



# News & Notes



## Visions Calling . . . . .

March 9 - 12 a group of volunteers came in to operate the phones for our annual phonathon. This was another new experience for me and not one that I was particularly anticipating! However, I changed my mind after the first evening on the job. I visited with some of my former students and teachers and a few relatives. It was fun. The second evening I was on the phone, I called names that were unfamiliar to me. It was a rewarding evening. The connections and stories were many. The rich heritage struck me.

One elderly lady shared with me how grateful she was for the school. She did not have enough funds to attend here, but was allowed to enroll and was employed cleaning on campus as a way to pay her tuition. Eventually, she graduated from the FJC One Year Normal Course to become a teacher. Most teachers at the time made \$35.00 a month, but she hired on for \$50.00 per month in northern South Dakota. At Freeman Jr. College, professors received about \$75.00 per month and the President's salary was \$100.00 a month. This story put a whole new perspective on my life.

We continued our discussion about the comparisons of today's economy and the depression days of the '30s. She stated that people of the '30s cared for each other, unlike today, but corrected herself to say that people in Freeman do care for one another, and the rest of the world will need practice.

Next time Visions calling comes around, I won't be nearly as apprehensive. Try it. It is a rewarding experience.

*Pam Tieszen*

## FA Students Place First, Second and Third in Region MCC Essay Contest

**Gun Deaths. U.S. Energy Policy. The Global Food Crisis.** These were the topics for the Tenth Annual Public Policy Essay Contest for Anabaptist Youth sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office. The purpose of this contest is three-fold:

- 1) To promote church-wide awareness of significant public policy issues by highlighting Mennonite and Brethren in Christ youth perspectives
- 2) To promote youth understanding of the relationships of faith to public policy
- 3) To promote greater awareness of the work of MCC's Washington Office and expand the base of Anabaptist policy advocates

For a number of years, the FA English department, along with the social studies or Bible department, has made the MCC essay a part of the senior curriculum. The essay contest is an excellent opportunity for students to write for a real audience – someone besides just the English teacher. Through this experience, students learn to do research, to develop an educated opinion, and to express their ideas pertaining to current national and global issues.

The essays are judged on *content* (demonstrating understanding of the issues), *clarity* (writing style) and *creativity* (imaginative and thoughtful policy positions).

*Continued on next page*

## Enclosures

- April Activity & Menu Calendars – subject to change
- Sports Co-operative Questionnaire
- January 22, 2009 Board Minutes



## April 2009

It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the air force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber.

*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*

There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace.

*Proverbs 12:20, NIV*

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## MCC Essay Contest Results

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After several rewrites, the seniors came up with some excellent papers. In the Regional Contest, **Kieran Waltner** placed first and won \$100 for her essay entitled "World Energy Crisis." **Molly Boese's** "Lord, Save Us! We're Going to Drown" won the second place prize of \$75. **Sara Brockmueller** won \$50 for third place for her essay "When Food is Better than a Mustang." In addition to the three first-place winners, four other students' essays were also chosen to advance to the national contest: **Vanessa Hofer, Skyler Newcomb, Liz Young and Lindsay Waltner.**

On the national level, one essay was chosen for the \$500 prize. Three other essays were given honorable mentions. **Lindsay Waltner's** essay "Life or Death" was chosen for an honorable mention.

We are very proud of our students' critical thinking and creative writing skills. We feel confident in sending them out into the world to make a difference.

*Gwen Ortman*

## National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Sara Brockmueller, daughter of Lee and Marilyn Brockmueller, was recently named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. About 90 percent of semifinalists become finalists. Approximately 8,200 out of 15,000 finalists will receive Merit Scholarships. These will be awarded in April, May and July.

## NOTES & REMINDERS

### Severe Weather/Tornado Info

April 20 – 24 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Dakota. Freeman Academy will be conducting a tornado drill in conjunction with the statewide drills held that week. Please speak with your children informing them what to do if they are at home and severe weather is predicted.

### Coach Needed

Freeman Academy is looking for a head volleyball coach effective for the 2009 season. If interested, please contact Nathan Epp at 925-4237, ext 233 or [nepp@freemanacademy.org](mailto:nepp@freemanacademy.org).

