



FRANZEN FALCON

DECEMBER 2011

“Through collaboration between school and community, we strive to foster an environment that promotes academic excellence and positive character, while accommodating the differences of our students in order to create lifelong learners.”

Dear Franzen Community,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends! I want to start with thanking everyone for your participation in our fall conferences. Our staff was thrilled and excited about the positive relationship demonstrated between home and school. This is important to us. As the cold weather has arrived, I want to review some important information regarding winter weather procedures:

Snowy and Cold Weather:

As a reminder, during snowy/cold weather, students will still be outside for recess. Please remind your children to dress properly for this type of weather! If students wish to play in the snow, they MUST have on: boots, snow-pants, gloves/mittens, and winter coats. As stated in the handbook, if the temperature or wind chill is at **10** degrees or lower, we will NOT go outside for recess.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up:

I want to thank all of the parents who continue to prioritize keeping safety a priority in dropping off their children for school during these snowy and slippery days!

Please remember to pull all the way up to the car in front of you when dropping off or picking up your child(ren). This will help in preventing a backup on Catalpa into our parking lot which causes students to be late for school. Please, only let your children out on the right side of the car. Cars pass on the left side, so this is definitely safety issue. On the really cold days or days in which precipitation is falling, we allow students to enter any of our three doors, so please pull up as far as you can and your student can come in the nearest door to where you pull up. Thank you for your cooperation!

Help Prevent Tardiness:

Because of the inclement weather, it will take longer to get ready (boots, coats, snow-pants) and take longer (slow-moving traffic) to get to school. So, please be mindful of our starting time. We start classes promptly each morning at 8:20 AM; so if you are dropping your child off, please leave with some additional time so that your child is here on time. When students are late it disrupts the class and interferes with your child's academics as well as the academics of others.

Toys for Tots/Donations for Franzen Military Families:

Please see the insert regarding our community service project, Toys for Tots toy drive in conjunction with the Itasca Fire Department. It is a neat opportunity for our students to be able to donate to those who are in need. Also, please consider donating to our IEPTO Community Outreach committee drive for our Franzen military families. The flyer for this was in the online IEPTO newsletter. We have the opportunity to incorporate this drive with our pillars for Character Counts and make that “connection” a meaningful experience.

Sock Out Diabetes:

Thank you for your cooperation with our “Sock Out Diabetes” campaign in regards to allowing your student to bring their 50 cents to donate to the American Diabetes Association for Diabetes

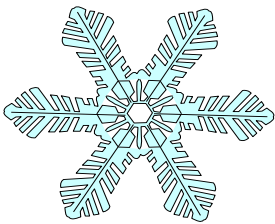
Awareness Month. The students had a lot of fun not only wearing crazy socks, but also hearing various diabetes awareness facts each day during the last week of November. With your help, Franzen School was able to donate approximately \$275 to the American Diabetes Association!

Bear Down on Bullies:

Thank you to the IEPTO for providing the assembly, Bear Down on Bullies for our students on December 6. It was a treat to have a Chicago Bears theme with an assembly by Staley the Bear himself! The students enjoyed this assembly focusing on an all-so-important topic. Go Bears!

Finally, I wish you each a happy and joyful holiday season! It is truly an honor to work with each Franzen family and I wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday and start to the New Year! **Please remember that we return on Tuesday, January 3.**

Warmest Regards,
Mr. Jeffrey J. Murphy



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

With our School Reach phone system, **all families will be notified via a phone call if school is cancelled.** It is imperative that the school always has your updated phone number. You may also check our district website at www.itasca.k12.il.us.

In addition, District 10 is a member of the (ECC) Emergency Closing Center. District 10 reports school closing information to the ECC and it is then broadcast on WGN-AM (720), WBBM Radio 780 AM, CBS Ch. 2, NBC Ch. 5, ABC Ch. 7, WGN Ch. 9, WFLD FOX and CLTV cable.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

1. Please make sure your child has a lunch EVERY DAY. We cannot make them a lunch as we do not have the supplies or personnel.
2. Parents - YOU need to call your child/ren in sick EVERY DAY THEY ARE GOING TO BE OUT AND LET US KNOW WHY THEY ARE OUT.
3. ALL STUDENTS NEED NOTES OR A PHONE CALL IF THEY ARE NOT FOLLOWING THEIR NORMAL ROUTINE. EVEN WALKERS NEED TO LET US KNOW IF THEY ARE GOING HOME WITH ANOTHER STUDENT. Please let us know who they are going home with so we can make sure that student also has a note stating another student is going home with them.

