

FSMS FALCON eNews

December 15 – 19, 2014

Our PTO newsletter can be downloaded from the following link:

http://fsmsnest.weebly.com/uploads/8/2/0/4/8204117/fall_2014_issue.pdf

FROM MRS. GRIMM, our Attendance Clerk

Please remember when sending a note with your child to be dismissed early or an excuse from previous days missed, include:

- First and last name of child
- Reason for absence or dismissal
- Date of note AND dates of absence
- Signature of parent or guardian
- Phone number to be reached in case of questions

Students should drop the notes in the basket on the counter of the Attendance Office. Thank you!!

OUR 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year!!!

Congratulations to Mr. Lee who was selected as Fort Settlement's Teacher of the Year! Mr. Lee teaches 8th grade Math, Geometry and Mathcounts classes for us. He has also coached for us!! Mr. Lee is positive and willing to serve our students in any way. We are VERY lucky to have him as part of our FSMS family! Congratulations Mr. Lee!!!!

WELCOME MRS. CHAVEZ ~ FSMS Librarian

Hello Parents and Students,

I am Mrs. Chavez, the new librarian at Fort Settlement. I am very excited to be here. I look forward to meeting you and will be announcing new programs our library will be implementing in the near future! Stay tuned!

Holiday Spirit! Come Hear Our Beginning Band

We would like to invite everyone to attend the Beginning Band Recitals on Monday, December 15th. The recitals will be during the students' band class period and the schedule is listed below. Parents, family and friends are all invited to attend.

1st Period - Beginning Bassoon, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn and Euphonium starts at 9:20 am

3rd Period - Beginning Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet and Percussion starts at 11:40 am

4th Period - Beginning Flute, Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba starts at 12:35 pm

This will be the students' first performance, so they are excited about the opportunity to play for you and also a great way to start your holiday season.

Our Budding Artists!!

Please come out and join us for the **FBISD 2015 Rodeo Art Contest and Exhibition**. Our 7th and 8th grade art students will be showcasing their art work.

The exhibition will be held at **Clements High School, Saturday, January 10, 2015**, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in The Commons. Hope to see you there partner.

FROM OUR COUNSELORS! Semester Exams are Next Week~

PREPARING FOR SEMESTER EXAMS – Some Tips from your Counselors

1. Get Organized. Making a plan for what you're going to do and when you're going to do it will make sure you're always ahead of the curve - literally.
2. Divide it up. Studying isn't fun to begin with, and forcing yourself through a study marathon will only make it worse. Don't try to do all your studying the night before the test. Instead space out your studying, you'll learn more by studying a little every day. Dividing your work into manageable chunks and rewarding yourself when you finish each chunk will make studying (more) fun.
3. Sleep. Don't underestimate the importance of those eight hours of zzz's every night! Getting a good night's rest will sharpen your focus and improve your working memory.
4. Set a schedule. Do you work better right after school or after you've eaten dinner? Are you more productive in 90-minute blocks or half-hour spurts? Find a schedule that works for you, and stick to it.
5. Take notes. Taking notes will not only keep you more engaged during class, but will also help you narrow down what you need to study when exam time rolls around. It's much easier to reread your notes than to reread your entire textbook!
6. Study. This one might be obvious, but did you know that there's a right and a wrong way to study? Review your material several days ahead of time, in small chunks, and in different manners (for example, write flashcards one day and take practice tests the next). Start out by studying the most important information. Learn the general concepts first, don't worry about learning the details until you have learned the main ideas. Make sure you understand the material well, don't just read through the material and try to memorize everything. In other words, don't cram.
7. Manage your study space. Find a place that will maximize your productivity. Find a comfortable and quiet place to study with good lighting and little distractions. Whether it's our local library or just the desk in your bedroom, set aside a study space that you'll want to spend time in.
8. Ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Asking for help - from a teacher, a tutor or your friends - is a surefire way to make sure you truly understand the material.

Sources – www.opportunity.com

www.testtakingtips.com

Please remember to always check our weebly website, the Counselors' Corner, for up to date information.

<http://counselorscorner.weebly.com>

THE POWER OF ONE – in the community—FALCONS HELPING OTHERS!!!

For the **14th** year, the FSMS Falcons adopted Fort Bend families for the holiday season as part of Fort Bend ISD's Shared Dreams Holiday Cheer program. Families in the community are nominated to participate by their school nurse or counselor and then turn in wish lists to the Shared Dreams coordinator to give to the groups who are adopting the families. Our PALs and Teen Leadership classes, National Junior Honor Society, and Student Council led this service project and provided gifts to make **FIVE** of these families' holidays a lot more merry!