### Tuition Reduction Hours

The third quarter for **Tuition Reduction Hours** ends March 31. Please submit, by April 10, any hours you have worked. There are only a couple of months left to acquire and report hours. Please let the office know if additional hours are needed for your family so we know who to call when opportunities to volunteer are available. –Anita Neufeld

### Schmeckfest

Fridays, March 27 and April 3, school will be in session from 8:00 until 11:30 a.m. March 27 we will run the morning classes and April 3 we will run the afternoon classes in the morning. Students will be done with classes at 11:30 a.m. with no noon lunch being served. They will then follow their Schmeckfest work assignment schedules.

Students will need to be responsible for their noon meal, work assignments and transportation home. Students need to fulfill their work assignments to assist in fundraising for their classes, or must find replacements pending approval from their work assignment advisors.

REMINDERS: ALL JUNIOR AND SENIOR FAMILIES ARE RESPONSIBLE for providing baked goods and sloppy joe mix for the Schmeck Shoppe. Please ask/remind your students about that information.

Students in all grades were assigned work shifts for New Year's Cookies, Rosettes, Schmeck Shoppe, Bierocks, Barrista, Concessions, and Face Painting. Students are responsible to work the shifts and booth for which they are assigned. Students will be assigned shifts for EACH OF THE FOUR DAYS. Contact Dennis Schrock, 925-4237, ext. 236 or [dschrock@freemanacademy.org](mailto:dschrock@freemanacademy.org), or Nicolle Hofer Timmerman, 925-4237, ext. 232 or [nhtimmerman@freemanacademy.org](mailto:nhtimmerman@freemanacademy.org) with questions or for more information.

### Dress Code Reminder for Parents and Students

Spring-like weather is the time when we tend to have some issues with student dress. While we don't have a very strict dress code, we don't want clothing to become a distraction to the learning environment. Students in violation of the dress code will be given clothes to wear from the Lost and Found. We are asking for the help of parents with this issue so that Freeman Academy continues to have a good learning environment for all students.

#### Acceptable clothing:

- Sensible clothing in style and value.
- Slacks, jeans, dresses, skirts, shirts in clean, mended condition.
- Shorts, hemmed and mid thigh in length.
- Clothing should cover body parts in a modest and respectful manner.

#### Unacceptable clothing:

- Clothing which is offensive, immodest or distracting to others.
- Torn clothing.
- Clothing with offensive or inappropriate images or messages.
- Items promoting the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal substances

#### Accessories:

- Hats, caps, and other head coverings are not to be worn in school buildings.



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Thirty-three Freeman Academy students participated in the annual Region I Instrumental Contest at Vermillion High School on Wednesday, March 4. Of the 33 students, 19 took solos and all participated in 1 of the 15 ensembles performing.

Results included 29 superiors and 5 excellents.

**Solos receiving superior ratings:** Sara Brockmueller, flute (1+); Makayla Epp, flute; Audrey Graber, cello (1-); Aprille Hofer, trumpet (1-); Vanessa Hofer, French horn; Lillie Koerner, French horn; Carl Lehmann, alto sax; Andy Miller, alto sax (1+); Skyler Newcomb, trombone; Jordan Ortman, tenor sax (1+) & alto sax; Karina Ortman, oboe; Breanna Ries, trumpet; Brittney Ries, trumpet; Kristin Waltner, flute.

**Ensembles receiving superior ratings: Miscellaneous Instrumental Ensemble (I+):** Sara Brockmueller, Ashley Graber, Audrey Graber, Kieran Waltner; **Alto Sax Duet:** Andy Miller & Jordan Ortman; **Alto Sax Duet (I-):** Jon Graber & Carl Lehmann; **Brass Choir:** Caleb Epp, Sara Friesen, Alicia Hofer, Aprille Hofer, Christina Hofer, Olivia Kauth, Skyler Newcomb, Breanna Ries, Brittney Ries, Aaron Tschetter, Adam Unruh; **Brass Quartet:** Vanessa Hofer, Skyler Newcomb, Breanna Ries, Brittney Ries; **Brass Quartet:** Sara Friesen, Aprille Hofer, Lillie Koerner, Aaron Tschetter; **Brass Quintet:** Aprille Hofer, Lillie Koerner, Skyler Newcomb, Breanna Ries, Aaron Tschetter; **Clarinet Quartet:** Renae Carlson, Audrey Graber, Lauren Unruh, Libby Waltner; **Flute Quartet:** Makayla Epp, Ashley Graber, Lori Rensink, Kristin Waltner; **French Horn Duet:** Lillie Koerner & Vanessa Hofer; **Percussion Ensemble:** Richard Friesen, Andrew Koerner, Andy Miller, Karina Ortman, Jeffrey Preheim, Breanna Ries, Kieran Waltner; **Saxophone Quintet:**

