

September 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

Freedom Elementary Post

FREEDOM ELEMENTARY

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Upcoming Events

September

- ◆ **Aug 31st – Sep 4th
Green Ribbon Week**
- ◆ **1st T-Shirt Orders Due**
- ◆ **3rd Speech & Hearing
Screening**
- ◆ **7th Labor Day – No
School**
- ◆ **9th General PTA
Meeting 10:00**
- ◆ **11th Dads & Donuts –
6th Grade**
- ◆ **11th Room Parent
Orientation 3:45 pm**
- ◆ **15th Picture Day**
- ◆ **22nd Vision Screening**

October

- ◆ **5th No School -
Professional
Development Day**
- ◆ **6th -9th Book Fair**
- ◆ **7th PTA Board Meeting
10:00 am**
- ◆ **7th District Community
Council Training 11:00**
- ◆ **7th – 8th SEP's**
- ◆ **15th-16th No School-
Fall Break**
- ◆ **19th-23rd Red Ribbon
Week**
- ◆ **23rd Picture Make-up**



Principal's Message – Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a great summer. We are so happy to have you back.

There are a few things that I wanted to remind you of as we start this new school year:

Freedom's goal: This year we are going to focus our attention on literacy. We will spend a lot of our efforts enhancing this subject area. I would hope that you would help us by reading to or with your child(ren). Those students who read 100 minutes a week (20 minutes a day) get to put a ticket in for the drawing, so make sure that you turn in your child's reading every week.

H1N1 Virus: The next area we would like you to help us with is to make sure that we keep the H1N1 virus at bay by making sure that you do not send a sick child to school. Please remind your children to always wash their hands. At our first assembly we had a student say, "Do no harm, cough or sneeze into your arm." We will do our best to keep this virus at bay.

I appreciate your assistance with the teacher and track selection process. I know that for some of you we were not able to honor your requests but I want to assure you that we hire the best teachers we can find and that every teacher at this school is a wonderful teacher who will do their very best to teach your children. We are also entering a year of changes in the child's progress reporting. We will keep you informed as this transition happens.

Just a reminder that if you have concerns with the school, would you please let your school community council representative know about it so that we can address it in upcoming meetings? You can also call the school. Remember that the process I would like you to use is to first, ask the teacher and see if the concern can be resolved at that level. If not, please call the office and we will do our best to help you with a solution that is best for your child's education.

Lastly, thank you for a great start to the year. Have a great year!

The theme for reflections this year is "*Beauty Is...*"

Reflections is a PTA-sponsored contest to recognize excellence in various areas of art: theater, video, music composition, literature, dance, visual art, 3D art, and photography. All Freedom students are eligible to enter.

Entries are due in the office by Friday, October 9 at 3:30 pm. Students may enter in as many categories as they'd like, with only 1 entry per category. If you are interested in helping with Reflections or if you have questions, please email tvminer@yahoo.com.

Be sure to follow the rules for each category that can be found at:

http://www.utahpta.org/Programs%20pdfs/development/Category_Guidelines_2009.pdf.

The rules are very specific and are the same throughout the nation. Entries that do not meet the guidelines will not be judged. Entry forms and rules are also available at the office.

Orchestra at Freedom Elementary is a wonderful opportunity our school is adding this year.

This is a before-school program for 2nd grade and up. No experience is required. Younger children with private lessons may audition. It is one day a week: Tuesday, 7-8 am for beginners, and Thursday, 7-8 am for advanced students. This program is only \$65 (make checks out to Freedom Elementary) for an approx. 14-week semester including a recital (this includes music). Orchestra will include: violin, viola, cello and flute. We are still looking to add some children on viola!

* You provide the instrument and a collapsible music stand. Bert Murdock will be supplying our rentals (coming to the school Aug 27th 5-7 pm). All students renting receive a music stand free.

* Sydney McKinney will be teaching our orchestra. She comes to us with 17 years of violin and string experience, and is a new graduate of Utah Valley University's Music program.

Questions??? Contact Heidi Cordner: hcordner@msn.com, 768-2877

ORCHESTRAS

REFLECTIONS 2009!!!



Hearing and Speech Screening

Hearing and speech screening for students in kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades will be conducted this year on Thursday, September 3rd by a team of district speech and hearing professionals. Should a problem with hearing be noted, a follow-up evaluation is given after allowing sufficient time for any medical issues (ear infection, allergies, etc.) to subside. If problems persist with the recheck, parents are notified and a referral is sent to the Alpine District Audiology Lab, which provides a more comprehensive hearing evaluation free of charge.

