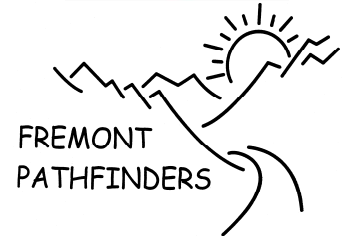


FREMONT NEWS

5110 El Camino Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
Phone 719-328-5600, Fax 719-260-8811
www.d11.org/iremout

Colorado Springs



October 2009

News from our Principal

October 1, 2009

Dear Fremont Families,

We've had a great start to our school year! Teachers have worked tirelessly to assess our students thoroughly in reading, writing, language, and math skills. Differentiated groups have been formed and tutoring has begun. You should be hearing from your classroom teachers about what your students are learning in each of these areas and how you can support that learning at home. Please take a moment to read about Response to Intervention (RTI) and Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) inside this newsletter. You will learn there the concerted efforts that we are making as a staff to ensure that your child is making wonderful progress in all academic and social areas.

Our extra-curricular activities are off to a great start too! We will host a cross country meet here at Fremont on October 20th, and expect hundreds of students from across District 11 to attend. Please thank Mr. Ford for planning this event. Mrs. Niemeier has begun her Art Club with 3rd – 5th graders. Great projects are emerging from their creative efforts! Our 4th/5th grade choir began at the end of September, too. We look forward to listening to Mrs. Grady's singers!

Please be sure to call with any questions you have. We are partners in educating your children and I enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Chris Carlson
Principal



RTI - PBS



RTI – Response to Intervention

What happens when, even though every opportunity is tried through the regular curriculum in the classroom, students are not progressing as expected? Here at Fremont, as in all other schools in Colorado, our Response to Intervention program is in place to help. Members of the RTI Problem Solving Team have been working together every Tuesday morning to plan for the best approaches to meet the needs of all students.

Tier I – The first Tier occurs in the classroom as the teacher provides thorough, differentiated core instruction to all students in all curricular areas.

Tier II – If students do not respond successfully to differentiated classroom instruction, a series of steps take place. Every two weeks each grade level team meets together with the principal and/or literacy resource teacher to discuss learning targets and student progress. Grade level teams carefully choose strategies and interventions to ensure that students make progress in reading, writing, and math. These research-based strategies take place in the classroom within small groups taught by the teachers and/or our tutors. Teachers will notify parents of students' placement in these groups.

Tier II/III – If after several interventions have been tried, students still do not progress, they are referred to the **RTI Problem Solving Team**. During this team meeting, parents, teachers, and specialists discuss students individually and decide on specific interventions for the students to be delivered with increased intensity, frequency and duration.

Through this multi-tiered approach, all students should be able to make good progress toward grade level goals!

PBS – Positive Behavioral Supports

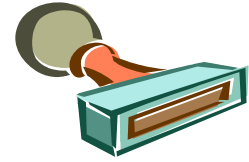
In order to ensure academic achievement, a school needs to provide a positive learning environment where students are physically, socially, and emotionally safe. The Fremont staff promotes this positive learning environment using a two-pronged approach.

First, we make a proactive effort through our Positive Behavioral Support system (**PBS**). At Fremont our motto is: **Fremont Friends show respect of self, respect of others, and respect of the learning environment**. Last year staff and students worked together to define what respect of self, others, and the learning environment looks like in various areas of the school (e.g., in the classroom, in the hallway, in the lunchroom, on the playground, etc.) Students are rewarded with Fremont Friends slips when they show respect. Watch for these slips and other tokens to come home with your child!

Our second prong is our approach to discipline. Clear expectations for behavior are outlined in each classroom. When minor rules are broken, teachers remind students of the rules. Normally this should help the child correct the behavior. If further infractions continue, the teacher gives the student an “Oops Slip” to fill out. At this time the child identifies the behavior and writes how he/she will correct the behavior in the future. Further infractions result in a parent notification slip. In rare instances, students are referred to the office for disciplinary action.

Working with children through our PBS system, we are confident that we can provide the safe, comfortable learning environment, which is conducive to the best academic achievement possible!

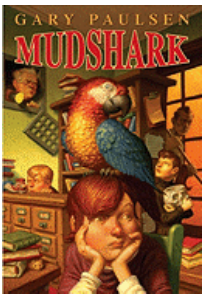
Check It Out



LTE
fore@d11.org
328-5624

We would like to thank Mrs. Bowman for the generous donation she made to our library in honor of her father, who she explained was a book lover. Her gift of 29 books included titles such as *Inkheart*, *Jonas Brothers*, *House in the Night*, and *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*, just to name a few.

