

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

2008

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 2 - JV/V VB vs. Villisca Here 6:00/7:30
JH VB vs. Villisca Here 4:00

Friday, October 3 - Varsity FB vs. East Mills Here 7:30
SWIHMB Tailgate prior to game

Saturday, October 4 - Clarinda Band Day Parade 9:00 a.m.

Monday, October 6 - JH/JV FB at Sidney 4:00/6:00

October 7 & 9 - C.C. Volleyball Tournament TBA

Friday, October 10 - Varsity FB at South Page 7:30

Saturday, October 11 - Farragut Volleyball Invitational TBA

Monday, October 13 - Regular School Board Meeting 6:30

Tuesday, October 14 - JV/V Volleyball vs. Hamburg Here 6:00/7:30
JH volleyball vs. Hamburg Here 4:00
Senior Parent Night for Volleyball

Thursday, October 16 - JV/V Volleyball at Essex 6:00/7:30
JH volleyball at Essex 4:00
Picture Retakes

Friday, October 17 - Varsity FB vs. Villisca Here 7:30
Jr. Class Tailgate prior to game

Saturday, October 18 - State Marching Band Contest TBA

Sunday, October 19 - Community Pot Luck for SWI Honor Band Students in Concourse 12:30 p.m.

Monday, October 20 - National Honor Society Induction 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 24 - Varsity FB vs. Essex Here 7:30
Jr. Class Parent Tailgate prior to game
Senior Parent Night

Saturday, October 25 - All-State Auditions

Tuesday, October 28 – Farragut Bloodmobile 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, November 17 – C.C. Vocal Festival TBA

November 20-22 – All State Festival TBA

Monday, November 24 – Girls' Basketball Jamboree at Stanton TBA

Tuesday, November 25 – Boys' Basketball Jamboree at Villisca TBA

NATIONAL HOT LUNCH WEEK

October 13-17 marks National Hot Lunch Week. If you wish to eat lunch with your child during that week, please call the school by 8:00 the morning you plan to eat so the cooks may plan accordingly. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Congratulations!! You are Awesome....You make us Proud!!

Winner in the State Decal contest sponsored by the ISEA was 8th grade student Courtney Hays with her decal "Triumph". Courtney received a plaque and was honored by the ISEA at the last local meeting on September 10th at the Ice House in Clarinda. Way to go, Courtney!! We are proud of you.

Farragut has been very fortunate to have had 16 winners since 1998. This is a good opportunity for students to have their work enjoyed by educators through the state of Iowa. We should be very proud because we have a lot of really talented young students at Farragut. It is fund seeing them recognized at the state level for the talents.

FARRAGUT BLOODMOBILE

The Bloodmobile at Farragut Community Schools will be held on October 28, 2008, from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. All donors are needed to achieve our goal. If you are under 18, you need to get a parent permission slip from Mrs. Sanders. Please make an appointment with Pam or Mrs. Sanders. Your blood can save lives.

Sponsored by the National Honor Society and FCCLA members.

KEEP SAVING THOSE POP TABS – FARRAGUT LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT

PLEASE CONTINUE to help our friends at the Ronald McDonald House Charity by donating your pop tabs so they may redeem them to help defray expenses while families stay at the home. If we reach the 1 million tab donor list, the Farragut School will be placed on the 1 million tab list at the Ronald McDonald House. Please keep saving your tabs for this very worthwhile cause.

Currently the school has donated 110,000 tabs to date, and we hope to reach the million tab list by May of 2011, when these leadership students graduate. Thanks for your support – Farragut Leadership Students (Amanda Griffith, Colton Cooper, Janae Shough, and Chelsea Nebel).

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

The formal induction ceremony and installation of officers will be held on October 20, 2008, in the Concourse at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the ceremony—parents, students, relatives and friends.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER - MRS. DEANA SWENSON

The school year is in full swing now and I am so honored by the warm welcoming feelings I and my family have gotten by the students and families of the Farragut Community School District. Your children are a joy to work with and I am optimistic about their future!!

ACT—The next available test to register for is December 13, 2008, with a registration deadline of November 7, 2008. I am encouraging all seniors that have not taken the ACT before to register for this test, as scholarship competition time will be in January of 2009. The higher the ACT score, the better chance for scholarship dollars!! Juniors should consider taking the test during one of the spring dates: February 7, April 4 or even June 13. Having at least one ACT test complete coming into your senior year, will put you a head in the college application process.

ACT Prep—Farragut Schools in conjunction with the AEA 13 services have secured the availability of the John Baylor Test Prep. This is a 14 unit program preparing students for the ACT. Starting in October, I will be implementing this program into the 10th grade English and Math classes. By working early to understand the ACT and the importance of its role in applying for college, students will feel more at ease their junior and seniors years taking the test. Juniors and Seniors are welcome to have individual guidance through this program, please come and visit with me for more information.

