

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

## 2010

### FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, February 1 – Varsity G/B BB vs.  
Clarinda Academy 6:15

Tuesday, February 2 – Varsity Wrestling @  
Woodbine 5:00  
JV G/B BB (2 qtrs. each) @ Tarkio 5:00  
Varsity G/B BB @ Tarkio 6:15

Thursday, February 4 – Varsity Wrestling @  
Atlantic TBA

Friday, February 5 – Varsity G/B BB vs.  
Hamburg Here 6:15

Saturday, February 6 – Sectional Wrestling @  
Shenandoah TBA  
State Speech Contest @ Ankeny TBA  
Elementary Girls' BB 9:00 a.m.

Monday, February 8 – SWI Honor Choir,  
Regular School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9 – Varsity G/B BB @  
Sidney 6:15

Thursday, February 11 – Girls' Regional BB  
Begins TBA

Saturday, February 13 – District Wrestling  
TBA  
Elementary Boys' BB 9:00 a.m.

Monday, February 15 – Boys' Regional BB  
Begins TBA

February 17-20 – State Wrestling Tournament  
In Des Moines

Tuesday, February 23 – Corner Conference  
Speech Festival @ F-M TBA  
JH Solo/Small Ensemble Contest @  
Griswold

Wednesday, February 24 – County Spelling  
Bee @ Hamburg TBA  
Sr. Parent Meeting in Concourse 6:30

Saturday, February 27 – Elementary Boys' BB  
9:00 a.m.

### MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 8 – Regular School Board  
Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 18 – C.C. Instrumental Music  
Festival @ Sidney TBA

Saturday, March 20 – Pre-Contest Vocal &  
Instrumental TBA

Monday, March 22 – C.C. JH Science Fair @  
East Mills TBA

March 22-23 – State FCCLA Convention in Des  
Moines

Tuesday, March 23 – JH Honor Choir @ Treynor  
TBA

Monday, March 29 – Elementary Spring  
Concert 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30 – JH B/G Track @ East  
Mills 4:00

## ELEMENTARY UPDATE – MRS. BREDENSTEINER

February for a short month is certainly a filled month. There will be testing and several activities throughout the month.

Kindergarten, First, and Second grades will be celebrating 100 days of school this month. There will be several reading and math activities incorporated in the day to celebrate in those classrooms.

This is the month for Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> will take the tests the week of February 15. The Jr. High and High School will be testing at the same time which helps with some scheduling and focus. It is important that all students get rest and good nutrition to help them do their best. PTO will be furnishing healthy snacks the days of testing. Attendance during the testing days is also important for students to do better than if they have to make them up at a later time.

Since we have already missed 5 days of school due to winter weather, the School Board approved using February 15 as a school day instead of a vacation day.

The Farragut Spelling Bee for grades 4 through 8 will be held Monday, February 15, at 3:30. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will spell in the Music Room and the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will spell in the Media Center. The Fremont County Spelling Bee will be held Wednesday, February 24, at Hamburg Auditorium at the High School at 1:00 PM. Visitors are welcome at both these events.

It will be a busy week for fifth graders because they will be attending the Concert for Youth at the Holland Performing Arts Center Friday, February 19. This is an excellent opportunity for students in their first year of band to observe a symphony performance. They will take sack lunches to have following the program.

Weather has certainly been an issue the last couple of months. We try to get the students outdoors as much as possible to get fresh air and more room to run. Many have enjoyed playing on the snow when they have snowpants, boots, and mittens. There may be days that have a great deal of thawing and are just too wet to play in the snow and those days they will not have that access. Your help in making sure they have winter gear including hats and mittens along with coats that will close is important.



### SPELLING BEE

The Farragut Spelling Bee will be held February 15, at 3:30 P.M. for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will spell in the choir room and the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will spell in the Media Center. The public is invited to watch the competition. Medals will be awarded to the first, second, third, and alternate place winners provided by PTO. The top three spellers in each class will advance to the Fremont County Spelling Bee on Wednesday, February 24, at Hamburg.

