

FSMS FALCON eNews

Say Goodbye to 2014 and HELLO 2015! Great opportunities lie ahead!

Our PTO newsletter can be downloaded from the following link:

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

SAVE THE DATE!! A Great INFORMATIVE parent meeting for FREE!!

Navigating the Teen Years: What *every* parent needs to know about drug use

Fort Bend ISD Substance Abuse Specialists, Mary Kiernan and Ronnie Rutledge, will be presenting information on topics including: e-cigarettes, synthetic drugs, marijuana and alcohol.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students and community at Fort Settlement Middle School!

The Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST) identifies campuses that use resource allocation that contribute to high academic achievement. Campuses receive 1-5 stars (5 being the highest).

We earned 4.5 stars and made academic progress at or above 78% of all campuses compared to us as "peer schools." More information about The Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST) can be found at fasttexas.org

Congratulations MATH STUDENTS!

On Saturday, December 13, 2014, FSMS had 19 students participate in the 2014 MathCounts competition hosted by the Houston Rockets at the Toyota Center. Of those 19, **4 scored in the top 10 of all participants (over 200)**. Akash K. placed 3rd, Eric W. placed 5th, Shankar P. placed 9th and Siddharth M. placed 10th. Congratulations to these top students and to all those that participated!!! GREAT JOB!!!

Congratulations CHOIR STUDENTS!

The Falcon Choir would like to send out a HUGE thank you to the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), for awarding our program with \$1,000 from the "Middle School Music Instructional Support Program" to purchase sheet music. With this endowment, we were able to purchase a full Tenor-Bass Choral Library. We started with five pieces and now we have 65 for our Boys' Choir to choose from. This will be the first year in Fort Settlement history to take a Tenor-Bass Choir to the University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition. If you know one of our fantastic Tenor-Bass members, please give them a word of encouragement and

congratulations! We are extremely proud of how much they have grown as musicians since the beginning of school, and are excited to watch them succeed.

CONGRATULATIONS BASKETBALL TEAM!

The Fort Settlement **8th Grade Boys A team** won the San Jacinto Invitational Division 1 (GOLD) tournament last weekend. The Falcons won two games Friday night to get into the top Division for Saturday. They then beat Brookside Intermediate in the semifinals to advance to the finals against a tough Angleton team that had just beaten Baines in the semifinals. In a hard fought game against much bigger kids, we never gave up or backed down and ended up winning by 7. Please congratulate these guys on a job well done! GO FALCONS!

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.

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 ~

We made it!!!! As first semester comes to a close, I would just like to remind you of a few things. Being a parent of a freshman in college – I also am going through what many of YOU are going through. It is exam time. UGH. Anxiety may be at an all-time high. So many students (and parents) are seeing their grades as life or death. May I suggest that we all – ME INCLUDED-- sit back and remember, our kids are doing their best. They are handling SO much more than we ever had to handle!! This is the FIRST time our young 6th graders have had to sit through exams; many of our students are sitting in high school classes – worried about how this effects GPA at such a young age; and a lot of students have not been feeling well the last few weeks.

Losing perspective is easy. There's the stress of studying, the stress of not disappointing anyone, the stress of balancing seven different exams in four short days for our middle school students! It all seems so incredibly important. Can I be honest? This is my LEAST favorite time of being a principal.

SO, before you check Skyward or get set with the loaded discussions with your YOUNG children, here are some things to keep in mind about grades on semester exams – or ANY exam for that matter:

- An exam measures knowledge on one set of questions, on one day, at one point in time. There is no way one exam can measure everything that was in the course. Keep the BIG PICTURE! Keep *LEARNING* the main thing....
- As far as your child's future is concerned, colleges and/or employers look for upward trends in grades. A weak semester can be overcome by strong future semesters. THIS IS NOT THE END.
- There **are** colleges and careers for students who are not in the top 10% - 25% - 30% - 50% of the class. I have never asked in an interview about future employee's class rank – OR grade point. I HAVE asked what experiences they have had and why they think they are the BEST candidate for the position.
- Plenty of students who were not the "cream of the crop" at schools prove themselves in the real world. I have hired SO many teachers who tell numerous stories of overcoming challenges and truly believe that going through difficulties have really made them who they are today. Someone who has gone through a struggle learns compassion and understanding (and usually what hard work takes) more than someone who has had things given to them.
- Take a deep breath and focus on taking one day at a time. Perseverance and hard work will improve the chance of good grades. Fretting over grades actually steals energy from more important tasks. Remember, if you focus on not doing well, that's almost a guarantee that you won't do well.
- FINALLY!!!!!! Avoid talking about exams after they are over. As Elsa in Frozen said....."LET IT GO!!" You cannot change anything about a completed exam. It is more valuable to turn your attention to the next unit of learning. Our teachers will review with students. They will fill in any gaps they find. If your child did his/her best work and put forth the best effort in preparing, you have to accept that there may simply be subjects that will be difficult. As he/she chooses an area of study in the future, he/she will hopefully be taking more and more classes in areas in which strengths are shown. It is important that your student, and you, look at the entire picture of grades and not dwell on one poor grade amid several acceptable grades. 😊 I KNOW this is hard!!!

So PLEASE, keep things in perspective. Take a deep breath. Don't threaten your relationship with your child over what is done. Focus on having a GREAT break and enjoy each other. Believe me, time flies so quickly!! I can't believe I have survived the first semester of having a college student!!! WE DID IT!!

As the year comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your incredible support and valuable feedback throughout the year. Have a BLESSED holiday season! Julie Diaz

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!

If you need information during the holidays about Fort Settlement – check out our weebly site: www.fsmsnest.weebly.com

