

St. Francis Elementary

Success is not something you happen upon.

-University of Colorado, Denver



December 2018

MONTHLY SEL ASSEMBLIES

St. Francis Elementary will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable foods to donate to the food pantry throughout the month of December. If able, please send any items to school and place them in the boxes under the Christmas tree in the front hallway. This is a perfect way to give back during the holiday season!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's December! Before we realize it, 2019 will be upon us!

This school year has flown by! We concluded October with Parent-Teacher conferences. We are always so grateful to those who attend. Being a team in your child's education is so beneficial. Mrs. Confer put together two amazing music concerts with all our students. You rock, Mrs. Confer! PTO has had a successful year. They had tremendous support at the Fall Festival and book fair. Thank you! We can get so wrapped up in the extra events that are happening that we easily put off academics. Please remember to get homework completed and read on a daily basis.

As we near the holidays, don't forget to enjoy the time with your family. I'm wishing each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~Miss Raile

DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas trees were first decorated with foods such as apples, nuts and dates.



SchoolWay

SchoolWay is the easiest way to stay up to date on school and classroom activities! Several of our teachers send out daily pushes to keep you up to date. If you need help getting set up, please contact your classroom teacher or the office.





EVERY DAY COUNTS

GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTERS FOR SUCCESS

How important is it that your child is in school **EVERY DAY**?

- ✓ Teachers can't educate students that aren't in school.
- ✓ Did you know that missing even 2 days of school a month can create serious gaps in understanding math at any age?
- ✓ All types of absences, including excused and in school suspensions, make a difference. Time out of the classroom equals time away from instruction and learning.
- ✓ Every day counts! Good attendance matters for success.

The winter months are among us. Please be sure students are dressed appropriately.

We will attempt to go outside for recess daily.

This means your children need to wear warm coats, have hats and gloves, and if needed, snow boots.

Please regularly check the weather and send your children dressed appropriately. Thank you!



St. Francis Elementary School

Parent Teacher Organization



PTO Happenings

Christmas Tea is fast approaching! Please send your child to school in his/her Christmas best on Friday, December 14. Class pictures will be taken, and the students will travel to the home of Mrs. Robin Burr for cookies and punch. If you signed up to bring cookies, please deliver them to the school or to Mrs. Burr's home no later than Thursday, December 13.

Keep clipping those box tops! Each box top is good for \$.10 for our school. Though that doesn't sound like much, they add up FAST! If our goal of 2,000 Box Tops is reached by the end of the month, we will celebrate with a popcorn party!

Remember, it's never too late to join PTO!

4TH GRADE PREPARES A THANKSGIVING FEAST!

The 4th grade class ventured to the grocery store to purchase ingredients to prepare several side dishes for their Thanksgiving feast before break. Before heading to the store, the students reviewed their money skills because they were required to count out their money and also count back change. Ms. Grace worked with the students to understand the price difference between generic and name brand groceries, also. Once the shopping was done, each group was required to sequence their recipe before prepping the food, and then finally cooking everything. A good time was had by all!



December Spotlight Students



KASH ZIMMERMAN

Kash is my little helper! He is always one of the first ones to offer help to me or other students. He picks up after others, helps when needed, works hard, and is very polite! Keep up the good work, Kash!



TENLEE HAVEL

Tenlee starts each day with a great big smile. She is eager to help and take care of anyone in need! She has a great desire to progress and blossom into a strong reader. Keep shining and growing, Tenlee!



BELLA BANDEL

Bella is a great student. She knows school can be hard sometimes, but that work is what makes us smart! She is kind to her neighbors and tries to help whenever someone needs it. Thank you for being you, Bella.



EMMA GRAHAM

Emma is a wonderful student. She does her best and works well with others. Emma has a great smile which brightens our class. Keep up the great work, Emma!



DAILEY ROSE

Dailey comes to school everyday prepared and with a great attitude! She is a fantastic friend and student in the classroom. Dailey has the drive to be successful in life! Keep it up, Dailey!



DIEGO MENDOZA

Diego is such a great, hard working, motivated student. This young man has made huge improvements in behavior and his school work.

"SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS" ARE SELECTED BY EACH CLASSROOM TEACHER. THESE STUDENTS RISE ABOVE BY DISPLAYING ALL THE CHARACTERISTICS OF BEING GOOD BUCKET FILLERS. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Cooking with Karen Jones



Due to allergies, please do not bring nuts/peanuts (or any foods that contain them) into the USD 297 schools.



Do you know the hidden value of your child's homework?

Homework gives your child an opportunity to practice the skills she is learning in school. But did you know that it also teaches important life lessons?

When your child completes homework on his/her own, he/she learns:

- Responsibility.** Your child learns the importance of fulfilling his/her obligations. He/She also learns to hold himself/herself accountable for his/her mistakes and successes.
- Initiative.** Homework can help your child learn how to be self-motivated. When he/she chooses to complete writing assignments a few days before they are due, he/she is showing initiative.
- Perseverance.** Most parents want to protect their children from frustration. However, making your child's life easier now may make it harder in the future. When your child sticks with a tough assignment and refuses to give up, he/she is showing perseverance.
- Time management.** The ability to manage his/her time in order to get her homework finished is one of the most valuable skills your child can learn.

*Parents make the difference! November 2016

HOMEWORK



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Occasionally, the weather dictates the school's schedule. In that event, many of the school's operations are affected causing logistical challenges for parents, students, and school staff. Over the years, the school has adopted the use of various media to inform parents and students of these changes.

If any change is made to the schedule of the school day or to events that had been scheduled for that day, the school will immediately publicize those changes. Parents will be officially notified through the following media.

- Indian News – 785-332-8111
- SchoolWay Push
- Area TV and radio stations



KANAS READING ROADMAP IS COMING!

St. Francis Elementary has a wonderful opportunity coming our way beginning mid January! Through our work with TASN and MTSS, we have received a very generous grant to bring Kansas Reading Roadmap to our district. The mission of the Reading Roadmap is for every child to enter fourth grade reading proficiently so that they can graduate on-time and achieve their full potential. This will be amazing for our students and school!



Kattie Aldaco has been hired as our Roadmap program coordinator. She will officially assume those duties on Monday, December 3. She will begin to dig through our Dibels data and visit with teachers to determine potential students to invite to participate in this amazing after school and summer program. Limited spots will be available. Please consider taking advantage of this great program!



All K-5 students will be completing DIBELS benchmark testing (ELA and Math) during the first week of December. We are very anxious to see the growth that our students have made since the beginning of the school year. These are very important assessments. Please make sure your child gets a good nights sleep and eats a healthy breakfast. DIBELS reports will be sent home with your child's report card when school resumes in January.



Thanks for reading the newsletter! Please sign and send back with your child to receive a small candy prize in Mrs. Teri's office!



Student _____

Parent Signature _____

O E C E M B E R 2 0 1 8



Creede Repertory Theatre



SEEDS OF CHANGE



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 *Home WR tournament
2	3	4	5 *1 st grade to the post office	6	7	8 *Elementary Honor Choir @ Hays
9	10	11 *K-1 Christmas singing field trip to the village	12	13	14 *Christmas Tea *Class Pictures *HS Bball - Home (Dundy County) @ 4:45	15
16 *Yuletide Festival (HS @ 2:00)	17 *No After School study hall	18 *End of 2 nd Nine weeks *No After School study hall	19 NO SCHOOL TEACHER INSERVICE	20 NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL	22
23	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 3

