

MUSTANG TALES



DECEMBER, JANUARY, & FEBRUARY

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

Principal's Message—Success is No Accident



TOGETHER

Our school curriculum stresses academic rigor and mastery of the grade level standards set by the California State Board of Education. Next week begins the first part of a series of assessments required by the State of California to assess our students' progress at Ferndale Elementary School. All 4th and 7th graders will be taking the STAR writing assessment on March 4th (or 5th if absent). In this assessment, students will write an essay that will be scored according to a 4-point rubric. Students have been adequately prepared by their teachers to perform this task, and we anticipate them doing well. Later in the year, from May 5-12, students in grades 2-8 will take the multiple choice portion of this assessment. In August, the state will send us the

results, and the school will mail your child's performance score to your home.

The purpose of STAR is to provide parents with information about the progress that their child is making in school toward mastering the grade level standards. Each year from grade 2-11, students will take a different test aligned with the grade level standards. In addition, all of the students' scores are compiled to create a school performance rating, known as the Academic Performance Index (API).

Over the past several years, FES has made steady improvement in its' API score. With a score well above 800, FES is one of the highest performing elementary schools in Humboldt County. Last year, however, our school's API decreased from 826 to 820. This year we added increased opportunities for supplemental instruction and support services for our students. The Great Readers of the World (GROW) program is an example of a school strategy that we have in place this year to provide intensive instruction to struggling learners in the primary grades. The response from students has

been fantastic, and many primary students have improved greatly in their reading skills.

Particularly noteworthy in last year's STAR testing results was the high performance of our 8th graders. In science, 96% of our students scored at the proficient or advanced level, compared to a state average of 40%. In algebra, a subject that until recently was only taught in high school, 92% of our students mastered the standards, compared with a state average of 38%. In history-social studies, 82% of our students scored at the proficient or advanced levels, well above the state average of 35%. In English-language arts, 78% of our students showed mastery, while the state average was 41%. State test results as high as these are a clear indication of the quality instruction provided by the teachers at Ferndale Elementary School!

Success is no accident, and at Ferndale Elementary School, success is the result of dedication and hard work by students, parents, and staff. Let's work together to have our students perform at their optimum level.

FES IMPORTANT DATES

- March 12, 7:00 p.m.—
School Board Meeting
- March 18, 7:00 p.m.—
Parent Club Meeting
- March 19, 3:30 p.m.—
School Site Council
- March 20, 6:00-8:30 p.m. —
**FES Open House and
Third Grade Play**
- March 24-26—**Spring
Break**
- April 3, 7:00 p.m. —**FES/
FHS Spring Musical/
Junior High Lip Sync**
- April 4, 11:15-3:00 —
**Spring BBQ and Clean-
Up**
- April 9, 7:00 p.m.—**School
Board Meeting**
- April 14-18—**Kindergarten
Registration & Parent
Conferences**
- May 9, 10:00 a.m. —**Cinco
de Mayo School Fiesta**
- June 12, 7:30 p.m. – 8th
Grade Graduation

“NOTHING WILL
EVER BE
ATTEMPTED IF ALL
POSSIBLE
OBJECTIONS MUST
BE FIRST
OVERCOME.”

~ SAMUEL JOHNSON

Art in the Office for December-Eva Henneberry



The little quilt on the left is called “Dreams of Africa”. I started out with the tree image, which was a tree picture modified in Photoshop and given a colorful background and then added some African fabrics and images I had cut out of “rescued” clothing and fabrics. I particularly like the hand stitching on top and on the right lower corner, which represents vegetation behind the Zebra.

The other little quilt is simply called “Jungle 2”. It is a collage of many different fabrics, some of the cloth purchased at the fabric store and some, like the (same) elephant in both quilts, from clothing I found at a thrift shop.

I am a quilter who loves her craft, and delights in creating colorful quilts, large and small!



Starscapes: A Star is Born

Art in the Office for January-Ellen Briggs

I recently encountered photographs of nebulae taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. Although they are not in our solar system, my first thought was that they resembled views of the depths of our oceans, the earth's cradle for new land and new life.

When reading about nebulae I discovered that they are held in the spiral arms of galaxies, and many nebulae are stellar nurseries, where luminescent rem-

nants of dead stars collect, awaiting the stirring of a passing body. The ensuing swirl and ripple begins the gathering that leads to the birth of a star.

Although the processes are described differently (accretion vs. cellular division), I felt the commonality between the stellar stirring and the life renewing in the earth's core, in the womb, and within each of our spinning cells. From such straws is spun the gold of new

life, terrestrial and celestial, into the greater oneness.