André Eisenbeis, Jon Graber, Carl Lehmann, Andy Miller, Jordan Ortman; **Woodwind Trio:** Karina Ortman, Lauren Unruh, Kristin Waltner; **Woodwind Quintet:** Sara Brockmueller, André Eisenbeis, Vanessa Hofer, Christopher Miller, Kieran Waltner.

**Solos receiving excellent ratings:** Ashley Graber, violin (II+); Christina Hofer, trombone; Adam Unruh, baritone; Kristin Waltner, violin;

**Ensemble receiving excellent rating:** Brass Quartet (II+): Caleb Epp, Alicia Hofer, Christina Hofer, Adam Unruh  
Soloists were accompanied on piano by Daniel Graber, Mavis Ortman, Debra Schmeichel, Sonja Waltner, and Donna Ries.

The **Middle School Students** are now busy preparing for their solo and ensemble contest to be held in Tripp, SD on Friday, May 1. All 24 band students in grades 5 – 8 will be performing a solo at contest and participate in at least one instrumental ensemble. Family members and friends are welcome to attend. A schedule will be posted on the website when it arrives sometime mid-April. The fifth and sixth grade band is also preparing for the middle school concert on April 23.

The **Concert Band, grades 7-12**, will perform at our high school concert on May 14. That evening we will have the pleasure to debut a song, "Visions of Glory." This piece was written for and dedicated to our band by Dr. Earl Sherburne of Sioux Falls. You may remember Freeman Academy's performance of "Noah and the Big Boat" in 2005. This was also written by Dr. Sherburne. His son, Erik Sherburne, of Minneapolis, is writing a piece for the jazz band to be performed that evening as well.



## VOCAL MUSIC

### **CHOIR** Grade 5-8 Solo Selection Day, Wednesday, April 1

Students in grades 5-8 will present their solos to a judge on Wednesday, April 1. This day is an opportunity for the student to have someone, other than a teacher, listen and critique as he/she prepares for the annual Tripp-Delmont elementary contest scheduled for May 1. It is also the time to select which students will represent FA at the contest in the vocal solo category.

Please note the following expectations for Solo Selection Day. Students should be dressed nicely. Dresses are not required for the girls; nice pants and an appropriate top will suffice. Boys should also wear nice pants and a nice top. Students should try to have the majority of their song memorized. This will help them make better eye contact with the judge and to sing more freely. Thank you for your assistance in this.

**Chamber Choir MSC** (Mennonite Secondary Council)  
Choir trip, April 15-21, Chambersburg, PA

Parents, please remember to return any signed forms by

April 15. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Hofer-Vetch, 925-4237, ext. 240.

### **Spring Concert, Grades 5-8**, Thursday, April 23, 7:30 pm

Grade 5-8 music classes will present their Spring Concert, Thursday, April 23. Groups will be sharing selections they will be presenting at the Tripp Elementary instrumental and vocal contest the following week. Concert attire is required.

Boys: dress pants, shirts and shoes. No t-shirts or tennis shoes.

Girls: dresses/skirts - hemline at the knee or below. Tops: no spaghetti straps or strapless. Dress shoes - no flip flops.

South Dakota ACDA High School (Sophomores & Juniors) Honors Choir auditions, Friday, April 24

Those participating in the Honors Choir auditions will be transported with the school van unless other arrangements are made. At this writing, the schedule has not been received and will be emailed when it is.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

\* Subject to change

## March

- 31 Dan Lennon Track Meet Vermillion 1:30
- Lounsberry Track Meet Centerville 1:30
- Prayer Meeting 6:30**
- Board Meeting 7:00**