College Visits—Fall is a great time for families of college bound students to visit area schools. Students, before you will be excused from school for a college visit, you must complete a college visit permission form. This form must be signed by your parent/guardian PRIOR to the date you intend to be gone. Also, while on your visit there is a college visit form you must fill out with a college representative's signature, to prove you did visit the school. This form also serves as a reflection of your visit, to aid in your decision making process. Both forms are found outside of the counseling office door. Seniors are allowed 2 days for college visits. Also, consider using days there is no school (SEEDS days, etc.)

College Representative and Military Recruiter Visits to School—Many recruiters have been visiting school, or have scheduled a visit to school this fall. Students interested in visiting with these institutions need to sign up on the counseling office door. A few days before the visit, I will email teachers/administrators the list of interested students. The day of the visit I will come get you from class, or send a pass for you, assuming you have teacher and administration approval to miss class. The visits are randomly scattered throughout the day, so you should not miss the same class each time.

Personal Guidance—I have begun visiting with students on a personal level as needed, or referred by teachers. If your student needs someone to talk to about personal issues, transitional issues, or academic issues, please know my door is always open. My office follows strict confidentiality rules and is a safe place for students to vent while working out their own issues.

Again, thank you for allowing me to work with your students during this very confusing, and at times frustration, time in their lives. Remember parenting is no easy task either. I still believe in the saying, "it takes a village to raise a child." Thank you for letting Farragut Community Schools be part of that village in your child's life!

READING GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL - MRS. JOHNSON

All students in Mrs. Johnson's English classes have homework every night. They need to read a free-reading book. To meet the standard set by the school, and to meet the needs of the students, each student must read to increase fluency and comprehension. The book can be fiction or nonfiction, thick or thin. The following is the requirement sheet that each student received at the beginning of the year.

READING REQUIREMENTS

Students at Farragut Community School will demonstrate competence in reading comprehension.

Everyone must read and receive one book point per nine weeks.

Students must read the book and then pass a book comprehension test or complete the assigned book project.

Only one project will be required in a given nine weeks. If more than one book is read, students will take comprehension tests over the remaining books.

*Students may read books that have been made into a movie as long as he/she is willing to watch the movie and write a comparison/contract paper.

*Books assigned by other teachers may not be used for English book credit.

Formula for Book Points

$$\frac{(wpl \times lpp) \times \text{final page count}}{60,000}$$

wpl = words per line (average)

lpp = lines per page (average)

Sample

$$10 \text{ words per line} \times 25 \text{ lines per page} = 250 \text{ words per page}$$

$$320 \text{ pages} - 20 \text{ pictures, blanks, etc.} = 300 \text{ final page count}$$

$$300 \times 250 = 75,000$$

$$75,000$$

$$60,000$$

$$= 1.25 \text{ book points}$$

Grading Scale

$$1.0-1.2 = C-$$

$$2.0-2.2 = B-$$

$$3.0-3.2 = A-$$

$$1.3-1.6 = C$$

$$2.3-2.6 = B$$

$$3.3-3.9 = A$$

$$1.7-1.9 = C+$$

$$2.7-2.9 = B+$$

If your family does not have a library card, I encourage you to take the time to get one. The students have an enormous amount of additional resources through our public libraries. A parent signature is required for anyone under eighteen years of age. Please call if you have any questions about the reading portion of the English grade. I love to talk about books. Mrs. Johnson

ELEMENTARY UPDATE - MRS. PENNY BREDENSTEINER

As September comes to a close, the month of October will be filled with many specially observed weeks. We have many activities planned to support these special weeks.

I want to thank all the parents for coming to Parent Teacher Conferences. Working together to help our students is an important goal of Farragut educators.

The 4 year old preschoolers will be making a trip to the Pumpkin Patch. They have some new activities for the children and everyone gets to choose a pumpkin to bring back.

Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11 and we are fortunate to have our local firefighters from Farragut and Riverton talk to our students about fire safety. We are also scheduled to have Shenandoah bring the simulated trailer unit they have recently purchased.

Picture retakes are scheduled for October 16. They will take pictures of students who were not present for the original picture day. For your child to have a retake, the packet must be returned to the school to present to the photographer at the time the retake is done.

Hearing screenings by AEA 13 are scheduled for October 21. They see all the lower elementary students, new students, and any students who may have had concerns in the past. They notify parents if there are concerns noted.