In that moment the universe became my intimate, my "personal space." The wild beauty captivated me. I was moved to paint that dynamism with all the passion at my command, watching in wonder to see what revealed itself in the creation.



Art in the Office for February-Robb Rierdan

Robb moved from Santa Monica and attended Ferndale Elementary as an eighth-grader. Later he played guitar with the Humboldt County rock-'n'-roll bands Audio Wreck and Candy Muscle and was featured in the 2006 film “Rural Rock and Roll” produced by Jensen Rufe of MTV.

Robb was also an artist and boldly expressed his love of

form and color in patterned fluorescent paintings such as these. Robb's distorted, often cartoon-like figures located against inventive plaid patterns often reflect his outsider political and cultural views or, as in the case of the image of the floating babies, a reaction against what he perceived as injustice.

Robb's signature mark on his paintings took the form of a little figure he called “Happy”. Since his death in 2005, “Happy” has become symbolic of consciously making positive choices in life.



Library News

Library Donations

BirthDay Club:

<u>From:</u>	<u>In Honor of:</u>	<u>Title:</u>
Shelly Bower	Austin Bower	<u>Inkspell</u>
Shelly Bower	Bryce Bower	<u>The Homework Machine</u>
Christopher Greer	Correy Greer	<u>Dinosaurs Insiders</u>
Christopher Greer	Brandyn Greer	<u>Calvin & Hobbes Tenth Anniversary</u>

Misc Donations:

Ms. Manzi is the teacher's assistant for Mrs. Robertson's 1st grade and Ms. Schrick's 6th grade classes. As a Christmas gift to the classes she works with, Mrs. Manzi purchased the following books from the book fair and donated them to the library. For Mrs. Robertson's Class, she donated: Olivia Helps With Christmas

Student Council News

The 16th Annual Holiday Cheer was a big success! Both young and elderly enjoyed the visits. Sixteen Student Council representatives visited 14 homes, both in town and out in the valley. Thank you to everyone that made cookies and cards! The spirit of giving is plentiful at Ferndale Elementary School!

Our spring semester Student Council Officers are:

- President - Denim Ohmit
- Vice President - Julia Kirby
- Secretary - Maci Branstetter
- Treasurer - Cade Dixon

For Mrs. Ms. Schrick's 6th grade: Artemis Fowl The lost Colony; Things Hoped for; Lily B. on the Brink of Love; Lily B. on the Brink of Cool.

The staff at Ferndale Elementary School has purchased two books in memory of Fred Cotton, Mr. Jeremy Cotton's father: Dragonsdale; Star Wars: The Rise & Fall of Darth Vader

Book Fair:

Your support at this year's book fair was incredible. We sold \$5,554 in books during the 5-day sale. That's a profit of \$1554.00 to purchase books and supplies for the library. It was also a great way to meet the parents of many of our students.



Library Wish List:

There are some books that we'd like to add to our library collection (we have AR quizzes for these) that we aren't able to purchase through our usual vendors. These titles are available used at Amazon (and probably through other sources as well) at a very low price. If you'd like to purchase one, we'd love the donation.

- Piggybook by Marc Brown
- Pretend you don't see her by Mary Higgins Clark
- A picture of Freedom: the diary of Clotee, a slave girl by Pat McKissack



<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Alt. Rep.</u>
Bugenig	Cade Dixon	Kylee Branstetter
Hirsch	Quintin McWhorter	Jacey Ragan
Currier	Emma Gomes	Evan Broberg
Fisk-Becker	Corabelle Esmailian	Tucker Williamson
Busick	Peyton Durrett	Jennifer Tovar
Schrick	Annelise Vollmer	Maci Branstetter
Dudal	Kelsey Meyers	Christiana Lekas
Rigney	Layne Stephens	Denim Ohmit
Haller	Julia Kirby	Luis Juarez



Accelerated Reading 100 Club

The AR 100 Club is well on its way! The following students have reached 100 points and beyond or are at least half way there!