## 7-12 NEWSLETTER

It's that time of year for ITBS/ITED testing again. These tests are important to all schools in the state of Iowa. These tests are used to determine funding and determining if your school is in need of assistance. In order to show how serious the school is and wanting students to take the time and to do the tests to their best ability, the Farragut Community School District is offering the following incentive to all 7-12 students. Any students who were over the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile in 2009 will need to increase their score in one of the tests in math, reading, and science and be in the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile in the other two tests in 2010, or be in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in any of the 3 tests. Students who were below the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile in 2009 must increase their percentile by 5 percentile points in one of the tests in math, reading, and science and maintain their same score from the previous year in the other two tests. Any students who accomplish these goals will be allowed to miss semester tests the last day of school as long as they are under the number of days allowed to miss under the Farragut Community Schools Attendance Policy.

ITBS/ITED testing dates are as follows:

9-12

Tuesday	February 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:20-10:30	(Seniors do not have to attend School until 10:30 am)
Wednesday	February 23 <sup>th</sup>	8:20-10:30	(Seniors do not have to attend School until 10:30 am)
Thursday	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:20-9:30	(Seniors do not have to attend School until 9:30 am)

7-8

Tuesday	February 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:20-10:30
Wednesday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	(During English class)
Wednesday	February 23 <sup>th</sup>	8:20-10:30
Thursday	February 24 <sup>h</sup>	8:20-9:30

In others information 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students need to be aware that if they receive an F, second semester in math, literature, English, science, or social studies they will be required to attend summer school.

## **From the Helm of the Ship**

**Jay D. Lutt,**

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### **An Update on Progress**

On January 14<sup>th</sup> the school boards of Hamburg and Farragut hosted a joint board meeting to answer questions about athletic sharing and the possibility of Whole-Grade Sharing (WGS) in the future. The meeting was well received and patrons and students from each district were in attendance.

It seemed that a majority of people favored sharing all sports and looking towards WGS. As of right now both boards have agreed to share football and track during the 2010 season. At the next board meeting softball and baseball will be action items and there is a possibility that volleyball and basketball will be voted on then as well.

The boards have agreed that sports, in which a small number of students in both schools would participate, such as wrestling and cross country would still be contracted out to either Shenandoah or South West Iowa (Sidney/F-M).



Both boards will soon be investigating the rules of Whole-Grade Sharing and want a plan developed for another community meeting. The plan will encompass having an elementary (K-5) in each district, a 6-8 junior high and a 9-12 high school. The

boards would like to know if WGS will maintain or improve our educational programming and if it will save money. A meeting will be scheduled for late spring.

If you have questions for either board, please direct them to their question pages at <http://www.farragutschools.org/vnews/display.v/ART/4926d42ba8bfd> for Farragut and <http://www.hamburg.k12.ia.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/School%20Board%3E%3EAsk%20the%20Board> for Hamburg.

### **School Name and Mascot**

The responses to the school name and mascot was very positive with lots of unique suggestions. Due to the large number of entries, the districts will post two polls for the names of schools and two polls for the mascot. The first poll on names will be posted from January 28 to February 3. The second poll of names will be listed from February 4 to February 10. The first poll of mascots will be posted from February 11 to 17 and the second from the 18th to 25th. Students will vote on the finalists on February 28th. Check the web page each week to cast your vote!

### **Farragut-Hamburg HS Dance**

Mrs. Swenson, guidance counselor for both districts, wrote and received a grant to host a school dance after the Farragut-Hamburg game on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have the kids interact in a positive manner and learn about anti-drug and alcohol programs. The grant covers the DJ, food and transportation for the students from Hamburg.

### **Blogs**

Check out my blogs:

<http://educationalnewsfarragut.blogspot.com/>

<http://jaydlutt.blogspot.com/>