4. when sending treats to school, please send only treats on the approved treats list. No other treats will be accepted. See page 36 in the student/parent handbook or look in the district 10 website for the list under the virtual backpack.



The following students will be saying the Pledge for the next month:

Week of 12/5/11	Mrs. Lindsay's Class
Week of 12/12/11	Mrs. Lindsay's Class and Mrs. Asimor's Class
Week of 1/2/12	Mrs. Asimor's Class
Week of 1/9/12	Miss Sitkiewitz's Class

NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

THIRD GRADE

Third grade has had an eventful month. This month we had an assembly on bully prevention presented by the Chicago Bears Organization. The students had a wonderful time at the assembly and learned some valuable information about bully prevention! In math class, students are continuing to practice multiplication as well as other math concepts. In social studies, the students are learning about first communities and Jamestown. In the computer lab students are continuing to learn and practice proper keyboarding skills. The students are also finishing their handwriting books and will soon be ready to write in cursive! Please continue to have your child practice reading and math facts each day at home. We hope you have an enjoyable winter holiday!

FOURTH GRADE

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through second quarter! It is hard to believe how fast the year is going. We have been very busy as usual in fourth grade. In Reading we are still in our first basal and are seeing the benefits of flexible grouping to meet each child's needs. In Language we are concentrating on possessive nouns.

The students are researching an endangered animal in Science. We have finished learning about the history of the Midwest region in Social Studies. We are now learning the states, capitals, abbreviations, and locations of the states in that region. We made a flashcard for each state. They should be bringing their ring of flashcards home nightly to study.

In Math we are continuing our study of multiplication. We are learning many different ways to solve multiplication problems like 35×64 . The fourth grade teachers can't stress enough how important it is for the students to know their basic facts. Knowing them will allow the students to complete long multiplication and division problems with more ease and accuracy. This quarter we will expect them to have all four operations mastered on timed tests.

The fourth grade team wishes you a happy and safe holiday season! We will see you next year!

FIFTH GRADE

The fifth graders are looking forward to the upcoming holiday break and excited about what the new year has in store. We are in a new theme in our reading groups where we are working on our skills and doing fun projects. This theme focuses on our planet and things we can do to improve the world we live in. Each story contains a great message about living more responsibly in an effort to keep our planet healthy. The students are getting great ideas from the stories, as well as improving their reading skills each and every day.

In Math, the students are about to begin the first of 3 units that focus on fractions. The new material is challenging, but we are working hard to master all of it. One thing that helps students be successful with fractions is having their math facts mastered. If any students need practice, they should be studying their facts nightly. Our unit on matter is now under way in Science class, and we are working on some preliminary activities before break so the students will be ready for some fun learning experiences with density and buoyancy next month. In Social Studies the students are learning about the exploration of North and South America. The students are working hard in all of our subjects and learning more every day.

Band is going well, and the group is excited to begin practicing as a group when they get back in January. Speaking of great music, if you listen carefully you may hear the Chorus caroling around the Village of Itasca before the holidays. Keep an eye and ear out for them! We hope everyone has a great holiday season.

News from the Art Room

We have a short, but fun filled month ahead of us in Art! Our third graders have wrapped up their Paul Klee inspired “Homemade Scratch Boards” and the colors are astounding! We finished this project by learning how we can use masking tape to block out colors and how to create a clean, white boarder. In the next couple weeks we will be using what we know of the slab technique, as well as score and slip, to create some very friendly-looking “Clay Polar Bears”. These cute creations will be finished in the kiln with glaze when we get back from Winter Break, after they have had plenty of time to dry out

The fourth graders are busy piecing together their “Underwater Montage” using the newly learned transfer technique. Once we have completed the guidelines of transferring several fish and aquatic plants, as well as adding our own unique details to the drawing, we will fill in all of our tropical scenery with colored pencils and watercolors. These warm water tropical masterpieces will be sure to take your mind off of the cold weather...at least for a while!

Lastly, the fifth graders are finishing up the month by creating an edition of “Cityscape Prints”. We have learned how to use all kinds of printmaking tools, from brayers to barens, to create a unique series of extremely colorful prints. When we get back from Winter Break we will discover how a small village in Africa has become quite well known throughout the world with their impressive “Jewelry Out of Paper”. Simple math and measuring skills paired up with fine-motor and paper-manipulation skills will have our students creating some very professional looking jewelry in no time!

