

FSMS FALCON eNews

November 17 – 21, 2014

Upcoming Dates: **BOOK FAIR TUESDAY – THURSDAY**

Tuesday: Theater performance@ 6:30

Thursday: AIM For SUCCESS – Parent Program for 7th and 8th grade parents

ALL Athletic events can be downloaded from the FBISD Athletic website!

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!!

This month has been BUSY for our theater students! November 4, they joined multitudes of other elementary, middle, and high school students for a real life lesson in character with a trip to the Renaissance Festival. There, they ate like kings... and peasants, enjoyed spectacular performances, and most importantly learned a thing or two about staying in character by interacting with the zany actors performing the part of characters from the Medieval Era. The very next day, the Theatre Arts 7 students successfully performed their little hearts out in the production of Don Zolidis' play **The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon**. The audience roared with laughter and guffawed with amusement at the wild tale of over 209 Fairy Tales as written by the imaginative brothers, performed in a 30 minute span by our creative and crazy actors. The Theatre Arts 8 students have been busy at work on their contest play, **The Rivals**, by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. This is a humorous tale of love, miscommunication, friendship, and a little bit of "the servants know best." Come see the performance on Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30 in the commons of Fort Settlement Middle School. You won't want to miss out on this adventurous rendition of a Sheridan classic.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AMAZING BAND!!!

On Saturday, November 8th, the FSMS Band students competed at the Texas Music Educators' Association Region 13 Band Auditions. There were almost 681 students entered in the competition - FSMS had 64 students selected to the All-Region Bands, which was the most of any school in the competition!! AMAZING!! Over the past three months the students have put in many hours of practice in preparation for this competition. Their outstanding work ethic and musical ability are the reason for the Fort Settlement students' success at this year's region band auditions. The students' achievements include:

- The most students (64) selected to the three region bands from any school in the competition
- The most students (52) selected to the top two region bands that will perform next Saturday
- The most students (29) selected to the Symphonic Band (the top region band)
- Of the 14 first chair positions available, the students from FSMS had 9 students selected first chair in the region on their instrument

Being selected to the All-Region Band is the highest individual honor that can be awarded to a middle school band student. All of the students who participated in this competition, regardless of whether they made the All-Region Band or not, are to be congratulated for the time, effort, hard work and dedication they displayed in preparing for this event. You will see their names highlighted in our upcoming PTO Newsletter.

8th GRADE YEARBOOK!!!! ADS ARE GOING FAST!!

8th Grade Ads are selling fast and are almost sold out. If you have not purchased an 8th Grade Ad, please do so today! Go to www.balfour.com or www.fsmsnest.weebly for an order form and information. Don't miss out, Ad deadline is December 7th or when we sell out.

Thanks, Falcon Yearbook Staff

WARM UP WITH OUR COUNSELORS!

Parents are invited to stop by and have Coffee with the Counselors. This gathering will allow parents the opportunity to meet their student's counselor and learn more about the counseling department and how we work with our students throughout the school year. We will also be able to answer questions about our College and Career Readiness program. We will meet Thursday, November 20th from 10:30-11:30 in Room 303.

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!!!

Please help to Support **PALs and Student Council** as they collect food items for Lunches of Love! Lunches of Love, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to helping end childhood hunger in the Richmond-Rosenberg area of Fort Bend County by providing a free nutritious sack lunch during extended school holidays and weekends. Please help us support this organization by donating food for the cause. Every donation, no matter how small helps!

Below you can see what we are asking each grade level to bring:

6th GRADE: Granola bars/Peanut butter or cheese filled crackers

7th GRADE: Individual fruit cups

8th GRADE: Fruit juice boxes

We will be collecting November 19 during advisories and in the car ramp! Thank you in advance for your support!!

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

We had an AWESOME turnout for our Parent Naviance Night on Wednesday evening. Attendees learned lots of ways to support their students in preparing for the future and to just simply navigate the program! If you were unable to attend, our counselors have the information on their portion of our weebly site. They are also hosting a coffee this week.

I frequently get asked how parents can help their children the most with school. Sometimes it feels when raising a teen that your days of influence are almost over. Time DOES go by very quickly - but it is important to remember that as parents you remain the most important influence in the lives of your kids. By their daily lives and models, not just their words, parents are still more important than peers,

teachers, television, social media and culture. I know sometimes it seems like we are the LAST model our children look to – but they are ALWAYS watching. So how can you continue to be a positive role model in their academics?

