

Fort Caspar

Academy

Volume 15, Issue 1



From the Principal's Desk

Synergy *syn-er-gy n*

Also called synergism

1. The working together of two or more things, people, or organizations, especially when the result is greater than the sum of their individual effects or capabilities

Sept./Oct. Calendar

Oct. 15 1st Quarter Ends

Oct. 16 Fall Break

Oct. 22, 23 No School – Parent/Teacher Conference

example, drugs or muscles, is greater than the sum of their effects individually. Encarta® World English Dictionary

One of the reasons for the success of Fort Caspar Academy is the synergism created by people working together toward a common goal. We have talked as a staff this year about the possibility of becoming the best elementary school in the world: about it being *possible* to help *all* of our students become advanced proficient in the areas of reading, writing, and math, and about it being *possible* to help *all* of our students become outstanding citizens who are living examples of the Core Virtues. How do we maintain and enhance the relationships between and among parents, students, and staff so that we can harness the synergy necessary to accomplish what some

News

September 2009

may believe to be impossible?

We realize this cannot be done in isolation. Some of the ways we are harnessing the synergy of our staff include having grade-level teachers collaborate for a minimum of an hour once a week and having all staff collaborate once a week during staff meetings or Discover Days to share ideas and instructional strategies and synchronize practices. This work is much more difficult than working in isolation, but it produces astronomical results.

Similarly, your work with your children on a *daily* basis in providing the structure for and assistance with homework, along with the consistent teaching and modeling of our Core Virtues, creates the possibility of synergistic results in achievement. In addition, all of you as parents or guardians are

members of our Parent Teacher Organization led by the Governing Council. The volunteer hours you donate allow our staff to reach higher and accomplish more with your children. The staff greatly appreciated the barbeque put on by the Governing Council during their first week back this summer. This generosity provided a boost for staff members who had been working hard all week and did not have to make a meal for their families that night. Many parent committees have already made a direct impact on student learning this year.

Those of you who have already spent many hours at the school this year helping teachers and classroom assistants have made a huge difference, and we greatly appreciate you! We realize we cannot become the best elementary school in the world without the best parent involvement in the world. We know we have the best parents, and we know we need to find ways to get *all* parents and guardians of every one of our 430 students to be involved in our school: *every one*

of you. If you are not plugged in yet, please contact your child's teacher, a Governing Council Representative, or call the school at 253-3400, and let us help you find your niche here! Thank you for all you do to ensure the proper stewardship of Fort Caspar Academy and the best education possible for your children.

Randall Larson



HEALTH NEWS FROM THE NURSE

Welcome back for the 2009-2010 school year. The summer went very quickly. Hope that you and your family had a wonderful time. I am looking forward to a safe and healthy year with your children.

During this first month of school, I have been busy with immunization requirements. Exclusion day was 9/16/2009. Thanks to all of you for responding to my requests. I have also sent home action plans for children with specified illnesses. If you have received an action plan for your child, I would appreciate your response.

I will be starting health assessments in October for all kindergartners, first, and fourth graders. The health assessment consists of vision, blood pressure, and dental checks, along with a height/weight.

Safety is always a concern, so please help us keep your children safe and review safety rules at home.

If you have any questions or concerns about your children, please contact me in the nurse's office.

Kristy Thompson RN

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P.E. Scuttle Bug

This school year has started off great! We are having fun in P.E. class and learning lots of new games and activities, as well as brushing up on our sports skills. We started off with some "tag" games that involved a lot of running to keep our bodies in great shape. In the following weeks to come, we will begin some volleyball activities, such as passing, serving, setting, and spiking. The upper grades will do some organized game play and the younger grades will be using balloons and beach balls. It should be fun for all. Please feel free to stop by the gym anytime to watch your children. Please remind them to wear their tennis shoes on their P.E. days, so they can participate at a safe level. Thank you!

Mrs. Shutts, P.E.
teacher

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Music Notes

The students are off to a fantastic new year!!! We have discussed composers, participated in beat games, read rhythms, and are learning to listen for timbre & dynamics in music. Students have played unpitched & pitched instruments and recently learned about "National Anthem Day" which was Sept. 14, 2009. This was a time to learn about the history of our National Anthem and how Frances

Scott Key was inspired to write it.

We have had visitors in our room and hope to see many more!!! Everyone is welcome in the Music Room.

Lovin' the
Music,
Lesli Beecher
General Music

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