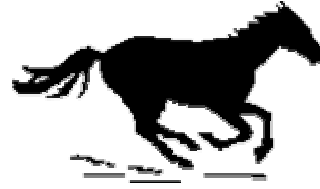


Mustang Tales



Principal's Message – Student Success

March 2007

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There are many factors that contribute to student success; high expectations, excellent teachers, appropriate curriculum, supportive and involved par-

ents, and the list goes on. When researching the variables that can enable or support student academic success in school, scholars have found a direct correlation between student attendance and student achievement. Studies have shown a direct correlation between attendance and achievement. In other words, students that attend school regularly perform better than students with irregular attendance.

Most of the students attending Ferndale Elementary School have developed excellent attendance habits. However, some of our students have already missed 10, 15, even 20 days of school, and we still have several more months left before summer vacation. Although a day here and a day there may not seem to have an impact on your child's education, it does. It can make a huge difference.

We want your child in school as much as possible to ensure that they have the maximum opportunity to learn and achieve with their classmates. The California Education Code lists the few reasons that a student may be excused from school, but the most common reason is for illness. By and large, we

expect parents to use their good judgment when determining whether or not a child should attend school or remain at home that day. It is easy to determine that if your child has a fever, is vomiting, or is contagious to others that you should keep your child at home for his safety and the safety of the other children at school. When your child's symptoms are not so clear to you, rest assured that if you send your child to school in the morning and their condition worsens during the day, your child is always allowed to use the phone to call you and ask that you take them home. In addition, some parents have found that if they give their child an extra hour or two of sleep on mornings that they complain of not feeling well, might later in the morning bounce back and be ready to go to school.

When a student's absences or tardies become excessive, I will often call or send letters stating our concern. If you receive one of these letters, your support in ensuring that your child's attendance improves is appreciated. If poor attendance continues, the student and his parents are referred to the Eel River Valley School Attendance Review Board (SARB) for review and/or legal action.

Student attendance can also make a difference in the amount of funding that our school receives from the state. A few years back, the student funding mechanism changed to a positive attendance model. This means that no matter what the reason for a student's absence, when a student is not in school we do not receive funding for that student on that day. If a student is in school for part of the day, however, we still receive full funding. For example, if your child is here when the teacher takes roll at 8:30 a.m., but leaves soon after due to illness or a doctor's appointment, they are still considered present and the school receives its funding.

DARE

Drug Abuse Resistance Education



The DARE program continues at Ferndale Elementary School under the new leadership of the Fortuna Police Department's DARE Officer Andy Martin. Officer Martin has replaced our former long-time DARE Officer, Doug Pool, who retired last year. Officer Martin provides DARE classes to students in Fortuna as well. DARE is an anti-drug program that teaches students the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, and substance use and abuse.

Art in the Office—Shawn Stoops



My name is Shawn Stoops, and I have two boys that go to Ferndale Elementary. My oldest is Oliver. He is a fourth grader

in Mrs. Currier's class. My youngest is Wyatt and he is in Mrs. Leonard's class. I love my boys so much; they make me so proud of them.

Last year there were two vintage WWII bombers that were at the Arcata Airport for a short visit and were open to the public for touring. Both Oliver and Wyatt love airplanes as much as I do, so off we went. Oliver and Wyatt were snapping pictures of the two planes!

Photography like this is something that I have always enjoyed doing, but it had been quite some time since I picked up a camera for fun. Sitting with Oliver and

Wyatt and looking at all of the pictures they took and how excited they were, really inspired me to find time

for something I love doing.

Thank you Oliver and Wyatt. Love, Dad



2nd Quarter Honor Roll

5th Grade	Tristan Sano	Kelsey Meyers	Eme Gurnee	Brytann Busick
Maci Branstetter	Miriam Thompson	Kelly O'Day	Alise Hubner	Hannah Denney
Britton Bugbee	Isaak Townsend	Tyler O'Reilly	Christiana Lekas	Walter Gallaty
Kyle Chambers	Javier Villalvazo	Madison Parker	Stephanie Lentz	Kayla Ghidinelli
Taryn DeMille	6th Grade	Cambria Peronne	Kyle Lutz	Frankie Griggs
Rachel Denney	Manuel Alvarado	David Sams	Kayleigh Meyers	Celia Hansen
Jake Dixon	Kaylee Armstrong	Tiara Sanborn	Denim Ohmit	Jessica Jackson
Peyton Durrett	Terris Becker	Layne Stephens	Kassie Rosell	Efrain Sanchez
Anna Gomes	Catherine Boers	Grady Titus	Travis Rye	Abigail Titus
Mitchell Grandy	Ali Breitenstein	Tenaya Urbach	Shannon Scales	
Andrea Guggenbickler	Clarissa Ceffalo	Elijah Wigman-Nilsson	Emily Scilacci	
Ani Gurnee	Joseph Denney	7th Grade	Miranda Sears	
Lacey Herrera	Stephanie Floren	Kassidy Allardice	Emily Shinn	
Russ Jackson	Joey Fuller	Monet Bessingpas-Hamor	Monica Sopjes	
Christian Kay	Danielle Hansen	Kelly Chambers	8th Grade	
Kendra Losa	Quinn Hildebrand	Trey Dixon	Conrad Breitenstein	
Sadie Rayl	Kayla Leonardo	Bryce Fields	Karl Brockoff	

Spirit Day

Every Friday is Spirit Day at Ferndale Elementary School. On Fridays, students in grades 3-8 who are wear green and white (our school colors) or red and white (Ferndale High School's colors) earn spirit points for their class. Be sure to show your school spirit by wearing green and white or red and white!