Student art work will be displayed throughout the school as well as the community, including locations such as the District Office and Starbucks! Please stop by these locations to see all of our wonderful art work! The artwork shown is selected randomly and is changed every few weeks or so. I am very proud to be able showcase the students’ artwork within the community!

Parents, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email; I appreciate all parents’ input!

Eric Whitney
Art Teacher



Music students are focused on studying concepts of rhythm, melody, and expression. December brings a repertoire of holiday music to our music classes as well – ask your student to sing “12 Days of Christmas” or perform “Sleigh Ride” (4th & 5th grades) the next time it comes on the radio! Here are some concept highlights:

3rd Grade

- Form (the order music goes in) – they are labeling each section of music they hear with a letter (for example: ABAC Coda)
- Sixteenth notes – students are practicing rhythms that have four sounds one beat by singing song that contain sixteenth notes, playing instruments, and composing rhythm patterns that contain sixteenth notes

4th Grade

- Performing and notating rhythm patterns containing one eighth note and 2 sixteenth notes (ti-tika)
- Performing songs on the recorder using correct technique

5th Grade

- Congratulations to all 5th grade students on their recent Informance! Thanks to all of the audience members who attended that event!
- Performing and reading rhythms that contain a dotted-eighth note, sixteenth note pattern. We have been discussing fractions as we learned that a dotted-eighth note is worth $\frac{3}{4}$ of a beat and one sixteenth note is worth $\frac{1}{4}$ of a beat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chorus Community Caroling: The Franzen Chorus will be taking a field trip on Wednesday, December 14 to visit various Itasca Businesses and Benson Primary School to carol. Students will leave Franzen School at 9:25 a.m. and return at 1:20 p.m. **Chorus members should bring a sack lunch with a drink on Dec. 14. Students should wear black or dark-colored pants or skirt and a holiday-colored shirt (red, green, blue or white).** A special thanks to Mrs. Colavitti and Mrs. Panawa for chaperoning!

Franzen Chorus

District Choral Concert: Congratulations to all Franzen chorus members for an outstanding holiday concert on Dec. 1! A special thanks to those parents who helped the night of the concert. **Chorus practice will resume January 11.** Thank you for supporting your student in this musical opportunity!



Franzen students will be learning about “The Nutcracker” during the holiday season. The holidays are a great time to take your child to a live performance – orchestras, ballets and theatres all have family-friendly events. Below is a list of some “Nutcracker” and holiday performances.

The Nutcracker

Prairie Center for the Arts, Schaumburg, IL

Dec. 2 – 11

<http://www.ci.schaumburg.il.us/PCA/PrairieCenter/Pages/default.aspx>

The Nutcracker

The Joffrey Ballet, Auditorium Theatre, Chicago, IL

Dec. 9 – 27 (Performed with a live orchestra!)

<http://www.joffrey.org/nut>

The Nutcracker

The Salt Creek Ballet

Dec. 3, 10, 17 & 18

<http://www.saltcreekballet.org/Calendar/tabid/87/Default.aspx>

'Tis the Season

Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Hemmens Theatre, Elgin, IL

Dec. 10 & 11

<http://www.elginsymphony.org/holidays.php>

Welcome Yule!

Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Center, Chicago, IL

Dec. 16 – 23

<http://cso.org/TicketsAndEvents/EventDetails.aspx?eid=4263>

Holiday Concerts (Mrs. Kozakis plays bassoon in this orchestra!)

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, Lincoln-Way East Performing Arts Center

Dec. 17 & 18

<http://www.ipomusic.org/>

Can't make it to a live performance? Check out a video of the Nutcracker from the library, or look up scenes on youtube! Here is a clip of the Sugar Plum Fairy Dance that we will watch in class:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vH9vYiqDX5o>

5th Grade Informance on November 17, 2011



CHARACTER COUNTS!

The following students received a Franzen Falcon in the month of November for the pillar of Respect.