<u>Student</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Evan Broberg	217.1	Currier
Vanessa Brower	183.8	Schrick
Alex Jones	165.5	Fisk-Becker
Chase Richardson	155.9	Fisk-Becker
Miriam Thompson	155.8	Busick
Andrea Guggenbickler	131.7	Busick
Zachary Rocha	130.3	Schrick
Corabelle Esmailian	126.3	Fisk-Becker
Julie Urbach	119.5	Fisk-Becker
Tristen Sano	99.6	Busick
Oliver Stoops	99.2	Fisk-Becker
Emily Scilacci	96.3	Dudal

Nicole Vollmer	89.2	Busick
Julia Kirby	88.9	Haller
Pearl Baker	88.2	Rigney
Anna Gomes	88.2	Schrick
Madison Parker	85.1	Dudal
Kyle Burns	72.1	Fisk-Becker
Quinn Hildebrand	70.7	Rigney
Sasha Lekas	70.4	Fisk-Becker
Jake Dixon	68.9	Schrick
Garrett Goodner	64.8	Haller
Brook-Ann Busick	64.0	Fisk-Becker
Ani Gurnee	63.8	Schrick
Janelle Guggenbickler	62.1	Fisk-Becker
Kyle Chambers	60.6	Schrick
Lane Sotomayor	57.8	Currier
Caroline Evans	51.8	Schrick

CONGRATULATIONS! KEEP READING!

If we encounter a man of rare intellect we should ask him what books he reads.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson



4th Grade Wolf Creek Trip



In October, thirty-two fourth graders went to Wolf Creek Outdoor School for three days. We went on three different hikes. One was the old growth forest where we learned about the cycle of a tree. We saw amphibians such as a salamanders and frogs. There were enormous twisted Sitka Spruce and towering redwoods. Another thing we saw was the eighth largest tree in the world. On the second hike, we went to the prairie and saw huge Roosevelt Elk. We observed animal signs like rub marks on trees. Third, the students went to the creek. There we saw Coho Salmon, learned if the creek was good enough for salmon to live in, and studied salmon eggs.

We slept in cabins with our friends and parent volunteers. On the last night, there was a huge campfire. We sang and took pictures. In the lodge, there was a huge water beetle in a tank, microscopes with slides, and fossils. All in all, we all had a really great time. We would like to thank all the parent volunteers and the rangers for making it possible for us to go.

By Lee O'Reilly, Evan Broberg, and Emma Gomes

"I WENT TO THE WOODS
BECAUSE I WISHED TO
LIVE DELIBERATELY, TO
CONFRONT ONLY THE
ESSENTIAL FACTS OF LIFE,
AND SEE IF I COULD NOT
LEARN WHAT IT HAD TO
TEACH, AND NOT WHEN I
CAME TO DIE, DISCOVER
THAT I HAD NOT LIVED."

~HENRY DAVID THOREAU



2008 GATE Academy by Mrs. Taylor

On January 10th, thirteen of our GATE students in grades 4-8 attended the GATE Academy held at Humboldt State University. This is an annual event where several hundred GATE students from Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity counties can intermingle while taking classes from local community members. Local artist, Emily Silver, and junior high science teacher, David Haller, were among the presenters again this year. The classes offered ranged from "Calculus for Kids" to "Acting Through Improvisation."

Our local tri-athlete, Mike Pigg, was our keynote speaker. The students were mesmerized and inspired by his accomplishments and dedication to becoming a professional athlete. The day concluded with a performance by the McKinleyville High School Jazz Band and Dance Team. The music and choreography were beautiful and displayed their great talent. Our students are already looking forward to next year's GATE Academy!



Top Row: Alex Jones-5th, Lane Sotomayor-4th, Tristen Sano-6th, Andrea Guggenbickler-6th
Middle Row: Madilyn Adams-5, Oliver Stoops-5th, Layne Stephens-7th, Catherine Boers-7th, Corabelle Esmailian-5th
Bottom Row: Evan Broberg-4th, Chase Richardson-5th, Sasha Lekas-5th, Kenton Goldsby-5th

A Message from Molly Dekens, a former FES student!

Hi! My name is Molly Dekens, and I am a senior at Fortuna High School. Before I leave high school to go to work or college, I would like to make a positive impact on the lives of people in any way that I can.

I have found a website, www.freerice.com, that uses a vocabulary building program to donate 20 grains of rice for every correct answer. Major companies pay for advertisement on this website, and the money raised by advertising pays for the rice. The rice is distributed by the United Nations World Food Program.



<http://www.freerice.com/>

I believe that if people can go to this website, if only for five minutes or less a day, we can all help people around the world who need our help. People die everyday from starvation. If we can help just a little, we can take the steps to help end world hunger.

This is a huge opportunity for people to help, and it not only helps people around the world, but it also helps students and teachers to build vocabulary in a helpful way. I hope that you will consider spreading the word about this wonderful opportunity. Thank you!

LEARN TO EARN
 BANKING DAY IS
 EVERY WEDNESDAY
 MORNING BEFORE
 SCHOOL IN THE
 PRIMARY BUILDING
 HALLWAY.