FYI Seek Student Input for Logo

Ferndale Youth Incorporated, or FYI, is a new local non-profit organization recently created to support our youth and our schools in the Ferndale area. This new foundation is seeking the creative talents of our valley's youth in designing a logo for FYI. Draft logos can be created on the computer or on a piece of paper. Students in both Ferndale High School and Ferndale Elementary School are encouraged to submit their creative ideas to their school

principal by March 30th. A \$25 prize will be awarded to one student from each school with the top idea selected by a panel of judges. For more information, please see Mr. Meyers or Mr. Brainerd.



Community Donations

Rotary - donated \$600 as the sponsor of the Ferndale Rotary Club Annual 8th Grade Basketball Tournament in February

Kiwanis - donated \$2,000 to sponsor the Ferndale Kiwanis Club Reading Express program.

Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Currier's Fourth Grade Class

By Julie Urbach, Madilyn Adams, Shilo Martella, and Hunter Rayl

Mrs. Currier's fourth grade class has done many things. One of those things is that we had a perspective art lesson with Mr. Brainerd, the high school principal (district superintendent). We used the lesson to help create our mission drawings for our big mission projects. Emily Silver came to do art with our class that included watercolor painting, dry printing, and stained glass designs. We also had drama class for four days, and we have been learning about the states of matter in science. Our class has been busy writing to prepare for the fourth grade writing assessment coming up in March. We would like to thank Rey Urbach for volunteering his time to help with science experiments!



Mrs. Taylor (Title 1, EL, ELD, GATE, & GROW Coordinator)

My name is Cindy Taylor and I am proud to be working at Ferndale Elementary this year. I have been working with the school since 2003 student teaching, substitute teaching, after-school intervention, and summer school.

Currently, I coordinate Title 1, GATE, the EL Program, GROW, and I teach English Language Development. The GROW program is new for this year and stands for "Great Readers in Our World." The goal of this program is to give struggling readers extra intensive support so that they can meet and possibly exceed grade level reading standards. One-third of our last group

of students were excited due to their amazing growth in the program. We are able to run GROW with a wonderful team of teachers, support staff, and classroom assistants.

The GATE program is also off to a running start. Classes have included Lunch Club, Mystery Detectives, Sweetness and Light chocolate making, and Drama. Upcoming classes will include Ceramics, Embroidery, and Gardening. The highlight of this year's GATE program was the GATE Academy held at HSU in January. Several hundred students from all over

Humboldt and Del Norte counties were there. It was an all day event where students chose 1-2 classes from a list of 40. The classes ranged from Drama to "Calculus for Kids." The students love and look forward to the Academy every year.

This has been a wonderful year full of new possibilities to give every student I work with an enhanced opportunity to succeed at Ferndale Elementary. I look forward to what the future brings and the Great Readers in Our World!

Spelling Bee Reps

Congratulations to each of the class representatives that participated in the Ferndale Elementary School Spelling Bee on February 13th.



Representing our school at the 29th Annual

ERVA Spelling Bee on March 7, 2007 in Fortuna in grades 4-6 was Terris Becker, who placed 7th, and David Sams who placed 12th. Our junior high representatives were Celia Hansen, who placed 4th and Conrad Breitenstein, who placed 6th.



New Student Council Officers

President—
Abby Titus

Vice-President—
Kassie Rosell

Secretary—
Blaine Becksted

Treasurer—
Corabelle Esmailian



Ferndale Elementary School

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We're on the Web!
www.ferndalek12.org/fes

"Kids are our business"

"Accelerated Reader 100 Club"

In a previous Mustang Tales, the "Accelerated Reader 100 Club" was mentioned. This honor is received when a student earns 100 Accelerated Reader points. This is a challenging goal, and we are proud of the effort that our students are putting in to reach their goal. The point totals go from the first day of school to June. This is our first year of the club. Mrs. Fisk-Becker is coordinating the club, and Mr. Meyers is going to take the members of the "100 Club" to pizza in June. Accelerated Reader is a school-wide reading program where students read books at their independent reading level and take comprehension tests to earn points. All the many A.R. books are listed on our website, and the books are in our school and classroom libraries. Mrs. McCulloch, our school Librarian, purchases and displays new A.R. Books on a regular basis. The Primary Grades (K-3) have a reading incentive program called "Reading Express," but primary students are welcome into the "Accelerated Reader 100 Club."

Members of the "100 Club" so far:

Andrea Guggenbickler	156.6 Points
5th Grade	Mrs. Fisk-Becker
Evan Broberg	117.5
3rd Grade	Mrs. Bugenig
Joseph Denney	114.0
6th Grade	Mr. Rigney
Miriam Thompson	111.0
5th Grade	Mrs. Fisk-Becker
Tristen Sano	108.0
6th Grade	Mrs. Busick
Tenaya Urbach	107.0
6th Grade	Mrs. Busick
Corabelle Esmalian	103.4
4th Grade	Mrs. Currier
Quinn Hildebrand	100.6
6th Grade	Mr. Rigney

Congratulations!! We will up-date points in future *Mustang Tales*.