GRADE 3

Collin	Bonder	Amelia	Morkuni
Tina	Bowman	Ani	Nimmagadda
Allison	Calabrese	Erin	Okada
Ryan	Cox	Maggie	Plucinski
Max	Cychosz	Logan	Pobloske
Michael	DiSilvestro	Isabel	Renteria
Kelli	Kryczka	David	Surzykiewicz
Abigail	Maniez	Evan	Williams
Hope	Maniez	Michael	Wojcik
Bhaavya	Manikonda		

GRADE 4

Elissa	Accetta	Brittany	Hernandez
Susan	Arreola	Brianna	Hianik
Cassi	Barbanente	Justin	Kaczmarczyk
Aurora	Battaglia	Evan	Karner
Anthony	Biango	Jackie	Kawczynski
Sam	Brown	Shea	Kindander
Dario	Costas	Ani	Koppaka
Geetha	Damarapati	Vincent	Kruger
Aidan	Denman	Hannah	Lim
Ethan	DeValk	Matthew	Lorence
Steve	Drews	Gio	Martinelli
Will	Edgecombe	Jack	Murphy
Christopher	Finucane	Maddie	Petit
Abbey	Frank	Olivia	Szylar
Liam	Franzen	Dylan	Williams
Gloryanne	Gatbunton		

GRADE 5

Delila	Barrera	Aiyah	Hickman
Chris	Ciccia	Shivani	Kayastha
Jesslyn	Cohen	Mikaela	Mannina
Jordon	Connelly	Riley	Millikan
Sean	Cox	Nick	Nie
Gio	D'Addabbo	Alyssa	Nowotarski
Emma	DeValk	Nathan	Reid
Alex	Domagala	Tyler	Samaras
Max	Ellenbecker	Maggie	Sampson
Christiana	Gatbunton	Maddie	Vandergriff
Amy	George	Jocelyn	Vazquez
Brookelle	Grimsley		



The staff at Franzen School wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Have a wonderful new year.



Winter starts on
December 22

VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY
November 11, 2011





Thank you to all the dads for attending the Donuts with Dads Event at Franzen on December 1st.



Thank you IEPTO for the Chicago Bears Assembly on bullying.

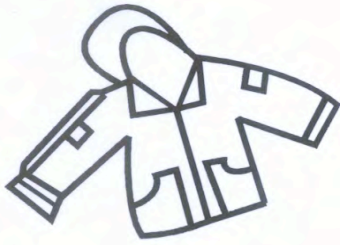




Franzen School will be collecting “Toys for Tots” starting on November 14 through December 14.

Please send in a new toy or book for a child in need (no teddy bears allowed). Gifts must be unwrapped. Specifically, sports equipment for children over 13 is needed.

We look forward to encouraging our student community to participate and to demonstrate the power of giving.



Winter Coat Drive December 1st – December 18th

Please join me in helping keep as many homeless people warm this winter by donating new or gently used coats for men or women.

Journey's From Pads To Hope is doing everything they can to make that happen and with more people like us "paying it forward" we can really make a huge difference.

All coats for kids will be donated to underprivileged children and will be greatly appreciated.

Please call Lisa @ 312.813.2222
for pick up and drop off information.

ROUND-UP AND SCREENING FOR PRESCHOOL

(Children 3-4 Years of Age)

PRESCHOOL ROUND-UP – January 10, 2012

Children reaching the age of 4 on or before September 1, 2012 are eligible to enroll in Itasca School District #10's preschool for the 2012-2013 school year. The district's preschool is referred to as the Kindergarten-Preparation class. Both Itasca District #10 residents and non-residents are eligible to enroll their children. However, because of the demand, registration will be open first to District #10 residents—from January 17th through March 30th, 2012. Thereafter, District #10 residents and non-residents may register.

To familiarize next year's preschool students and parents to the program, District #10 is offering a **Preschool Round-up on Tuesday, January 10th, 2012**. The Kindergarten-Preparation Round-Up will be held at Benson Primary School (301 E. Washington Street) in room #2. The Preschool Round-Up will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Preschool Round-Up is to familiarize the children with the classroom while interacting with the teacher. Also, parents will be provided with an overview of the program.

Again, please join us for this event. Please share this information with other families that you know this will affect. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Dawn Turner at the Benson Primary School office at (630) 773-0554, ext. 3030.

PRESCHOOL SCREENING – February 7, 2012

The purpose of the screening is to enable the school district to determine if a child needs assistance in the areas of speech and language, basic concepts, motor skills or hearing and vision. The school district provides programs to help students improve in areas of concern that appear during screening. Students should wear tennis shoes for the screening activities.

PLEASE CALL BENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 630-773-0554 FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR MORE INFORMATION

*Please share this information regarding screenings with other families that you know this will affect.

REGISTRATION, PARENT ORIENTATION AND SCREENING FOR KINDERGARTEN

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING – February 29, 2012.

