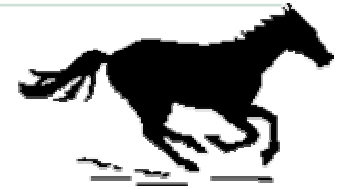




Mustang Tales



Principal's Message: STAR Gazing

Each year in late spring every student in grades 2 through 11 attending a public school in California must take the STAR assessment; STAR is an acronym for Standardized Testing and Reporting program. The STAR uses the California Standards Test (CST) to measure your child's progress at mastering the content standards for his or her grade level. Our teachers prepare students for this assessment by providing standards-based instruction throughout the year.

One resource that is helpful in preparing students for the CST is the Blueprints, a document that shows the number of questions testing each strand of standards, the total number of questions for each strand, and the percentage of questions assessing each strand. This document helps the teacher to gauge the amount of instructional time that they should spend with each standard. A copy of the CST blueprints are available at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/blueprints.asp>.

Another resource that helps students prepare for the CST is the released test questions from the previous years' tests. Each year, the California Department of Education releases over half of the test questions used on the CST. These released test questions can be used to familiarize students with the structure and format of the multiple-choice questions and with strategies for answering such questions. Copies of the released test questions are available at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>.

The student results from STAR are used to determine each school's Academic Performance Index (API). API is the accountability program that measures the academic performance and growth of schools. Information on API is available at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/index.asp>. To see how Ferndale Elementary School compares to other elementary schools in Humboldt County, go to:

<http://api.cde.ca.gov/reports.asp>.

For additional information on the STAR, CST, or API, please see your child's teacher.

California School Recognition Program

On March 2, we were informed by the California Department of Education that Ferndale Elementary School has been selected as a Statewide Nominee for the 2006 Distinguished School Program. Our application received a 8.0 out of a maximum possible of 8.0. Applications were received from 997 elementary schools out a total of 2,043 eligible schools, and 368 were selected as Statewide Nominees. A site validation visit will occur in the next few weeks. Official notification will occur on April 18, 2006.

Ferndale Elementary School

Volume 3, Issue 6

March 2006

Dates to Remember

March 14, 7:00 p.m.
School Board Meeting

March 15, 3:30 p.m.
School Site Council Mtg.

March 21, 6-7 p.m.
Parent Forum

March 21, 7-8 p.m.
Parent Club

March 30, 6:00-7:15
Open House; 7:30p.m.
3rd Grade Play

March 31, 11:00 a.m.
School BBQ; Spring
Clean Up; End of 3rd
Quarter



If you are not enrolled in the eScrip program, you can sign up online by logging on to www.escrip.com. Our group ID# is 6652709.

Artist of the Month—Tracy Dittes

My Godchildren are my inspiration! They keep me young and active. Their playtime is my time to catch them at moments that bring unexpected memories: when they are walking the dog, blowing bubbles, or playing in the apple orchard, or when it's raining and they're stuck indoors. I want to capture moments at the beach and during their birthday parties so that they can remember how great they were and what fun we had.

I have lived in Ferndale for seven years. Photography has always been a part of my life. I like to preserve moments to cherish and reflect on. They have a story to tell and if you look into these images, they say so much.



Student Council News

Student Council voted to purchase two new bean bag chairs for the school library. In addition, the Student Council has purchased new nets for the basketball hoops. They are planning to install targets on the basketball backboards, but the nets have not arrived at Sport 'n Cycle yet. If you have other ideas for improvements at FES, please have your child share this idea with their classroom representative.

Parent Club Begins Backstop Installation

Special Thanks to Shawn Stoops, Jim Stretch, Byron McWaters, Foy Melendy, and Rey Urbach for their help in planning and installing the poles for the new backstop purchased by the FES Parent Club this year. Several parents have volunteered to help with the assembly of the backstop, but due to poor weather, we are a bit behind schedule. In addition to installing the backstop, Parent Club is planning to rebuild the infield, apply red dirt, and install bases. If you have access to a small tractor or are willing to lend a hand in any way, please call FES Parent Club President Rey Urbach at 786-4540 or Paul Meyers at 786-5300.

New Lines

Special thanks to Dave Sears for spending a weekend in February measuring and painting lines for our outside basketball courts. It was great to hear the positive response of the students when they returned to school the following Monday. "Cool," one junior high student said as he turned the corner at morning recess, "we have lines on our courts!"

Art Club

Art club for 1st to 3rd grades holds steady interest, with 23 regularly attending students. The latest thing developing is creating our own books. "The Star Wars Legend" is our first joint effort, with each student getting a copy of the compilation. Animal paintings are also big. Visit our display for Open House.

Box Tops \$\$ 😊

Many thanks to the parents that have turned in Box Tops during the year. Due to your efforts, our Box Top program earned over \$350. The Box Tops are turned in for cash that teachers use to buy classroom supplies. The more Box Tops a teacher turns in, the more money they receive for their class. Thank you for your support of this program.

Read Across America Day Is a Huge Success!!!