The week of October 27-31, we will be observing Red Ribbon Week. As you will note elsewhere in the newsletter that many activities are planned with a theme for each day of the week. We are asking students to wear certain apparel some of the days to support the theme. Of course, our main focus is to keep our students Drug Free throughout life.

Preschool parents that qualify for full tuition grants from Corner Counties Empowerment Area will be receiving letters in the next week. Once Corner Counties determines the projected cost of full tuition grants and transportation for the preschool programs in Page and Fremont Counties, it will be decided if there is sufficient funding to establish a sliding fee for others that have applied. There is still time to turn in the grant information.

As fall begins, we will be involved with many activities this month.

BOARD BITS

At the school board's September meeting long time board member and President Jeff McQueen's resignation was accepted. Jeff had served 12 years on the board and 5 years as the board's president.

I first met Jeff forty-five years ago riding to school from the Locust Grove area on Claude Supernaw's bus No. 9. Bean as he was commonly called even then was in first grade and a year older and smarter than I was. I remember him teaching me how to write on the frosty bus windows on cold winter mornings by puckering up and blowing on the glass to melt words and names and designs into the ice. It kept me from freezing my fingertips trying to write in it like the fog on warmer mornings but I remember getting light headed and having to rest after only a letter or two. And just to clarify we were just blowing on the windows, not licking them!

In high school I would have to say Jeff was probably not a model student. He could have been disruptive in class a couple of times and may have spent some time in the principal's and even the superintendent's office. Jeff was a wild and crazy guy always looking to pull a prank or do some stunt to get a laugh. I guarantee no one, and especially no faculty member ever thought he would someday be the head of the school board.

Jeff was an experienced member of the board when I came on. He was an active leader of discussion and I could tell at the first meeting that he had a genuine concern not only for the school system and its students but also the people in the school and especially the individual students.

When we conducted our last superintendent search several years ago, the board interviewed five candidates in five nights with the session lasting 2 to 3 hours each evening. The following week brought trips to investigate the top candidates and a couple more meetings to make our final choice. Jeff was involved with all the meetings and also went on all three trips. He made one trip in southwest Iowa and one to northwest Iowa and the last to southeast Iowa. In all Jeff spent several hours if not all day everyday for two weeks to help us find the best fit for our school system.

The board will miss Jeff's presence. There was never a dull moment or lack of discussion when Jeff was at the table. He nearly always had visited with someone who could clarify the situation or had the nerve to ask the tough questions when they needed to be asked. The changes he helped make and the projects he has brought forward will continue to have a positive influence our students for the foreseeable future.

So the next time you see Jeff, whether it's in town, or when he's a line judge at a volleyball game, or when he's out plowing snow off our highways, give him a thumbs up and if possible thank him for his hard work and dedication to our young people.

From the Helm of the Ship

Jay D. Lutt,

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October and Halloween

I have always relished the month of October. The weather is cooling down and the leaves start to change. As a kid it meant that we spent long hours on the farm working and playing. It also meant there were always football games going on in every vacant lot in town. Saturdays when we were not playing football, we could go watch Wayne State play or listen to the Huskers on the radio (and watch TV if we were lucky). If all this wasn't enough the whole month cumulated into that final day every kid loves, Halloween.



Kids are a delight this time of the year. By now they are acclimated to their classes and the routines of school. They are with their friends and have made new ones by now. These kids, our students, are the reason the teachers and the staff are here! We want to make their time at school full of memorable learning experiences.

Whether you have a child in school or not, come join us at anytime. Visit the PTO or school board meeting. Enjoy the volleyball games on Tuesday and Thursday nights or the football games on

Monday and Friday nights. There are plenty of activities going on during the school day that you can join as well. And don't forget the parade of costumes for the elementary students on Halloween afternoon this year; the students enjoy the audience!

Thank You

I would like to give a huge heartfelt thank you to Jeff McQueen, who has been the board president for nearly my entire time in Farragut. His wise guidance over me has provided a wealth of knowledge. Thank you Jeff for serving our school!

School Board Director Opening

Due to the resignation of Jeff McQueen, District 5 is open on the Farragut School Board of Directors. The school board is looking to appoint a resident of Riverton at their October 13th meeting. If you are interested, please contact Jeff McQueen, a current board member or Jay Lutt.

The Farragut School Board of Directors meets every second Monday starting at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are generally a few hours long. There are usually 2 to 4 work sessions throughout the year. The Iowa School Board Association also provides training throughout the year for board members that are interested.

Make a difference in children's lives, be a school board member!

Possible Changes to School Elections

This fall the school board approved a measure for me to work with the school attorney to change from seven member director districts to a five member at-large board. The board will vote to approve the resolution. Following that, the district holds an election, so the patrons of the district decide which way to go.

Visit us on the web @
www.farragutschools.org