

# MARCH CALENDAR NEWSLETTER

## 2009

### MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 2 - JH Science Fair at Farragut School

Tuesday, March 3 - JH Wrestling Tournament at Tarkio 4:30  
Senior Graduation Orders delivered 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 5 - Individual Spring Pictures Pre-K through 11

Monday, March 9 - Regular School Board Meeting 6:30

Wednesday, March 11 - SEEDS Staff Development - NO SCHOOL

Saturday, March 14 - State Individual Speech Contest TBA

Friday, March 20 - Power Chain Assembly 1:00

Saturday, March 21 - Nebraska Wesleyan Track Meet in Lincoln  
Pre-Contest

Thursday, March 26 - Elementary Spring Concert 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 28 - Graceland B/G Indoor Track Meet at Lamoní TBA

Monday, March 30 - All-State Individual Speech Contest

### APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 2 - JH B/G Track at East Mills

Saturday, April 4 - Varsity Boys' Track at Winterset

Monday, April 6 - JH B/G Track at Stanton

Tuesday, April 7 - Varsity Girls' Track at Clarinda

Thursday, April 9 - Varsity Boys' Track at Clarinda

Monday, April 13 - Regular School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14 - Varsity Girls' Track at Griswold

Thursday, April 16 - Boys' Varsity Track at East Mills

Friday, April 17 - School Play - "Grease" 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 - School Play 7:00 p.m.  
Solo/Ensemble Contest at Creston

Sunday, April 19 - School Play 2:00 p.m.

Monday, April 20 - G & B Varsity Track at Stanton  
JH B/G Track at Sidney  
Kindergarten Round-up 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 21 - Boys' Varsity Track at Hamburg

Thursday, April 23 - Boys' Varsity Track at Sidney

Saturday, April 25 - Jr./Sr. Prom  
Elementary/JH Solo Contest TBA

Monday, April 27 - JH B/G Track at Essex

Tuesday, April 28 - Girls' Varsity Track at East Mills

Wednesday, April 29 - Senior Supper at the Elk's 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 30 - Girls' Varsity Track at Hamburg

### ELEMENTARY MUSIC - MRS. ELDRIDGE

The elementary music students have been incredibly busy for the past month in preparation for our spring concert on March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. We are very excited for this concert because the 1-3 grades are preparing a musical called, *E-I-E-I Oops!* This musical features many of your children in special speaking roles. Please note that each grade will be designated a farm animal. They will be provided with a face mask, but I am asking you to find clothing in colors suitable to the animal.

1<sup>st</sup> grade- chickens. Please be dressed in shirts of brown, red, or yellow.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade- pigs. Please be dressed in shirts of pink, peach, light gray or white.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade-sheep. Please be dressed in white shirts.

Your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> grader can wear jeans unless they want to wear special colored pants that would be appropriate for their animal. Please no torn jeans or t-shirts.

Kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been challenged this year with their vocal selections. They will be singing several pieces of music that have difficult rhythms and/or accompanied by rhythmic instruments. You will be entertained by the sounds of cowboys singing around a campfire, critters in a swamp, and a rainstorm. If your child is in one of these grades, please have them dress in normal concert wear (dresses/skirts, khaki's, dress pants, collared shirts).

The students look forward to presenting their pieces. They have been working diligently to provide an entertaining concert. Because everyone has worked equally hard, it is important that all students remain until the end of the concert to show their appreciation and respect for all members of the elementary music program and their families. Please make plans to join us on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM.

## Board Bits by Bob Lynn

Bill Clinton and George Bush graduated from high school in the same year, 1964. That year's graduating class posted the highest average national ACT score of all time. Since then scores have trended downward until just recently when they have started to trend slightly upward once again.

So why is that? Since 1964 we have desegregated our inner city schools, implemented incentives for smaller class sizes, introduced hand held calculators, improved teaching methods, and made computer technology an intricate part of the educational system. These and other changes were supposed to improve student learning but scores do not indicate this has happened.

According to Sam Redding, Early Bird Workshop presenter at last fall's IASB convention, these advances in teaching have been outweighed by changes in our society. Sam, who also graduated in 1964, sites social bonds between children and their friends and neighbors, children and their parents, and these kids' parents and their friends' parents made a network of support for every child as he was growing up. As this network matured, parents would not only be looking out for their own children but would also be showing the same interest in their children's friends. So with eyes and ears and caring all around children knew that if they did something wrong someone would know and there would be no place to hide. They also knew they had people all around who could help them when they had a problem. And finally kids worked hard in school because everyone was expecting them to do well.