During the last week of October, we will be having a Scholastic Book Fair in the library. Please make sure to stop by while you are here for your son or daughter's parent/teacher conference. More information can be found at the school's Web site www.d11.org/fremont. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is located in the office. If you have extra time and would like to help, please sign up.



M u d s h a r k ~ b y G a r y P a u l s e n

Lyle Williams, a.k.a. Mudshark, is a student with astonishing powers of observation, an iron-clad memory, and an ice-cool demeanor. Whenever something goes missing, Mudshark's the guy to find it. So when all the erasers disappear from the classrooms, the principal enlists Mudshark to uncover the culprit. - Ian Chipman, *Booklist*

The road to knowledge begins with the turn of the page.

RED RIBBON WEEK ACTIVITIES!!

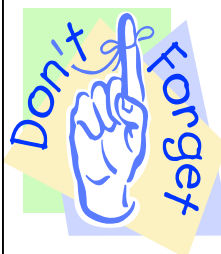
Red Ribbon Week is coming up soon! The purpose of Red Ribbon Week is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a DRUG-FREE AMERICA. Fremont will celebrate Red Ribbon Week October 26th-28th. Students will be given red ribbons to wear during these three days and each day will represent a different focus theme. The themes are as follows:

- Monday - "My future is too bright to do drugs". Students can wear sunglasses/hats.
- Tuesday - "Don't get tied up with drugs". Students can wear neck ties.
- Wednesday - "Spirit Day: Respect Yourself". Students can wear red.

Our week will conclude with a whole school picture in which students and staff will be wearing red and spelling out "R-E-S-P-E-C-T". Copies of pictures will be offered - please be watching for your opportunity to purchase this memorable photo.

BAAC News

BAAC is an advisory group dedicated to the improvement of education and achievement of all students at Fremont Elementary School. It monitors and advises on matters related to the School Improvement Planning process, the learning environment, and school budget. Fremont's Building Advisory Accountability Committee (BAAC) met **September 8**. At this meeting, information was presented and discussed in all three of these areas along with a review of the previous year's CSAP data. The next meeting date for BAAC will be **October 13**.



Please remember to call the office at 328-5600 on the day of your student's absence.

Specials Update

Mr. Ford's Gym Jam

October 2002

The year is under way and so far it has been great. I want to take this opportunity to remind parents and students about a few items in PE. On your PE day, please remember to wear tennis shoes to keep yourself safe and the floor looking great. If there is an illness or injury, a parent may write a note excusing a child for certain activities for that day. If the illness or injury is going to last longer, I do ask that a note be provided from the doctor. Any prolonged injury does require a release note from the doctor stating the student is clear for activity.

Fremont's Cross Country team has been running since Labor Day, and they look great. We have over 50 students out running on Tuesdays and Thursdays and competing against approximately 800 students from around the district. Our meet at Fremont was postponed due to weather, but we will make it up on Tuesday, October 20th (weather permitting). As October begins please be watching for Sports Challenge forms to come home for other sports and activities.

All 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students spent the first few weeks of school completing the FitnessGram fitness assessment. They were tested in the areas of Cardiovascular Endurance, Flexibility, Muscular Endurance and Muscular Strength. Each student will receive a copy of their scores at Parent/Teacher Conference time with explanations of each test and how students can work towards achieving higher scores in the spring.

Stay Active,

Mr. Ford



Mrs. Grady's Music Notes



Our Fremont Intermediate after school choir will begin rehearsing for the presentation of our winter concert "Snow Biz." All interested fourth and fifth graders are invited to join. Interested third graders may join by audition. Students may see Mrs. Grady for schedules or to make an audition appointment.

Mrs. Grady

Mrs. Niemeier's Art Palette

These first few weeks back in the art room have been wonderful. Our young artists have been busy creating their masterpieces and the hallways are starting to fill up with color! Please stop by often to see the art that is hanging. Every month I will also choose a piece of exceptional art from each grade level to hang in the Fremont Art Gallery. The gallery is located in the front hall right when you enter the school. Each student whose art is displayed in the gallery will receive a certificate. The following students have their artwork on display for the month of October; Katelynn Heath, Justin Robinson, Aliah Clayton, Taylor Zaiger, Trinity Carmouche, and Joey Hanson. Congratulations!!

PTA is sponsoring an Art Night at Starbucks on October 21st from 6:00-7:00 PM. Stop by to view some amazing artwork done by students at Fremont and don't forget, kids receive a free hot chocolate! If your child's art has been chosen to be on display at Starbucks, I will notify you before the show is hung. The artwork usually stays up for a couple of months. I hope to see you there!

Mrs. Niemeier



Parents, dismissal is at 2:30. If you are running late for any reason, please call the school office at 328-5600 before school ends and let us know. Thank you!