Itasca School District #10 will be having a **Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting in which registration forms for the 2012-2013 school year will be distributed and procedures will be reviewed**. The registration information is for children who will be entering kindergarten during the fall of 2012. The Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, February 29th, at Benson Primary School**. The evening begins with a tour at 6:00 p.m. followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. It is to be emphasized that Kindergarten Registration pertains to all students within Itasca School District #10 boundaries who are entering kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year. Age eligibility is determined by those children reaching the age of 5 on or before September 1, 2012. **The Kindergarten Registration & Parent Orientation Meeting is for parents only.**

An opportunity for children to become familiar with the school will be made available in **late August** at a **Kindergarten Meet & Greet**. More information will follow at a later date.

If you have a school-age kindergarten student for 2012-2013, we hope you will join us at the Benson Primary School Kindergarten Registration Meeting. Please share this information with other families that you know this will affect.

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING – February 7th, 2012

Itasca District #10 will be conducting their annual Kindergarten Screening for children reaching the age of 5 on or before September 1, 2012. The Kindergarten screening for students entering kindergarten during the 2012-2013 school year will be on February 7, 2012.

Students involved in this year's Kindergarten Screening should **ONLY** be those students who have not previously participated in District 10's screening opportunities in prior years or if parents have concerns about their child.

Children will be screened in the areas of speech and language, basic concepts, motor skills, hearing and vision. The school district provides programs to help students who need improvement in these areas. Call Benson Primary School at 630-773-0554 for an appointment. Children should wear tennis shoes to the Kindergarten Screening.

Kindergarten Screening is not a requirement for kindergarten.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS **PLEASE READ:**

1. **Please make sure your child brings their lunch every day.** We cannot provide your child a lunch if they forget it. We do not have the personnel, materials or time for making your child a lunch. If you need to drop off your child's lunch, please put their name on it. We get many lunches and want to make sure your child gets their lunch.
2. When dropping off your child's instrument, please bring it directly to the front hallway under the bulletin board.
3. It is the **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY** to call the office when your child is going to be absent or late. You can call the absent line from 4:30 p.m. until 7:50 a.m. at 630-773-1232 press 5, extension 1525. After 7:50 call the school office and give the information to the secretary. If you leave a message or talk to the secretary, please give your child's name, reason for absence, teacher, and if you would like to pick up homework. Requests for homework must be made by 9:00 a.m. so the teacher can get it ready. If you ask for homework, please come and pick it up. Homework requests in advance will not be honored. It can be picked up after 2:30 and before 3:30. You must call the office every day your child will be out. If you send an e-mail to your child's teacher regarding an absence or change in their after school plans, please e-mail the office as well. Please e-mail robertson@itasca.k12.il.us.
4. If you are picking your child/children up early from school, please write a note. This way the teacher can have them ready along with their homework and you will not have to wait.

5. If you need to make a bus change or sign up as a new rider, please note it will take **minimum of 5 school days** to make the change. Please plan accordingly. PARENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FIRST **BEFORE MAKING ANY DAY CARE ARRANGEMENTS**. A TRANSPORTATION CHANGE FORM **MUST BE FILLED OUT BEFORE ANY CHANGES ARE MADE**.
6. Franzen School closes at 3:30. The doors are locked at 3:30 and the office is closed. The Itasca Library and Wood Dale Library have copies of all Franzen's textbooks.
7. Please send an extra set of clothes to school with your child. They will be going out during the winter and if they do get wet they can change their clothes without having to disturb you at work or home.
8. If you have a new cell phone, work or emergency numbers, please send a note to the office so we can updated our records. **We need current and working phone numbers for all students in case of an emergency.**
9. Parents please note the following regarding after school plans:
 - a. If your child rides the bus some days and walks other days unless we get a note from you or a phone call from you, your child will do what they are scheduled to do on those days. No changes will be made to their normal routine unless we hear from you.
 - b. If your child is normally a walker and they are going home with another student, you will need to write a note telling us that they are going home with another student. We need notes from both parents even if your child walks home.
 - c. Children who do not normally ride the bus cannot ride the bus to go to a friend's house. You will have to pick them up and drive them to the friend's house.
 - d. **Please call to make any after school changes BEFORE 12:00.** The office gets very busy at dismissal time and there is only 1 secretary in the building at that time.
10. **Treats for Special Occasions** - Non-food items such as stickers or pencils are preferred. Please see page 36 in the Student/Parent Handbook for a list of approved birthday treats/snacks or the District 10 website under the virtual backpack. No other treats will be accepted.