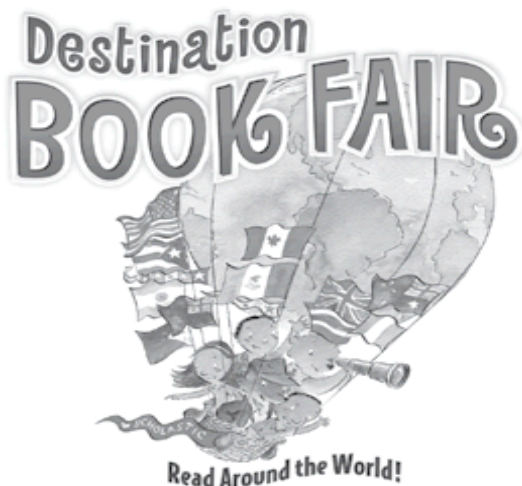
Speech problems are not uncommon in kindergarten, first, and second grades; however, if problems noted for speech and language seem to fall outside of the normal range, parents are notified. In most cases, if sound errors persist beyond second grade or age 8, speech therapy is recommended. If you have concerns about your child's speech or hearing, please notify his/her teacher or contact the speech therapist at extension 312.

Jean Gunn, MS., CCC-SLP

Take Home Library

Parents of K-3 grade students watch for Take Home Library books to come home starting September 22nd. Five books will be sent home each week to be returned and switched once a week on Tuesday.

Check with your child's teacher to make sure that there is at least one volunteer and some substitutes to handle the Take Home Library for his/her class. Even if you do not have a student in K-3, we would love your help! To volunteer, talk to your student's teacher or contact Kristy Bitter at kristybitter@gmail.com. Thank you to all the teachers and volunteers that work to make this wonderful program possible!



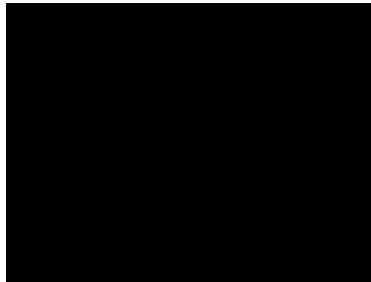
You're invited to join us for an all-exclusive adventure to our Scholastic Book Fair!

Tuesday October 6th- Friday October 9th
 Hours are Tuesday 7:45 AM- 3:00 PM
 Wed. and Thursday 7:45 AM-7:30 PM and
 Friday until noon.

Support your PTA!

Please help us keep programs like the Take-Home-Library and Dads & Donuts by supporting the PTA. Three easy ways that are no extra cost to you are:

1. Used Ink Cartridges - When you buy new ink cartridges, just send your old ones into the office with your child. There is a green box to put them in by the office.
 2. Old Cell Phones - Drop off your old cell phones at the front office.
 3. ProInk Store-
www.freedomelementary.ptaink.com Buy your toner, ink, and paper products from our online ProInk store. They are a local company trying to help out schools by letting us advertise for them. They have a 30 day money back guarantee and great prices. E-mail Tami_Madsen@yahoo.com for monthly discounts.
 4. Don't forget to save your Box Tops and to register on the website for additional savings for you and money for your school. The first contest has already started and will run until October 14th. It's grade vs. grade, so we'll see if 6th graders really "rule the school"!
- Watch for ways to volunteer at the school. Tax deductible donations are always accepted. Sorry, we are no longer accepting grocery bags.



Your school is a Ken Garff Road to Success school!

20 minutes a day, 5 days a week

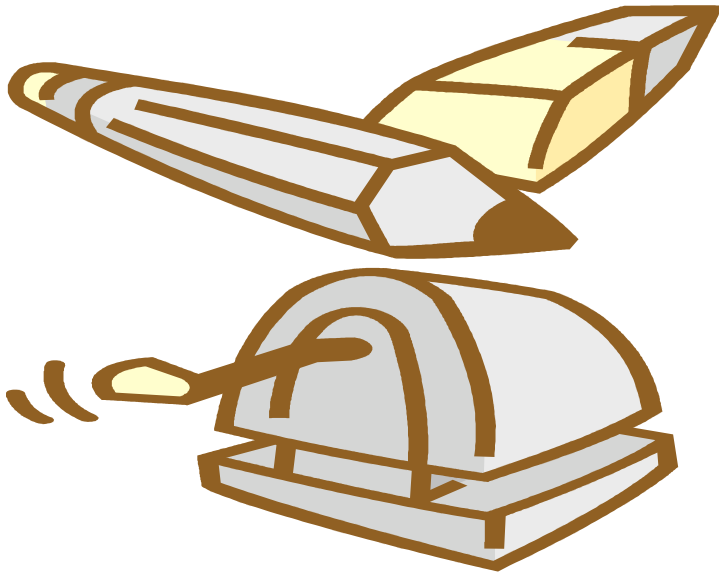
The Road to Success program is a literacy initiative that truly motivates students to read every day. The program is a collaboration of several community business leaders who want to make a difference!

