



St. Francis  
Elementary

September 2018



*“Success is not something you  
happen upon.”*

*~University of Colorado, Denver*



SchoolWay is the easiest way to stay up to date on school and classroom activities! If you need help getting set up, please contact your classroom teacher or the office.

If you have not already, please take a little bit of time to review the Parent & Student Handbook that was distributed at enrollment. If you have questions, please ask!

## From the principal:

Welcome back to school! I am so incredibly pleased with our start to the new school year! Our students have really been exhibiting great skills to be successful this year. Dibels assessments have been completed with every student and the classrooms are flowing well.

We had our first Second Step whole school assembly to kick off our social and emotional lessons. We also conducted our first “crisis” drill with all students. Look for more information regarding both these topics elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our staff had very little turn over from last year. We would, however, like to welcome Kelli Engelsman, paraprofessional, to our building. Many members of the staff worked hard over the summer to prepare for students. This is evident by our smooth start!

I look forward to this year and seeing all the growth that is made throughout the building! Have a wonderful year!

*~Ms. Raile*

# PTO HAPPENINGS

- ✚ Mark your calendars!!
  - PTO Book Fair – October 2-3
  - PTO Fall Festival – October 3 from 5-6:30
- ✚ New playground equipment was donated and the state map was painted on the playground!
- ✚ Don't forget to purchase a school shirt! They are great to wear to school during homecoming week and throughout the school year. All shirts are \$15.
- ✚ Check out our new Facebook page! Find us at St. Francis Elementary PTO. Be sure to follow our page as this will be a great way to keep up with announcements.
- ✚ Don't forget to subscribe to our channel on SchoolWay. This is another great way to stay informed if you don't have Facebook.
- ✚ Keep collecting those box tops! We will be announcing a box tops competition in the near future.

*Thank you to all members who joined PTO thus far!  
We have had 54 members join. All membership dues stay in our school district. It's never too late to join the PTO!*



Please remember all students are to arrive **NO EARLIER** than 8:00 a.m. Supervision is not provided before the arrival time, nor is it provided after class dismissal times unless students are required to stay. Thank you!

Have you checked out the PowerSchool App?

- ✓ See real-time updates on any device
- ✓ Get instant communication
- ✓ View all of your children in one parent account
- ✓ Get push notifications with grades and attendance



USD 297 has multiple students in the elementary school and jr/sr high school with allergies to nuts and/or peanuts. The allergies vary in severity among the students; however, we believe the exposure to nuts/peanuts poses a potentially life-threatening situation in some cases. **For this reason, parents and students are asked to help by not bringing nuts/peanuts (or any foods that contain them) into the USD 297 schools.**



# September Spotlight Students



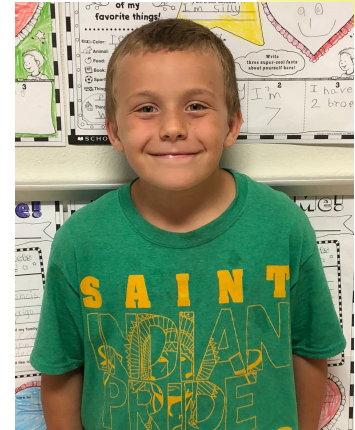
**AVERY SCHULTZ**

Avery's Kindergarten year is off to a wonderful start! She is prepared every morning, has a beautiful smile to greet me, and is a friend to everyone she meets. She is an absolute sweetheart! I am very proud of her!



**WYATT WESTFAHL**

Wyatt has done a great job staying focused and on task! He can light up a room with his smile! I'm so proud of him for being brave enough to sing to the entire class each day. Keep shining Wyatt!



**TUCKER MORRIS**

Tucker is working so hard to be a good neighbor in our classroom. He is quick to help when people need it. He tries to be a friend to all. He is working hard on school work. I am so proud of the effort he is putting in to school this year!



**LIAM NIDER**

Liam is a great young man. He is focused and puts his best in all we do!



**AJ ARENSDORF**

AJ has started out this year fantastic! He has proven in a short time that he is a hard worker in class and a good friend to others. Keep up the great work, AJ!

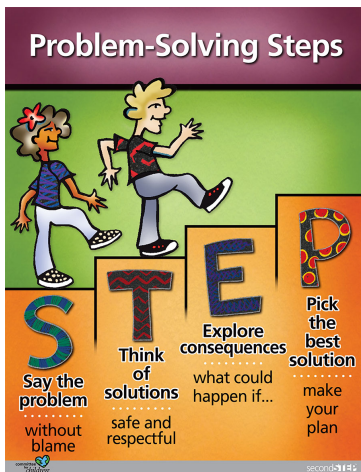


**KAYLEE DOYLE**

Kaylee is a wonderful student who consistently gives her best effort at whatever we are doing and is always listening for, and following directions. Kaylee is a great friend to her classmates.

**"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!**

## Second Step



This year our district has adopted a social and emotional curriculum called Second Step. This will be used in grades PreK-8. Second Step gives students the tools to excel in and out of the classroom. In the classrooms, students learn valuable skills that help them navigate their way through school as well as their community.

During our first whole school assembly, we learned about self-control during a game led by Mrs. Rieger. Mrs. Confer taught us a fun chant, also!

Along with our Second Step lessons, all students in grades PreK-12, were introduced to a school wide expectations matrix. I have been so proud of our elementary students who have quickly recognized how to make our building be amazing! Our motto at the elementary school is simply "Be safe! Be Responsible! Be Respectful!"

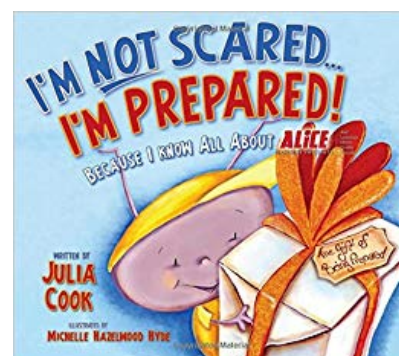
Be watching for more information about this throughout the school year!

## Emergency Preparedness

Tornado, fire, and crisis drills will be practiced routinely so students will be prepared to move to areas of safety in the event of a real emergency without panic. By law, all Kansas school districts are required to complete four fire drills, three tornado drills, and nine crisis drills throughout the year.

We had our first "crisis" drill on Thursday, August 23, in each classroom. USD 297 will be using the ALICE model during an active shooter crisis. ALICE stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter, and evacuate. Our goal is to have our kids prepared and not scared. Therefore, each classroom read the book I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared, during our drill. This opened some good discussion, which will lead into our drills throughout the remainder of the school year.

If you have questions, please visit with your child's classroom teacher or Ms. Raile.



# September

## 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 All times on this calendar at CENTRAL TIME	3 No School Labor Day	4	5 CCHD K-5 Health Screenings @ 12:30	6 JH FB (Tribune) 4:30 p.m.	7	8
9	10 HOMECOMING WEEK	11 HS VB (SF/Sharon Springs/Greeley County) 4:00 p.m.	12	13 HS VB (Lone Star) 4:30 p.m. Bonfire 8:00 p.m.	14 Homecoming Pep Assembly @ 2:30 p.m. HS FB (Dighton) 7:00 p.m.	15
16	17	18 HS VB (SF/Bethune/Weskan) 4:00 p.m.	19	20 HS VB (SF/Imperial/Benkelman) 4:00 p.m. JH FB (Atwood) 4:30 p.m.	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 K-5 Fall Pictures	28 HS Football (Hoxie) 7:00 p.m.	29

