd grade), Talia Goldsmith (2nd-6th PE), Tracy Goracke (counselor), Gina Fairbank (social worker), and Karen Overton (instructional support).



Last school year our building focused on improving positive student behavior. We implemented positive referrals, K-3 punch cards, and 4-6 conduct cards. These changes, along with other initiatives, lowered our student discipline referrals by an...

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Counselor's Corner - Tracy Goracke

Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids is a book written by Carol McCloud that encourages positive behavior by using the concept of an invisible bucket to show children how easy it is to express love, kindness, and appreciation by "filling buckets."

When your child comes home each day, ask them, "Did you fill a bucket today?" They have learned that being a bucket filler helps their home, school, and community become better places to be.

We discuss the difference between a "bucket filler" and a "bucket dipper." Being a bucket filler spreads goodness, and is positive, while being a bucket dipper is negative and unkind. The students learn that their invisible bucket is representing their feelings, or their heart. We teach that positive, good actions and words make a heart feel happy and loved. Negative, mean words and actions can make a heart feel sad, lonely, or angry.



Students at Faris enjoy viewing the solar eclipse

Nurse and Health - Erika Barnes

FLU SHOTS

School is barely underway and already it is time to plan for flu season. Take that critical step in flu prevention - get vaccinated! Everyone over 6 months of age should get vaccinated every year!

Flu Shots will be offered @ Faris Elementary School Oct. 9th 2-4 PM. You must complete a consent form for this service. See the school nurse for details.

Dental Screenings were completed August 23rd and Treatments will be offered by Prairie Star Dental Oct. 18th and 19th at Faris Elementary School. Optional services offered are Fluoride Treatments, Sealants and Cleanings.

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE!

*To sign up for these services if your child currently DOES NOT see a dentist, download and complete the form at <http://www.usd308.com/node/24>

PTO and Site Council - Sherry Treece



Students from Faris skating the night away at Skate Night at Skateland

A variety of fundraisers are planned for the upcoming school year including Skate Nights, Gambino's Pizza Nights, Dillon's Plus Card, and more. Watch for information to come home, our school Facebook page, and the Faris Elementary PTO Facebook page for more info.



Second grade students enjoy making apple volcanoes in Science

Welcome Back!

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astonishing 89%!

This year's building-wide theme is "Soaring to New Heights". Our major focus this year is student literacy (reading). Our goal is to greatly improve the number of students reading at grade level by the end of the school year.

One way we will work to do that is through the use of leveled readers. These are books written at a specific reading level for students. Staff worked hard to create an organized room full of leveled readers for teacher use.

Another way we will work to meet this goal is by having all students keep a data notebook with 3 goals (reading, math, personal). Students will update these books throughout each month and monitor their own personal growth.

Finally, a few reminders as the year gets started.

- * Students eating breakfast should arrive prior to 7:30am to ensure they have enough time to eat.
- * Students arriving after 7:50am will be counted tardy.
- * Students not picked up by 3:20pm will be taken to the front office.
- * Please call the office to let us know if your child will not be attending school. Students not called in will be counted as unexcused.
- * There are several 1pm Early Release Friday's this year. We have signs out front on these days, reminders on the sign, phone call reminders, this newsletter, Facebook, and calendar magnets as ways to help you remember.
- * Anyone wishing to volunteer in the school or attend field trips **must** attend a Communities that Care training prior to doing so.
- * If you are looking for other ways to get involved, attend a PTO meeting to learn more.
- * Office hours are 7:00am - 3:30pm. Phones will be answered during this time. The nurse arrives to school at 7:45am and teachers are on duty by 7:35am.

September Calendar

Thursday, August 31st - Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Celebration of Learning Assembly, 1:15pm - 1:45pm

Friday, September 1st - 4th - 6th Grade Celebration of Learning Assembly, 1:15pm-1:45pm

Monday, September 4th - No School (Labor Day)

Wednesday, September 6th - Kindness Club, 3:15pm-3:45pm

Friday, September 8th - Early Release, 1pm

Thursday, September 14th - No School

Friday, September 15th - No School

Tuesday, September 19th - PTO Meeting, 6pm, Library

Wednesday, September 20th - Family Room Activities, 1:15pm-1:45pm

Wednesday, September 20th - Kindness Club, 3:15pm-3:45pm

Friday, September 22nd - Early Release, 1pm

Friday, September 29th - Early Release, 1pm

Saturday, September 30th - USD 308 Fall Fun Run (see below for more details)

USD 308 Fall Fun Run

Saturday, September 30th - Carey Park Homebuilders' Shelter

8:30 AM - 5K Run

9:30 AM 1 Mile Run

Races will not be officially timed. Must sign up by September 16 to guarantee t-shirt. \$12 entry fee with \$11 coming back to our PTO. Sign up at www.hutchrec.com. Make sure you put Faris as the school you are running for.