Here's how it works:

- Four (4) bikes are going to be given away at the end of the school year to your school.
- Read with your child for 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week.
- Every 100 minutes your student reads enters their name into the drawing for one of the bikes. The more your student reads, the better their chances.
- Teachers will collect the reading minutes from students once a week.
- Students can track their reading minutes at home. Schools have been provided with a reading chart for the students to bring home and keep on their fridge.
- Every student will receive several reading reminders and incentives (homework folder, pencil, eraser, ruler, and food prize incentives) during the school year.
- Find out who is running the program at your school, visit www.kengarffroad.com and click on the "schools" tab. Then simply look for your school's name.

Purpose: To give teachers and parents a tool to encourage our young students to learn and improve their reading skills, in order to become great thinkers and enhance their scholastic careers.

For complete program information, visit www.kengarffroad.com



STARS Reading Tutoring

The STARS Reading program is looking for volunteers to be reading tutors for students in grades 1-6 who need extra one-on-one help with reading. **WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!** If you have time that you could give twice a week for thirty minutes to an hour each time, you could make a huge difference in the life of a child.

Grandparents, neighbors, retired people...anyone with a little time can be trained to help a child improve their reading. You could even learn to help your own child who might be struggling with reading!

To volunteer or to learn more, please contact Sonya Cuff at 766-0251 or Donna Kitchen, our Reading Recovery teacher, at 766-5270 x125.

Join The Freedom PTA!!

The PTA is launching our annual membership drive!
We would love to get each Freedom family to join the PTA.
Membership is just \$5.00 per family!
The PTA uses the money to pay its membership fees, as well as to pay for school programs such as Take Home Reading Library, Reflections, Dad's & Doughnuts, Red Ribbon Week and so much more. Please add your name to our membership list and help continue Freedom's legacy of excellent family support! Please send your donation in a sealed envelope and include your name on the envelope. You can turn the donations in to the office or to a classroom with your child. Thank You Freedom Falcon Families!
-Freedom Elementary PTA

Spirit Day Fridays!

Every Friday is Spirit Day at Freedom Elementary. Show your spirit by wearing any Freedom Elementary shirt or a RED shirt. Be on the lookout for the Spirit Day Lady who will pop in on random Fridays at lunch time - get caught wearing your colors and get a treat!



Dear Parents/Guardians:

You are probably very aware of the fact that there are a lot of flu germs circulating in our community at this time. This same situation can be found throughout the state and across the country. In order to reduce the number of students, faculty and staff being exposed to these illnesses, we are asking that you carefully review the list below that has been provided by the Utah County Health Department. By keeping sick children home, the chances of spreading the illnesses is greatly reduced. If your child shows any of these signs while they are at school, we will notify you immediately so that you can take them home until they have recovered.

Should They Stay or Should They Go?

Children, staff, parents and/or volunteers **will be excluded from the classroom** if any of the following are noted:

- Fever of 100 degrees or above orally
- Nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- Diarrhea-frequent, loose, watery stools
- Unusual drowsiness or tiredness
- Sore throat, acute cold or persistent cough
- Runny nose (thick green/yellow discharge) (non allergenic)
- Red, inflamed or discharging eyes (pink eye) (non allergenic) must be treated with antibiotic drop/ointment for at least 24 hours before returning to school
- Swollen glands around jaws, ears or neck
- Any skin sore oozing of fluid, suspected impetigo (may have a yellow crusty discharge from sore)
- Earache
- An unexplained rash
- Symptoms which may suggest an acute illness

Conditions needing treatment with an antibiotic may return to the classroom after at least 24 hours of treatment **and** a decrease in symptoms.

Swine Flu (H1N1)

If you have or suspect you have had the Swine Flu (H1N1) or any of the following symptoms, please see the guidelines below to know when your student can return to school.

Symptoms

- Fever over 100.5
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Chills

All people (staff and students) with above symptoms ***should stay home until they are symptom-free and fever free for 24 hours.*** (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>). The Utah County Health Department with Alpine District will determine if schools need to be closed based on current CDC recommendations. If school is closed for H1N1 you should stay home and not go out into the community. We greatly appreciate all that you do to ensure that your children are in school each and every day when they are healthy. Attendance is so important for student success. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep our school a safe and healthy place to be.

Betty Sue Hinkson RN, School Nurse, Alpine School District, Utah County Health Department