

The Freedom Elementary Post

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**Happy
Holidays!**

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Upcoming Events

December

- ◆ 7th Reflections Assembly
- ◆ 13th *Dickens of a Christmas* 7 pm
- ◆ 17th B-day Table
- ◆ 21st- No School:
Jan 2nd Christmas Break

January

- ◆ 14th Dads & Donuts 3rd
- ◆ 21st No School:
MLK Jr. Day
- ◆ 28th B-day Table

February

- ◆ 1st No School:
Prof. Dev. Day
- ◆ 6- SEP's and
7th Book Fair

Principal's Message

"Happily Ever After"

This past weekend, I was reading to my grandson Jackson (remember the 1 lb. 8 oz. baby who is now 15 lbs and smiling all the time) a story that ended "and they lived happily ever after". I started to recall that some of my favorite stories end with that phrase. I thought what does it take in our own lives to have it end with "and they lived happily ever after"? May I be so bold as to suggest a few of the things that I think will help your children find that "happily ever after" life:

1. First, make sure that they have a sense of personal worth and self esteem. Not to say that I am better than others, but to say that I am willing to face, with courage, any challenge that is sent my way.

2. Second, make sure that they have a balance in life (play and work). If it is all about one thing then they might miss out on some of the wonderful things that this world has to offer. If that thing doesn't work out for them then they have nothing to fall back on and sometimes become the trigger of discouragement and negativity.

3. Third, make sure that they enjoy the gifts that they have. Each child has them, but we may have to help them see them and give them opportunities to develop them.

4. Fourth, make sure that they learn the love of reading. They may not be able to see the world, but they sure can take adventures anywhere they can imagine through the reading of a good book. Make sure that they have good examples at home because the lessons of example are much stronger than the oral ones.

5. Fifth, make sure that they learn the virtue of gratitude. Help them to be thankful for what they have. Encourage them to do acts of service and learn the true joy that comes from helping others. Teach them the lesson that it is more about the giving than the getting of the gift.

6. Finally, make sure that you allow your children to dream, love, appreciate, and play so that when asked about their childhood they can say, "It was wonderful". They will grow up soon enough.

My wish this Christmas season is for my children and grandchildren, as well as my 1058 children at Freedom, to experience the joy that comes from a fulfilled life, and that their story includes the phrase "happily ever after". Have a wonderful holiday season!

Respectfully yours,

James W. Melville, Principal

PTA Corner

Dates of Interest:

- Dec. 7th:** Reflections Assembly. The upper grades will be at 9:30 and the lower grades will be at 10:15.
- Dec. 13th:** The school choir will perform the play "A Dickens of a Christmas" at 7:00 PM in the school auditorium.

We are starting 3 new recycling programs to earn money for our PTA sponsored activities. Please save these items and send them in to the school:

- **Plastic store bags: they can be from any store in any color except black. When you are doing all your holiday gift and food purchasing, please remember to save your sacks!
- **Used ink cartridges
- **Used cell phones: they don't need to be working

Thank you, Melissa Scholes, for organizing

BREAK THE HABIT OF SILENCE!!

Having six children and now eleven grandchildren, I know how easy it is to forget to talk to your children while you just try to "get things done"...especially during this busy holiday season. However, your communication with them is crucial to their development of appropriate language skills, and there are many easy ways to facilitate language learning. Following are a few ideas to break the silence and boost the learning; and most of these interactions could occur almost anywhere, not just at home.

1. Vocabulary - give children names for things or parts of things, categories, actions, descriptive terms.
2. Questions - "What", "Who", "Where", and "When" are pretty straightforward; "Why" is more difficult and requires abstract thinking; "How do you___" is a question that requires sequencing. Ask questions while you are reading a story, ask your child to predict an action or reaction, have him/her retell the story in sequence with or without the pictures.
3. Think of a word that: rhymes with___, starts with the same sound as ____, is the opposite of ____, means the same as___.
4. I Spy Something___ can teach attributes and functions, as well as position words.
5. Tongue Twisters (like "Black bug's blood") encourage a slower rate of speech and clearer enunciation.
6. Riddles, jokes, and idioms encourage abstract thinking skills.

Good Luck,
Jean Gunn, SLP

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Roberts Crafts is offering each school the chance to earn one or two Cricut Machines thru December 31, 2007. It's so simple! During your personal shopping at any one of their stores, upon check-out, simply tell the cashier you want your receipt donated to Freedom Elementary. Then as the cash receipts build up the school earns a Cricut Machine (or two). Also don't forget that you can help Freedom Elementary earn miscellaneous funds when you shop at Smiths and Albertsons and by remembering to bring in your Box Tops. These are all great ways to help Freedom.