Thank you to all the parents who also helped support this project. You are making a difference, not only in the lives of children in our community, but in the lives of your own children!

RESERVE YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY!!

Reserve your Yearbook today! \$10.00 will reserve your copy of the FSMS Falcon Yearbook. Fill out an order form and send to campus with \$10.00 deposit. This will reserve your copy of the yearbook for \$45.00 and you can pay the balance by May 1st, 2015. Yearbook prices GO up to \$55 after winter break!

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL ~

I was really blessed this week as I was asked to present something inspiring at our weekly FBISD Leadership meeting. So, while writing my weekly Character Talk to our kids and with the holiday season close, I decided to focus on the theme of gratitude. When we STOP and look around, we can find inspiration in all of those around us.

I am SO inspired by the people walking the halls of our school. I shared how BLESSED I am that I work with a wonderful staff--many of whom are going through challenging times, yet they show up EVERYDAY and take care of our children. I am grateful for this.

I shared the stories of some of our AMAZING students, with their permission, who have overcome obstacles or are overcoming obstacles--obstacles I never had to go through as a child. They come to school EVERYDAY with smiles on their faces. I am grateful for them. The highlight of the presentation was when I had one of our very own FSMS 7th graders give her informative speech on Autism to the 150+ leaders in the room. WHAT an inspiration she was to all of us.

I am currently reading the book Enjoy the Ride by Steve Gilliland. It's a book that speaks to me about finding balance in life. One quote that spoke volumes to me is by the Beatles' Paul McCartney: "We never really enjoyed our successes because we were so focused on what was next." WOW.... Do you ever feel that way? We are just rushing from one event to another, from one holiday to another, and we don't really ever take the time to STOP and look around. Our kids feel this way too--the stress of getting this done, getting into this class, getting to college, etc. etc., until they don't have time to enjoy the here and now.

An older, WISER, friend of mine called this **taking the long view**. She was wonderful at reminding me to find balance in what I do. Our children grow so fast, and before we know it, they will (or are) not around. Stop getting "stuck" in the little things that in five to ten years from now will not matter. What will matter are those moments we stop to appreciate each other, practice gratitude, and simply just savor the moments. I am grateful for a friend like this!!

SO, when the last exam is finished next week, I hope that you and your family will take some time, take some INTENTIONAL time, to spend with each other. Perhaps have a convenient power outage and find a place with no cell service (wink). Let each other know that the real gift this season is the gift of presence. I leave you with a very favorite quote of mine from Mother Teresa, "*It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone.....in our own home. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start.*"

Have a great weekend! I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with you and your children!~ JD

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS! The City of Sugar Land offers students many opportunities for volunteerism in **our** community. If your child is 14 or older, please visit the link below!!

<http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/index.aspx?nid=703> Please check out this site if you are looking for opportunities for **YOUR** child!

**Fort Bend ISD Middle School
Exam Schedule for 2014-2015**

FIRST DAY

December 16, 2014 and June 1, 2015

8:55 – 9:30	1 st period review
9:35 – 10:10	2 nd period review
10:15 – 10:50	3 rd period review
10:55 – 12:35	4 th period review
	“A” Lunch 10:55 – 11:25
	Class 11:30 – 12:35
	Class 10:55 – 11:30
	“B” Lunch 11:30 – 12:00
	Class 12:05 – 12:35
	Class 10:55 – 12:05
	“C” Lunch 12:05 – 12:35
12:40 – 1:15	5 th period review
1:20 – 1:55	6 th period review
2:00 – 3:55	7th PERIOD EXAM

SECOND DAY

December 17, 2014 and June 2, 2015

8:55 – 10:50	1st PERIOD EXAM
10:55 – 11:20	2 nd period review
11:25 – 1:05	4 th period review
	“A” Lunch 11:25 – 11:55
	Class 12:00 – 1:05
	Class 11:25 – 12:00
	“B” Lunch 12:00 – 12:30
	Class 12:35 – 1:05
	Class 11:25 – 12:35
	“C” Lunch 12:35 – 1:05
1:10 – 1:30	3 rd period review
1:35 - 1:55	5 th period review
2:00 – 3:55	6th PERIOD EXAM

THIRD DAY

December 18, 2014 and June 3, 2015

8:55 – 10:50	2nd PERIOD EXAM
10:55 – 12:50	3rd PERIOD EXAM
(12:50 School Dismissal)	

FOURTH DAY

December 19, 2014 and June 4, 2015

8:55 – 10:50	4th PERIOD EXAM
10:55 – 12:50	5th PERIOD EXAM
(12:50 School Dismissal)	