News from Mrs. Cory's Class

Mrs. Cory's class is happy to welcome James Calderon who is completing his final semester of student teaching at F.E.S. Mr. Calderon has many talents to share with the students. He has already helped them compose a rap for the Daymakers' Club.

This is the second year that we have had a Daymakers' Club, which is coordinated by Mrs. Cory

and Ms. Briggs. Daymaker is a middle grade project based group that meets once each week. The club is in the process of designing a mural for the ball wall. Local artist Shawn Griggs is providing his dynamic leadership, inspiration, and expertise for this project. The club is honored to have his guidance for this project. Look for our spectacular mural later this year.



*Cheerleading Squad
 2007-2008*

2007-08 Boys' Basketball Rosters

8th Grade

- # 2 Bryce Fields
- # 4 Travis Rye
- # 5 Monet Bessingpas-Hamor
- # 10 Louis Sterback
- # 11 Luis Juarez
- # 12 Alexis Lopez
- # 14 Trey Dixon
- # 15 Tyler Klem
- # 21 Zach Machado
- # 23 Wyatt Townsend
- # 24 Adrian Lopez
- # 33 Kyle Lutz

Head Coach: Rex Rigney
Asst. Coach: Chad Crotty



7th Grade

- # 32 Jacoby Hughes
- # 3 Joey Fuller
- # 12 Terris Becker
- # 2 Grady Titus
- # 11 Blake Miranda
- # 4 Colton Wilcox
- # 13 Riley Foster
- # 23 Kaden Zanone
- # 33 Hunter VanEmmerik
- # 5 Tyler O'Reilly
- # 21 Layne Stephens
- # 14. Manuel Alvarado
- # 1 Cliff Cramer
- # 10 Dakota Ward

Head Coach: Stuart Titus
Asst. Coach: Tim Miranda



6th Grade

- # 3 Russ Jackson
- # 10 Zach Rocha
- # 11 Kyle Chambers
- # 12 Briceland Franklin
- # 13 Dylan Venema
- # 14 Hayden Osterman
- # 15 Jared Meyer
- # 23 Jake Dixon
- # 32 Isaak Townsend
- # 33 Lennon Frost

Head Coach: Mark Lourenzo
Asst. Coach: Brian Franklin



- Emily Shinn
- Shannon Scales
- Stephanie Lentz
- Kelly Chambers
- Christiana Lekas
- Kassidy Allardice
- Miranda Sears
- Pearl Baker
- Callie Brodt
- Rebecca Forcier
- Kayleigh Meyers

Head Coach: Carrie Brazil
Asst. Coach: Pamela Brazil



FERNDALE ELEMENTARY

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FERNDALEK12.ORG/FES

KIDS ARE OUR BUSINESS

2nd Quarter Honor Roll



5th Grade

Madilyn Adams
Irene Alvarado
Makhi Bessingpas-Hamor
Trevor Brockoff
Kyle Burns
Brooke-Ann Busick
Anthony Ceffalo
Corabelle Esmailian
Kenton Goldsby
Janelle Guggenbickler
Alex Jones
Sasha Lekas
Shilo Martella
Chase Richardson
Phoebe Ruggles
Noah Sears
Oliver Stoops
Julie Urbach

6th Grade

Maci Branstetter
Vanessa Brower
Kyle Chambers
Heather Cutler
Taryn DeMille
Jake Dixon
Peyton Durrett
Caroline Evans
Anna Gomes
Mitchell Grandy
Andrea Guggenbickler
Ani Gurnee
Lacey Herrera
Russ Jackson
Nicole Lannom
Kendra Losa
Hayden Osterman
Sadie Rayl
Zach Rocha
Tristan Sano
Miriam Thompson
Jennifer Tovar
Isaak Townsend
Nicole Vollmer

7th Grade

Kaylee Armstrong
Terris Becker
Catherine Boers
Clarissa Ceffalo
Anna Evans
Jordan Farley
Riley Foster
Joey Fuller
Danielle Hansen
Julia Kirby
Kayla Leonardo
Kaycee Mela
Kelsey Meyers
Kelly O'Day
Tyler O'Reilly
Madison Parker
Cambria Peronne
Layne Stephens
Quinn Hildebrand
Grady Titus
Tenaya Urbach
Hunter Van Emmerik
Kaden Zanone

8th Grade

Kassidy Allardice
Callie Brodt
Kelly Chambers
Trey Dixon
Eme Gurnee
Alise Hubner
Christiana Lekas
Stephanie Lentz
Kyle Lutz
Kayleigh Meyers
Denim Ohmit
Kassie Rosell
Travis Rye
Emily Scilacci
Emily Shinn
Monica Sopjes
Louis Sterback