Thank you to all who participated in the Read Across America program on March 2. What a great day we had with tons of reading and fun! We started the day with every class reading. At our assembly we were visited by the "Two Cool Town Cows" (Caroline Titus and Karen Pingatore). They read and acted out a book titled, Two Cool Cows by Toby Speed. Ron Brown then involved everyone in his rendition of Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You? By Dr. Suess. Our Fourth graders gave us visions of colors and seasons with a poem Many Colored Days, also by Dr. Suess. The finale of our assembly ended with the seventh and eighth grades students entertaining us with Reader's Theater using the stories Hooray for Wodney Wat and A Fine, Fine School. As students left the gym in their classes they had the

opportunity to "Hop on Pop" or bubble wrap. Thank you to all who donated bubble wrap. After the assembly, students went back to their classrooms for Reading Express and the rest of their day. At lunch time we had a special treat of ice cream donated by Humboldt Creamery and scooped by 1st Runner Up Dairy Princess Jenika Young and Parent Club member Nicole Melendy.

"Happy Readers come from Ferndale... got books?"



Library and Computer News

Thank you to Barbara Manzi, for her recent donation to the library. Barbara is a teacher's assistant for Ms. Shrick and Mrs. Osburn. For Christmas, she made a donation, that paid for two books in honor of the sixth grade class that she is an aide for. The books that were purchased are Buried Onions by Gary Soto and Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan. Buried Treasure is the story of a Hispanic American boy growing up under difficult circumstances in Fresno, California. Snow Treasure, is a wonderful story about children in Norway that help smuggle the Country's gold away from Nazi soldiers to a ship bound for America during World War II. It's based on a true story and is an Accelerated Reader book.

In the computer lab, the 4th - 6th grade classes recently completed several lessons on using our electronic card catalog to find books in the library. The students learned how to access educational web sites that have been cataloged as well as identify and locate picture, fiction and non-fiction books. Our school uses a library program called Spectrum/Winnebago that can be accessed from any of the computers in our lab, as well as, several workstations in the library. The kids did a great job and hopefully can use this skill when doing research.

Recommended Reading List Available! - The California Department of Education has a list recommended literature for grades K-12 on their website at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/ll/>. The reading list can be searched by author, title, or grade level. It's a good site to look for books.

Science Fair



Congratulations to five seventh grade students that have been selected from their class to participate at the Humboldt County Science Fair: Conrad Breitenstein; Brytann Busick; Frankie Griggs; Jessica Jackson and Becca Davis; and Oscar Koskinen. These five projects were selected to represent our school by several teachers. We wish them success at the County Science Fair!

The Humboldt County Doris Niles Science Fair is held at Humboldt State University, West Gym, Arcata, from March 14 -18. Public viewing is on March 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Empties 4 Cash

Recycling Ink Cartridges Program

Don't forget to recycle your used ink cartridges. Just put your ink cartridge in a zip lock bag and leave it in the collection box located in the computer lab.

Students, parents, staff, and community members can raise funds for the school. (\$2.00 per cartridge!)

Ferndale Elementary School

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Kids are our business



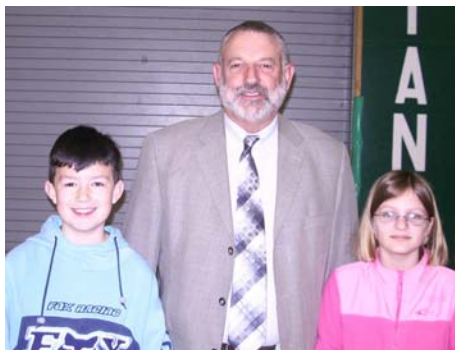
Jaycees Tournament

FES 8th Grade Boys Basketball team and Cheerleaders participated in the annual Crescent City Jaycees Tournament on March 3&4. The 8th grade Boys' Basketball team took home the consolation trophy. The Mustangs lost their opening game against Azalea Friday night, but returned Saturday and won both games to win the consolation bracket. Silas Sarvinski and David Larsen were selected to the all-tourney team.

In Cheerleading, our 8th grade girls performed well, but were not selected as a finalist. Kerilyn Ambrosini and Ashley Klem were selected to the all-tourney cheerleading squad.

2006 FES Spelling Bee Winners

On March 10, FES held its annual Spelling Bee for students in grades 4-8. Superintendent Alan Brainerd read the spelling words to the students. Two students are selected per class and they competed in two grade level divisions: grade 4-6 and grades 7-8. The top two spellers in each division will serve as FES's representatives at the Eel River Spelling Bee on March 20 at 9:00 a.m. in the Winama Theater in Scotia. Representing grades 4-6 are Emily Scilacci and Layne Stephens. Our junior high representatives are Celia Hansen and Kelly Sams. Congratulations to all the participants in this year's Spelling Bee.



Layne Stephens (5th) and Emily Scilacci (6th) with Mr. Brainerd.



Celia Hansen (7th) and Kelly Sams (8th) with Mr. Brainerd.