Student Testing Changes for Accelerated Learning Lab (A.L.L.) 3rd and 5th Grade Program Placement for 2008-2009

Testing for identification and placement of current 2nd and 4th grade students into next year's Alpine School District 3rd and 5th Grade A.L.L. has been scheduled. A.L.L. programs are designed to meet the needs of students who master academic skills easily and who need more challenge than is offered in a regular class. In early January an informational flyer will be sent home with every 2nd and 4th grade student listing indicators for parents and students to consider when looking at the possibility of an A.L.L. placement as being a "good fit."

In order to have more current test data for applicants, and to bring uniformity and consistency in placement, 4th grade student applicants will be given an above grade level alternative form of the IOWA Test of Basic Skills. This testing session is four hours in length. 2nd grade student applicants will be given the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Their testing session will last three hours. Applications will be available from the front office of every elementary school during the first week of January or on-line at <http://www.alpine.k12.ut.us/phpApps/genericPage.php?pdid=688>.

Morning and afternoon testing sessions will be held on February 9 at Highland Elementary, February 16 at Saratoga Shores Elementary and February 23 at Suncrest Elementary for a total of six different times on three different days. Only one session is required to complete the testing. Additional testing specifics will be included in the informational flyer.

Teacher Spotlights

Mr. David Walton

Meet Mr. Walton, our wonderful Vice Principal. Mr. Walton was born and raised in the Los Angeles, CA, area. Mr. Walton began teaching in 1972. Prior to joining the Freedom staff when the school opened, Mr. Walton served Alpine School District for 18 years as the Technology Director.

Mr. Walton is the middle of five children. He and his wife Joanne are the parents of five children. Four are married and they have six grandchildren. Mr. Walton likes bird watching. In his free time enjoys watching and photographing the birds (along with other animals).

Mr. Walton feels that the best thing about working at Freedom is that he loves the human climate - both with kids and parents as well as within the staff.

Mrs. Sandi Agaki

Mrs. Sandi Agaki was born in California. She came to Utah for junior high school and has lived here ever since. She has been a teacher for 10 years and currently teaches fifth grade. Before teaching, she stayed at home with her children & volunteered at their schools. Mrs. Agaki has three children, who are all grown men now. One lives in Washington D.C. He is a lawyer. One lives in Utah. He is the father of her two beautiful granddaughters. The third lives in California. He is a math major at Cal Tech, but is on a two year mission. In her free time, Mrs. Agaki loves to read, play with her grandchildren, and pull weeds. She is planning a trip to Costa Rica this summer to celebrate graduating with her mater's degree. Her husband and sister are going to celebrate with her. When asked what she likes the best about Freedom, Mrs. Agaki says the great families she gets to know through their children, and the amazing faculty that works so hard to be the very best.

Gold Medal Schools (GMS) is making sure that kids are healthy and ready to learn, by helping to create healthy lifestyle habits at a young age. The GMS program encourages schools to create a healthy environment at school by doing things such as encouraging 90 minutes of physical activity each week, teaching healthy nutrition choices and helping kids to stay tobacco free. The Utah Department of Health developed the Gold Medal Schools program in 2001 using the State Office of Education's core curriculum and the Centers for Disease Control's guidelines with Healthy People 2010 to address overweight and obesity in elementary schools.

With two years behind them, Freedom Elementary has implemented the Gold Medal Mile again. Their goal is for each class to walk to Hawaii and as a school, they walked over 4,000 miles in the first month! Way to go! The Gold Medal Mile will continue throughout the year so the students need all the encouragement they can get in order for every class to make it to Hawaii! Currently, non-food incentives are being offered in the classroom and, coming up in December, Freedom faculty, students, and family will be asked to keep all their extra bills and change that they would normally spend on junk food for a week and bring them to class to donate to the food bank during the annual canned food drive. We at Gold Medal Schools are excited at Freedom's progress and know they will make a great Gold Medal School this year. Keep up the good work!

For more information please talk to your principal or visit us at www.hearhighway.org/gms.

North Utah County Soccer - Spring 2008 Registration

Once again it is time to announce spring registration for soccer. North Utah County Soccer (NUCS) is a recreational league and is open to all ages between 4 -18 years of age. NUCS is now accepting mail-in registrations for the Spring 2008 soccer season. (Players who played in Fall 2007 are already registered for Spring 2008 and should NOT register again.) Registration instructions can be found on the NUCS website which is www.nucsonline.com. Registrations must be postmarked by February 1st 2008. The Spring season begins Saturday, March 29th and continues through mid-May.