The current keyword going around many organizations now is collaboration. This simply means that every one with common interests' work together to achieve a shared objective. That sounds a lot like the parent/child network that I just described. Everyone working together to insure every child was the best they could be. So in my mind collaboration, though a relatively new term to some of us is actually something we all have done to some extent at various times.

When Dr. Redding was working with the Chicago school system he implemented an idea where a small group of parents would meet informally with their child's teacher to become better aquatinted with each other and the teacher. He was trying to foster an environment where all parties worked together for the good of the education of the child. Teachers were nervous going in but often found the parents were complimentary about how their child was learning. Knowing the parents were supportive invigorated the educators to work even harder in the classroom. And parents after getting to know the teacher better were more supportive of the school.

I don't foresee us having parent groups meeting in private homes with teachers here at Farragut, but we do have a way for parents and educators to communicate privately and easily. The JMC software program we use to track attendance and grades allows teachers and parents to communicate back and forth with just a click. I don't think this gets used near as much as it should be.

So I'll challenge all of you, teachers and parents alike, to pry yourself out of your comfort zone and use this tool to collaborate. Start with some positive comments and then it won't be as awkward if something more controversial comes up. If your student knows you are regularly communicating with each other I can't help but believe they will work harder in school. Give it a try, what can it hurt, we only have one chance to give every child the education they need and deserve.

## ELEMENTARY UPDATE-MRS. BREDENSTEINER

The month of March will see the end of the third quarter and everyone wondering where three fourths of the year has gone!

The fifth grade students will receive flyers to celebrate "Take Five" day March 5<sup>th</sup>. The flyer sent out by the state is reminding parents to talk to their children about drugs and misuse. I hope you will take time to do so. Presently, a big concern in the country is the misuse of prescription drugs by young people.

On March 11, there will be SEEDS Staff Development for all the Farragut staff; therefore, there will be no school for students on that day.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class will send a team to Math Day March 18.

PTO invites parents and staff to attend the regular monthly meeting. It will be held March 19 at 6:30. Babysitting is provided.

I invite the community to our Spring Music Program March 26 at 7:00 in Plummer Gymnasium. You will be in for a treat as the students learn more and more difficult numbers to present. The program includes a variety of vocal numbers from the kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grades and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade bands will perform.

The Two for One Scholastic Book Fair will be here the week of March 23. This is the book fair where two books can be purchased for the price of one. The scheduled times will be sent out later. Watch the Helm for the times and dates.

Farragut, Fremont Mills, and Sidney schools are applying for the 4 Year Old Preschool Grant. We hope to receive this funding to help support our existing preschool as we continue to work toward a quality program.

As we complete the third quarter and begin the fourth quarter, we look forward to the many activities in and out of the classrooms.



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

**Jay D. Lutt,**

[jlutt@farragut.k12.ia.us](mailto:jlutt@farragut.k12.ia.us)

### **Joint Board Meeting**

Farragut, Hamburg and Sidney Boards will be meeting together on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. The location of this meeting will be at the Hamburg High School in the auditorium. Glenn Grove, Director of AEA13 will preside over the meeting in which Ed Gambs will return his report to the board on his recommendations for future sharing and possible whole-grade sharing of the three districts. This is an open meeting and the community is invited.

### **Regular Board Meeting**

March 9<sup>th</sup> is the next regular board meeting. The board members will be adopting the budget resolution and take their first view of next year's budget.



### **Congratulations Carroll!**

Farragut has several wrestlers on the Essex, Farragut, Shenandoah squad. Carroll Heitshusen used all of his talent and hard work to place sixth at state.

### **Junior High Football Meeting**

There will be a meeting about junior high football on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the library. As our number of boys decreases in junior high school, we must ask the question whether or not to share football with a neighboring district. This meeting is for students and parents of next year's junior high, but is open to everyone.

### **School Improvement Advisory Committee Meeting**

March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 in the library. Please call me at the school if you would like to join this committee. Visitors are always welcome!

### **Board Questions about Whole-Grade-Sharing**

Ask your questions about the Whole-Grade-Sharing process now on the school's website. The board will answer them after each meeting!

### **School Alerts: Not Just for Weather Anymore!**

Sign-up at Iowa School Alerts (listed below) to have an email sent to you or a text message sent to your phone. This is a free service provided by the state!

<https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/>

## **Joint Board Meeting**

**Farragut, Hamburg and Sidney Boards will be meeting together on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**