When it comes to academic help for our kids, especially as they grow older and take on more challenging subjects, **we** can get frustrated. “I can't help my kid write a research paper, and I certainly can't help with chemistry or algebra!” In our last PTO Board meeting we discussed how this “new math” is now the “new, new math,” and it's nothing like what we grew up learning. Students are solving problems that we don't even understand! Even if you could, you should not provide the sort of assistance that completes the work for them. We HAVE to let our kids DO THE WORK, as I like to call it. When they get stuck or challenged, we MUST encourage them to ask for help from their instructors. Find out what they DO know, or what they CAN do and work from there. Perhaps it is finding a study group to work with. Remember, your job is to back off in the middle school and high school years so that they will have the tools they need for their futures. You will not be going to college with them, but if you've done your jobs right during these teen years, you will have prepared them to do what they need to do without you. Colleges, now more than ever, have MULTIPLE support systems for their students – mandatory study groups, optional study groups, freshman seminars where students learn what is expected and about all of the supports!!!

So what can you do NOW to best support your kids? I think there are two important things that parents can do. First, they can insist that their teens keep an assignment notebook and/or calendar, and parents can check this every day – again, backing off as they go through high school. Personal organization is one of the most important factors that distinguish successful middle school, high school, and college students. – Who am I kidding, it distinguishes successful adults too! I chuckle when I see the advertisements for the phone that speaks to you about what is on your calendar – where was that when I was in college?? I'm NOT saying to do the organizing for them. But spot checking their agenda and checking on how completely they fill it out is a good idea. Sometimes they do need to learn the hard way that when they don't write down their assignments, or do the WRONG assignment, there is a logical consequence that happens. Let the educators give the consequence. To help with this, I recommend a book for kids (and parents) – The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey. There is an entire chapter dedicated to planning – Habit 3 – Put First Things First. Our Teen Leadership classes use this book, and I used the strategies in this book when raising my kids. We have incorporated the strategies in some of our advisory lessons, but following up at home is definitely a way you can support this. MODELING how YOU plan your week out is another great way to teach kids how to organize. Another way you can assist your kids is asking that they engage in regular writing. Writing—particularly nonfiction writing—is strongly associated with improved student achievement in ALL other academic areas. During the holidays, have your students write thank you notes to friends and relatives. Yep, good old fashioned, handwritten thank you notes. Sending thank you notes is not just good manners, but will distinguish your child from the majority who never take the time to extend this simple courtesy. It's one little thing that makes a difference. OF COURSE they will moan at first – but when they get the kudos for being such a thoughtful person, they will begin to understand that kindness matters. Thanksgiving will soon be here – maybe your entire family could write notes about what they are most thankful for and share before your meal time. 😊

Have a great weekend!!! We are all gearing up to spending some time with our family and friends next week!! ~~ JD

Here are some websites that might help you!! www.virtualnerd.com -- It will not replace the teacher, but it can assist a parent with a quick how to on concepts. The 6-8, pre-algebra, and common core sorting options provide access to the entire math TEKS from Texas. The topics should be pretty easy to navigate even for non-mathies! 😊 <https://www.khanacademy.org/> A great place with a variety of topics!!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS!

FROM FBISD – Digital Learning Contest

CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS~Watch any Atomic Learning videos. The top Middle School and High School Atomic Learning user at the end of the contest period will win a gift card to a local restaurant. There is no documentation to submit.

CONTEST RULES~Students must login to Atomic Learning using their FBISD network login in order to receive credit. The con-test is only open to FBISD students. This contest will repeat every nine weeks during the 2014-2015 school year. Gift card winners are only allowed to win once.

SUGGESTED TUTORIALS ~Inspiration • Internet Safety • Discovery Education • SMART Notebook 11 • Photo story 3 • iPad • TI-Nspire • Office 2010 • Windows 7 • iMovie • Adobe Photoshop • GrageBand • Keynote • Pages • Numbers

QUESTIONS? Email digitallearning@fortbendis.com

Click here to access Atomic Learning <https://www.atomiclearning.com/k12/en/login/fortbend>

CONGRATULATIONS to FSMS student EMILY K for winning a gift card for the first nine weeks!

CHECK OUT OUR WEEBLY SITE!!!

The FSMS website has up to date information, useful parent documents, important links, lunch menus, our school calendar, and much more! Click on the link: www.fsmsnest.weebly.com