Afternoon Dismissal

Afternoon Dismissal

After-school dismissal can be a hectic time. Please show patience and courtesy to others during afternoon dismissal. This past school year, 20mph school speed-zone signs were put in around the property. Our Safety Patrol students will soon be standing on the corners of 9th and Maple and 10th and Maple. Vehicles are expected to stop for any student displaying the stop flags.

The front area of the building is a drop-off zone only. Please do not park in this area, even to run into the building or front office. Students in Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade Ms. Davis, and 3rd grade Ms. Boese dismiss on the south courtyard. 6th grade students dismiss from the south-west doors. 2nd grade Mrs. Mourn and 3rd grade Ms. Gurney dismiss from the west doors. 4th and 5th grade students dismiss from the north-west corner of the building.

On the south side of the building, please park and walk to pick up your students. Do not pull up and wave your students over as it creates unsafe situations. The curb has been painted blue/white on the north side of 9th street. The handicapped blue curb area is for the handicapped bus **only**. The white curb area is for the Hadley daycare van and buses only. Do not park or pull up in this area.

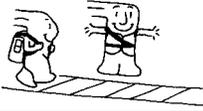
Following these procedures will ensure that everyone is able to leave school quickly and safely. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

Hutchinson Public Schools

September 2017



SHORT NOTES

Sign your work

Encourage your youngster to get in the habit of writing his name on his paper before he begins an assignment. He could think of it as “autographing” his work, just like artists sign their masterpieces. His teacher will know who the paper belongs to, and he’ll get credit for his hard work.

Safety smarts

Help your child travel safely to and from school. Explain that it’s important to avoid horseplay at the bus stop and to stay away from the street. If your youngster walks to school, make sure she sticks with a group. And if you drive, drop her at the designated spot, and remember to stop for school buses loading or unloading children.

Extra fun, extra learning

Extracurricular activities let your youngster explore hobbies and find friends with similar interests. He might join an art club, a robotics group, or a sports team, for instance. To find options, check in the school office or on the school website.

Worth quoting

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” *Nelson Mandela*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Which side of a duck has the most feathers?

A: The outside!



Great year ahead

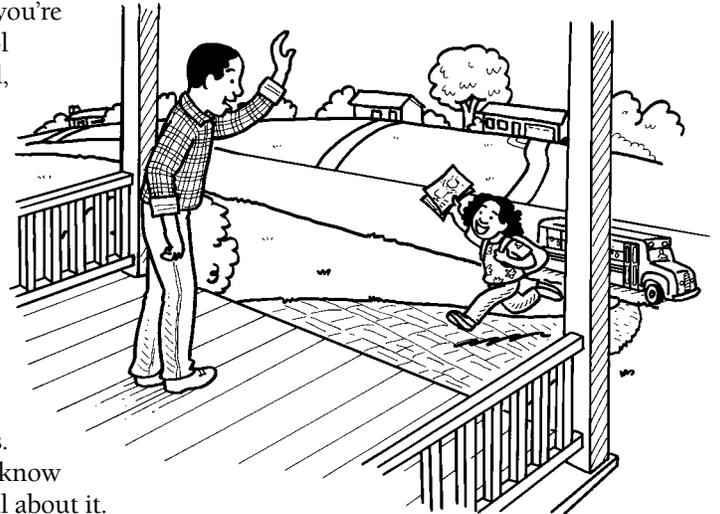
Showing your child you’re excited about the school year will get her excited, too. Encourage her to share what she learns and to make the most of each school day with these strategies.

“What will you learn today?”

Talk about your youngster’s day at school *before* it happens. In the morning, let her know you can’t wait to hear all about it. She’ll be on the lookout for things to tell you. She might even jot down notes to remember the highlights (a science experiment she enjoyed, the words to a song she sang in music class).