Don't forget to use
your
Target Red Card



LITERACY CORNER

Welcome back to another year here at Fremont! School has already started, routines are being established, and new goals are being set to make this the best year ever! For those of you who are new to our Fremont Community, I am Catherine Romano, the Literacy Resource Teacher, and I am looking forward to working with you in supporting student growth and success during these formative years.

Fremont has just completed the district reading assessment, **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basis Early Literacy Skills). All students were assessed on the five components of reading: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension. Students have also just finished MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing. All students in 2nd-5th grade were assessed in Reading, Language Usage, and Math. Our 1st graders were assessed only in Reading and Math. Parents will receive information regarding both of these assessments once testing has been completed and/or during parent conferences in October.

Fremont will continue our intervention blocks beginning Monday, September 28th in order to meet the needs of all our students in reading and math. Students in 2nd through 5th grade will have an additional 30-minute literacy block during which time all students in a grade level will be part of a literacy “focus” group that targets a specific area of need in literacy. In addition to the grade level teachers, there will also be additional support as needed from Nancy Melo and Melinda Smith (our SPED team), Linda Ciolek (GT Coordinator), Lisa Fore (LTE), and myself. We are fortunate to have three tutors again this year. We welcome back Juliana Evans and joining our tutoring team is Meganne Herron and Darlene Watson. Our tutors will also be working with our first graders in reading and math as needed.

A partnership between home and school is vital when it comes to reading success. Please designate a time every day for reading at home. Reading every day for 20 minutes has a profound effect on a student’s literacy growth, provides a special time between you and your child that will be treasured, and supports children in developing a love of books that they will cherish forever.

When choosing books, be sure to include nonfiction books every week.

Reading nonfiction material helps children to build background knowledge on topics of interest, enhance vocabulary development, and to make connections to the world around them.

I look forward to a fabulous year here at Fremont!

Feel Free to contact me if you have any questions.

Catherine Romano

Fremont LRT

328-5658



Traffic and Pedestrian Safety:



Driveway Etiquette:

1. Thank you for caring for our students' safety in the driveway. Everyone has noticed our "crosswalk" near the main entry door. We appreciate your respect of our 5 mph speed limit as well.
2. Our driveway curb is a "No Parking" zone. If you need to leave your car, please pull into one of the parking spaces either on the left side of the driveway or in the parking lot.

Safety on El Camino:

1. The city has two crosswalks on El Camino. Please remember that city ordinances require that visibility of students in crosswalks must be protected. Cars should not be parked nor should they stop near these crosswalks. Many parents have talked to me about other parents pulling their cars to the curb or double parking close to or at the crosswalks in order to pick up their students. While this is an issue for the Police Department, a reminder is added here to keep all of our children safe. The City of Colorado Springs determines where they place crossing guards. I have asked our Risk Management Department to ask the City to reconsider our safety issues along El Camino Drive. As a community, though, we can do much to increase safety by following traffic safety rules.
2. All students should cross El Camino or our driveway only at the crosswalks. Unless you are walking directly with your child, please encourage safe street-crossing behaviors. Working together, we can ensure safe *arrival* and dismissal times. Thank you so much!

Tips for Building Your Child's Vocabulary

(Reprinted from PTA.org)

Conversations and questions are two vital tools

All parents want their children to do well in school. One way to assist your children is to help them build their vocabulary. Beginning readers use knowledge about words to help them make sense of what they're reading. Talking to and reading with your children are two terrific ways to help hear and read new words. Read four simple tips for introducing new words to your child.

Two easy, non-threatening ways to get new words into everyday talk: Conversations and questions about interesting words (Example: "The book says, 'The boy **tumbled** down the hill,' Look at the picture! How do you think he went down the hill?").

Sharing a new word with your child doesn't have to take a long time: just a few minutes to talk about the word and then focus back on the book or conversation. Choose which words to talk about carefully – choosing every new word might make reading seem like a chore. The best words to explore with your child are ones that are common among adult speakers but are less common to see in the books your child might read.

When introducing new words to your young learner, keep the following four helpful hints in mind:

1. First, provide a simple, kid-friendly definition for the new word:
Enormous means that something is really, really big.
2. Second, provide a simple, kid-friendly example that makes sense within daily life: *Remember that really big watermelon we got at the grocery store? That was an enormous watermelon!*
3. Third, encourage your child to develop his own example: *What enormous thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was enormous! Those tires were huge.*
4. Last, keep your new words active within your house. Over the next few days and weeks, take advantage of opportunities to use each new vocabulary word in conversation.

Take the time to share new words and build your child's vocabulary. You'll be "enormously" glad you did!

For more resources on vocabulary, visit: ReadingRockets.org/atoz/vocabulary