

Fort Caspar

Academy

Volume 15, Issue 4

News

January 2010



From the Principal's Desk

"Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Welcome back. I hope that everyone had a wonderful, restful Christmas break. We are looking forward to a great second semester here at Fort Caspar Academy.

Jan./Feb. Calendar

Jan. 29 – School Spirit

Day/School Store

Feb. 4 – Hearing Screening

Feb. 9 – Spring Pictures (class/individuals)

Feb. 15 – No School – Presidents' Day

Fort Caspar Academy was founded by parents wanting more opportunities for their children. Extra-curricular activities and clubs have traditionally helped to fill the need and desire our students have to interact with each other and expand their learning outside the classroom. It is a practice at Fort Caspar Academy to have extra-curricular activities sponsored by parents. This year, although research shows that strong parental involvement is the number one factor in a successful education, we are struggling to find parents to help with our clubs and activities.

Our teachers are working collaboratively before-and after-school hours to improve instruction and education. This "protected" time for our teachers is a pivotal aspect of what makes FCA great. Thus, if extra-curricular activities are going to be offered at Fort Caspar Academy, it is up to you, the parents, to make them happen.

This fall a student requested permission to start a school newspaper. At the first

after-school meeting, over thirty students showed up eager to be a part of this new club. Later, a parent volunteered to sponsor this club, a proposal was presented to and approved by the Governing Council, and now Fort Caspar Academy has an official student newspaper club. This club will benefit students in many ways incorporating concepts they are learning in writing, language, and math, and teaching them real world skills and concepts that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

The number of students who showed up to take part in this activity is evidence of the need for more extra-curricular opportunities at our school. Do you have an interest (fly tying, chess, knitting, entomology, scrap booking, etc.) that you could share with children? Do you have time before or after school once a week or a couple of times a month when you would be willing to share some of your knowledge and experience with our students? Could you help sponsor a Geography Club, Spelling Club, Book Club, Drama

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Club, Writing Club or
Lego-Robotics Club?

We have an Extra-Curricular Committee who would be excited to hear from you. The purposes of this committee are to help recruit volunteers and ensure proper structure is in place for these activities, and to assist parent volunteers who are offering their time for the activities. Connie Stinson is the chair, of the Extra-Curricular Committee, and she can be reached at the following email and phone number: [HYPERLINK "mailto:stinson.connie@yahoo.com"](mailto:stinson.connie@yahoo.com)
stinson.connie@yahoo.com, 267-0583. Please contact Connie, or Derek Jones, Governing Council/PTO Chairman, at [HYPERLINK "mailto:Derekj9@bresnan.net"](mailto:Derekj9@bresnan.net) if you are willing and able to be available for students or if you wish to serve on this committee.

For a list of all of our committees, please see [HYPERLINK "http://www.fortcasparacademy.com"](http://www.fortcasparacademy.com)
www.fortcasparacademy.com and click on the "Programs" link. We are always interested in providing opportunities for parents to get involved with students here at Fort Caspar Academy. Many teachers are still looking for parents who can help out with Discover Days this spring as well.

Be watching for news about the Governing Council elections that will take place in April. If you are interested in running for the Council, candidate information forms will be available soon on the FCA website. Thank you for being willing to contribute your time and talent to the students at FCA.
"An individual has not risen above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Martin Luther King, Jr.



HEALTH NEWS FROM THE NURSE

I have completed most health assessments at FCA and have made referrals where needed. If your child brought home a referral from the nurse office for vision or dental concerns, please let me know if you have completed the referral with a doctor's visit.

Winter is here along with the beautiful snow and cold (and occasional wind – sh!). It is so dry and our skin will need more moisturizing with lotions and chapstick for our lips. Please remind your children to use extra lotion and to apply chapstick to their lips to prevent cracked and sore lips.

Our Influenza symptoms were very mild before Christmas break and hopefully that will continue. Just a reminder, --- All rashes must be resolved or diagnosed by your child's doctor as not contagious before returning to school.

If you have a 6th grade student, please remember that they will need a tetanus booster before starting 7th grade.

Remember your prevention methods of frequent hand washing, adequate rest, balanced nutrition, and routine exercise. These methods will help your immune system stay healthy.

If you have any health questions, please call

the nurse. Thanks for helping your children stay safe and healthy.

Kristy Thompson, R.N.
School Nurse

**TUNE IN TO
CHARGER RADIO
107.5**

GREAT WAY TO STAY
UP TO DATE ON FCA
ANNOUNCEMENTS
WHILE BEING
ENTERTAINED BY OUR
TALENTED STARLETS.

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P.E. Scuttle Bug

We have started off the new year in P.E. with a lot of excitement because the upper grades are finishing their fitness testing! YEA! 'Almost done, and then we will move on to some basketball skills to finish out the month of January. The younger grades are doing some new game play while incorporating several skills at once, such as throwing, catching, striking, turning, twisting, and the list goes on! All

grades will be participating in the basketball unit, and it will be age-appropriate so everyone will experience some success. We will also be incorporating the learning of the bones in P.E. while assembling paper skeletons. It should be a lot of fun for all. Happy January to everyone, and welcome back to school! :)

Mrs. Shutts, P.E. teacher

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MUSIC NOTES!!

It is time to prepare for the **20th Annual All-City Orff Concert!**

This is a city-wide concert featuring 5th & 6th grade students from 22 elementary schools here in Casper. The information letter was sent home with the 5th & 6th grade students on January 15, 2010, & is to be returned to the music room by Feb. 19, 2010. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I would like to Congratulate **ALL the students** for

their **AWESOME** performance at the All-School Christmas Concert, & also **Thank you teachers**, for your assistance & support to help make this concert possible. FCA Rocks!!

Lovin' the Music,
Lesli Beecher
Elementary General
Music

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Expedition Yellowstone!

Mrs. Mooren's and Ms. Walsh's classes have returned from their trips to Yellowstone National Park and it was amazing! Even though they hiked for five hours each day in sub-zero temperatures, the students were troopers! They were taught about both the geology and ecology of the park. The students learned about the different types of thermal features and were able to take temperatures and pH measurements of some of the hot springs. They

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also learned about some of the four-legged residents of the park and identified their skulls by the eye placement and types of teeth that each skull had. The students were taught how to identify what animals had been where they hiked by the tracks and scat that was left behind. They also learned some cooking and cleaning skills that might be useful to mom at home. The students were well prepared for the questions asked of them by the rangers, and in turn, asked impressive

questions back to them. They had an excellent experience that they will remember for a lifetime, and I would encourage you to ask any of these fifth graders about their exciting trip.

Jonna Grube
5th/6th Teacher Asst.

PLEASE BE SURE TO
CHECK OUT THE
LOST AND FOUND –
IT IS FULL OF ITEMS
THAT WANT TO BE
FOUND.

BOX TOPS

Box Tops will be collected January 27, 2010. Be sure to turn in your sheets from winter break. Look for a flyer to come home soon about another inter-class competition. Thanks for all your support.

*Karen Rowe,
Box Top Coordinator
473-1217*

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