“Show me what you did!”

Ask your child to demonstrate something she learned. Perhaps she’ll show you how to measure the area of a room or write a line of code. You’ll get to see what she’s working on in school. Plus, explaining something out loud will help



her understand and remember it—and build her confidence.

“What’s new this year?”

Each school year brings something exciting that your youngster couldn’t do the year before. Maybe she’ll go to recess on a different playground, join the chorus, or change classes for math or reading. Build enthusiasm by talking up these experiences in the first weeks of school, and keep her motivated by following up as the year goes on.♥

Team up for success

Teamwork is an important part of life in school *and* at home. Try fun games like these to help your youngster practice cooperating with others to reach a common goal:

- Line up, and pass a balloon from one person to another without dropping it—using anything but your hands.
- Stand in a circle, and hold hands.

Then, have everyone turn around so they’re facing the opposite direction. The catch? You can’t let go of each other’s hands!♥



Organized all day long

Being organized can reduce stress and make the school day go more smoothly. Here's a checklist that will help.

Morning

- ❑ Show your child how to set an alarm that will wake him up in time to get ready for school.
- ❑ On a sheet of paper, help him draw or list morning tasks, such as "make bed" and "brush teeth." Let him post the list where he can see it (say, by his bed or on the bathroom mirror).



After school

- ❑ Have your youngster go through his backpack to take out homework and throw away trash. To store work he wants to save, he might use folders or a shoebox.
- ❑ Ask him to place papers for you in a special spot, perhaps a basket. Look them over, and sign papers as needed.

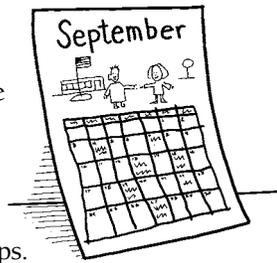
Nighttime

- ❑ Before bed, your child should put needed items in his backpack. *Examples:* completed assignments, signed permission slips, show-and-tell objects.
- ❑ Suggest that he pick out clothes and choose breakfast foods for the next day. He could get a head start by setting out cereal, fresh fruit, and a bowl and spoon.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

A homemade calendar

Encourage your child to use a calendar this school year by having her make her own. Follow these steps.



1. Label. Have her draw a calendar page for each month, labeling the month and days of the week. She can refer to a real calendar to fill in the dates.

2. Illustrate. What does each month make her think of? Let your youngster illustrate the top of each sheet—maybe she'll draw herself making new friends in September and painting pumpkins in October.

3. Fill in. Now she can write in regular events (library day on Mondays, spelling quizzes on Fridays). As the year goes on, she could add assignment due dates, tests, or other reminders.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Building knowledge—on a budget

I heard that giving your kids lots of experiences in the community provides "background knowledge" that helps them succeed in school. We're on a tight budget, so I looked into outings for my daughter, Carly, that don't cost a lot.

First, we searched online for free days at nearby museums. I even saw an ad for "Museum Day Live!" on September 23, when many museums offer two free tickets per family. Carly picked out one on pioneer life and another with hands-on engineering projects.

Then, at the farmers' market, someone mentioned a farm that gives free tours. We visited last Saturday, and Carly got to pick apples and see how cows are milked. I'm glad Carly is having new experiences—and we are sticking to our budget.

Editor's note: See smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2017/ for more information about Museum Day Live!♥



Q & A How to manage screen time

Q: My son could spend hours watching videos or using apps. How can I set reasonable limits?

A: The goal should be for your son to have enough "unplugged" time to finish schoolwork, be with family and friends, get exercise, and relax. Experts suggest coming up with a plan that suits your family.

Think about what your youngster uses devices for. A fifth grader may need a computer for homework, while a younger child might simply play on a tablet. Then, set limits that make sense.

Maybe you'll decide on a half-hour of screen time on school days (after homework is done) but give him an hour a day on weekends.

It also helps to name times for everyone to stay off screens, perhaps during meals and car rides. Also, consider turning off screens an hour before bed—the stimulation can make it harder to fall asleep.

Note: Set aside a place for stowing devices so they're out of sight.