## April

- 1 **Elementary Solo Selection Day**
- 2 Small School Golf Invite @ Yankton 8:30
- 3 **Mid-Term**
- Freeman First Lunch at FA**
- Flyer Golf Invite 10:00
- 3-4 **Schmeckfest**
- 6 JH Track Scotland 3:30
- 7 Communication Meeting 10:00 CH
- FA Golf Meet 1:00
- Turner Co. Relays @ Cntvl 3:00
- 9 Enrollment Steering Committee 7:30 am Library
- 10 **Good Friday – No School**
- 12 **Easter**
- 13 School Resumes
- Finance Committee Mtg 7:30 Vis Ctr
- 14 Centerville Rotary Relays 12:30
- Irene/Wakonda Golf Meet @ Irene 2:00
- Early Dismissal 2:50, Staff Meeting 3:00**
- 15-21 **Chamber Choir to MSC in Chambersburg, PA**
- 16-20 **Spring Break – No School**
- 16 Marion Track Invitational @ Freeman 11:00
- JH Track at Centerville 2:00
- 17-19 **International Student Field Trip**
- 18 Avon Track Meet
- 19 **Studio Subscription Series: PrairieSong 7:30 at Salem Zion (North) Church**

- 21 **School resumes**
- Baltic Golf Invite @ Renner 9:00
- Menno Relays (HS & JH) at Freeman 9:30
- 23 Flyer Track Invitational 11:00
- Elementary Spring Concert 7:30 PH**
- 24 SD Honors' Choir Auditions in Yankton
- Scotland/Parkston Golf Meet *tba*
- 25 **Junior/Senior Banquet**
- 27 FA JV Golf Meet 4:00
- 27-28 **Steps Forward Dinner – Vis Ctr 6:45**
- 28 CMBC Choir 10:00 CH
- TVC JH Track Meet @ Centerville *tba*
- 30 **Early dismissal 12:50 NCA Work Day**
- Prayer Meeting CH 6:30**
- Board Meeting MH 7:00**

ADM Administration (Classroom Building)  
CH Chapel  
FH Frontier Hall (dormitory)  
MH Music Hall  
PH Pioneer Hall  
SH Sterling Hall  
VisCtr Visitor Center  
Arbor Arboretum  
Amph Amphitheater

## May

- 1 **Elementary Music Contest at Tripp**
- Freeman First Lunch at Freeman Academy**
- Seniors Leave for Skip Day after School (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>)
- 1-2 Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls
- 2 Parker Relays 9:00
- JH Track @ Yankton 9:30
- 3 **Studio Subscription Series: Pisgah Mountain String Band – Vis Ctr/Arbor 4:00**
- 4 Freeman Golf Invite 10:00
- Irene/Wakonda JV/JH Golf Meet 2:00
- JH Wizard Relays Freeman 4:00
- 5 Baltic JV Golf 9:00
- Communication Meeting CH 10:00
- Don Diede Relays Freeman 1:00

## Calendar Reminders

**Friday, 4/10 – Good Friday,  
No School**

**Monday, 4/13 – School  
Resumes**

**Tuesday, 4/14 – Early  
Dismissal – 2:50 p.m. - for  
Staff Meeting**

**Wednesday, 4/16 – Monday,  
4/20 – MSC Choir Tour –  
Spring Break – No School**

**Thursday, 4/30 – Early  
Dismissal – 12:50 p.m. -  
for NCA Work Day**

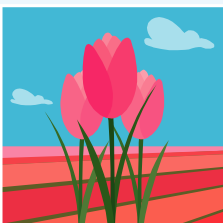
## FREEMAN ACADEMY

*Where Faith & the Arts*

*Bring Learning to Life*

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## Steps Forward Dinners

The annual Steps Forward Dinners, an appreciation meal for Freeman Academy constituents, will be held April 27 and 28 at 6:45 p.m. in the Prairie Arboretum Visitor Center. Pastor Todd Jones will be the featured speaker and Freeman Academy students will provide special music. If you would like to attend this complimentary meal and program, please call the school office by April 20 for reservations, 925-4237.

## Studio Subscription Series

**PrairieSong, Sunday, April 19, 7:30 pm,  
Salem-Zion (North) Mennonite Church**

*PrairieSong* is a mixed voice choral group open to adult singers from Sioux Falls and the surrounding area with significant choral experience and strong musical skills. *PrairieSong* is committed to excellence in vocal development, choral performance, and repertoire. Tickets for the event are \$10/adult and \$5/student (K-12). Freeman Academy students attend for free. As with the other concerts, a reception will take place after the concert.