To create a plan, see healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx.♥

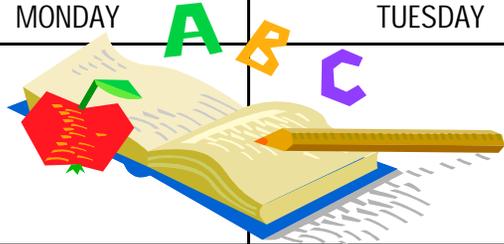


OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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September 2017 Elementary Breakfast Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
				Chocolate Muffin Go-Gurt Yogurt Honey Nut Cheerios String Cheese Fresh Apple 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 1
No School 4	Mini Cinnis Golden Grahams String Cheese Tropical Fruit 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 5	French Toast Sticks Chocolate Mini Wheats String Cheese Fresh Banana 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 6	Biscuit & Gravy Lucky Charms String Cheese Chilled Mandarin Oranges 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 7	Blueberry Muffin Go-Gurt Yogurt Honey Nut Cheerios String Cheese Fresh Apple 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 8
Breakfast Pizza Cocoa Puffs String Cheese Chilled Pineapple 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 11	Mini Powdered Sugar Donuts Golden Grahams String Cheese Mixed Fruit 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 12	Pancakes Chocolate Mini Wheats String Cheese Chilled Peaches 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 13	No School 14	No School 15
Breakfast Burrito Cocoa Puffs String Cheese Fresh Orange Wedges 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 18	Mini Cinnis Golden Grahams String Cheese Tropical Fruit 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 19	French Toast Sticks Chocolate Mini Wheats String Cheese Fresh Banana 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 20	Biscuit & Gravy Lucky Charms String Cheese Chilled Mandarin Oranges 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 21	Banana Bread Go-Gurt Yogurt Honey Nut Cheerios String Cheese Fresh Apple 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 22
Breakfast Pizza Cocoa Puffs String Cheese Chilled Pineapple 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 25	Mini Chocolate Donuts Golden Grahams String Cheese Mixed Fruit 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 26	Pancakes Chocolate Mini Wheats String Cheese Chilled Peaches 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 27	Sausage on a Stick Lucky Charms String Cheese Chilled Pears 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 28	Chocolate Muffin Go-Gurt Yogurt Honey Nut Cheerios String Cheese Fresh Apple 100% Fruit Juice 1% Milk 29

September 2017 Elementary Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Garden Salad Fresh Kiwi Hot Roll 1% Milk 1
 NO SCHOOL 4	Hamburger French Fries Chilled Pears Baby Carrots 1% Milk 5	Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Calif. Mixed Vegetables Chilled Mandarin Oranges Hot Roll 1% Milk 6	Papa John's Pepperoni Pizza Garden Salad Strawberries & Bananas Green Beans 1% Milk 7	Mini Corn Dogs Emoji Fries Broccoli & Cheese Grapes Carnival Cookie 1% Milk 8
Mac & Cheese Little Smokies Sweet Peas Baby Carrots Chilled Peaches Pretzel Bites 1% Milk 11	Walking Taco Refried Beans Fresh Banana Seasoned Corn 1% Milk 12	Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Mixed Fruit Seasoned Carrots Hot Roll 1% Milk 13	NO SCHOOL 14	NO SCHOOL 15
Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Garden Salad Blushing Pears Hot Roll 1% Milk 18	BBQ Rib Sandwich Curly Fries Baked Beans Chilled Pineapple 1% Milk 19	Breaded Chicken Sandwich Seasoned Wedges Grapes Fresh Broccoli 1% Milk 20	Mini Cheese Calzones Garden Salad Fresh Strawberries Green Beans 1% Milk 21	Chili Cheese Crunch Baby Carrots Celery Sticks Fresh Orange Wedges Cinnamon Roll 1% Milk 22
Biscuit & Gravy Sausage Patty Hash Browns Tropical Fruit Juicy Juice Trix Yogurt Cup 1% Milk 25	Popcorn Chicken Loaded Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Broccoli Fresh Apple Half Hot Roll 1% Milk 26	Loaded Nachos Fresh Kiwi Seasoned Corn Refried Beans 1% Milk 27	Pulled BBQ Chicken Sandwich French Fries Cucumber Slices Chilled Peaches 1% Milk 28	Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Garden Salad Strawberries & Bananas Biscuit 1% Milk 29