

News & Notes

Checking the Bar



One-third of our school year is gone. Where did it go? At the start of the year, we set a goal to raise the academic bar. This is an appropriate time to check our progress.

As part of the NCA (North Central Accreditation) process, teachers have undertaken a new task/goal comparing their curriculum maps to the materials they cover each week. Curriculum maps are written for each subject/class - such as geometry, New Testament, speech, Spanish I, etc. Each map consists of academic standards established by the state and objectives concerning class content that teachers want to achieve each month, week and day of the trimester. This fall, teachers have checked off the standards they have covered each week. Generally, teachers list on the board or verbally discuss the objectives for the class during a particular period.

Ideally, we want students to be able to name what they learned during a specific class period. If asked specifically by parent,

grandparent or sibling what was learned today in a given class, students should be able to answer with relative approximation what the objective was for the day. The reinforcement of asking them a question sometime that day helps solidify the objective. For the student to explain to a family member what they did in class reinforces the objective. Give it a try and ask your student what they learned today.

Raising the bar takes time and needs to be done in increments. This is a new process for us and demands more time from teachers. However, it keeps us organized and helps students know what needs to be accomplished. Congratulations to the teachers for their work in raising the bar this fall!

Pam Tieszen



December 2009

Peace is our work. . . . To everyone, Christians, believers, and men and women of good will, I say: Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace. . . . Peace will be the last word of history.

Pope John Paul II

In all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ.
Romans 8:37, NRSV, adapted

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Enclosures

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- September 24, 2009 Board Minutes
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- FAFSA Information for Seniors & Parents
- Mollet Music Coupon
- Etch USA Info
- Report Cards & Student/Family Directories

New Students to Freeman Academy Family

Freeman Academy is pleased to share that three new students have been added to its student body since convocation. Adrian Limberg is a sophomore from Hartford. His parents are Jamie and Tracy Limberg. Adrian joined us on August 27 and resides in the dorm. Seth Bjorkman, a junior from Canistota, joined us on September 9. Seth is the son of Tim and Kay Bjorkman and he also resides in the dorm. Shania Osborne, a seventh grader from Yankton, joined us on September 30. Shania is the daughter of Cody and Tracy Osborne. Shania currently commutes to school with Mr. Joe Mason. Please welcome these new students and their families to Freeman Academy!

FA Students Advance to Region Oral Interp

Freeman Academy participated in the district oral interp contest in Mitchell on Tuesday, November 10. All categories qualified for the region contest which was held at Dakota Wesleyan University on November 17. Students



performing: Natalie Butkus – oratory, Alicia Hofer and Lori Rensink – duet, Lauren Unruh – serious prose, Brittney Ries – serious drama, Christina Hofer – humorous, Aprille Hofer – poetry, and Aaron Tschetter, Jaden Miller, Lauren Unruh, Aprille Hofer, Lea Graber, Kristin Waltner – readers theater. Categories qualifying for the State Festival to be held in Sioux Falls on December 4 and 5 are: duet, poetry, humorous, serious prose, and readers theater.

Notes & Reminders



Office Volunteers

We are delighted and thankful to have a great team of office volunteers this year. Please stop in when you're at school and

welcome Lori Ortman (Mondays), Jill Hofer (Tuesday mornings), Lynne Riley (Wednesday mornings), and Kay Bjorkman (Thursdays). Thank you for being patient if your names or children's names are new to our volunteers. It is amazing how much information the person who answers the FA telephone is expected to know. This is another education in itself, which is one more reason we truly appreciate our office volunteers!

Cindy R. Boese

Closed during Vacations

The FA Business Office will be closed during the Thanksgiving vacation and open limited hours during the Christmas vacation. If you are planning to stop in, please call ahead (605-925-4237) to ensure someone is available to assist you.

Gifts for the Food Pantry

Freeman Academy will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper products for the Bethany Food Pantry in Freeman this holiday season. Please bring your donations to the Administration Building and place them under the tree located in the first floor lobby by Tuesday, December 15.

New Head Boys Basketball Coach

The athletic department is pleased to announce that Kyle Weier will coach the JV and Varsity Boys Basketball Teams this season.



Music Notes

**A Spanish Yuletide,
December 10 & 12,
6:30 p.m. Pioneer Hall**

The annual Christmas musical event at Freeman Academy features all students in grades 5-12 that participate in choirs and bands. Please see attached letter for parent food assignments and other information.

Required Attire:

Boys 5-8: white button-down dress shirt, black pants and black dress shoes and socks.

Girls 5-8: plain, white short sleeved t-shirt or blouse (no writing on the shirt), black flat shoes. A skirt will be provided.

High School Boys: tuxedo shirts and pants, black shoes and socks.

High School Girls: white short sleeved t-shirt or blouse (no writing on the shirt), black flat shoes. A skirt will be provided.

A letter from Mrs. Cindy Graber was sent at an earlier date. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Music at Salem Mennonite Home

The high school choirs will present their Yuletide selections at the Salem Mennonite Home on Monday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Rebecca Murtha - Student Teacher

Rebecca Murtha is concluding her time here at FA. She has worked with the high school concert choir, grade 5-6 choir and chamber choir. Her final day will be Saturday, December 12, assisting with the Yuletide Concert. We wish her well in her career.

Yuletide Letter—A Spanish Yuletide— December 10 & 12, 6:30 p.m. in Pioneer Hall Gym

Dear Parents,

Each year the music department puts on a Christmas Yuletide with a meal. Yuletide is held on two nights, and includes grades 5-12 choirs and bands. **Attendance is required for all students in the music department, grades 5-12.** If you plan to attend Yuletide as a guest and have not yet purchased your tickets, please do so. The Freeman Academy Auxiliary, who prepares the meal, needs to know how many people will be attending. Ticket prices are \$13/adults and \$6/students (child through grade 4). **Reservations need to be made by December 3.**

We are asking parents to bring desserts and salads. The list of food assignments, along with recipes, is found on a separate attachment with this newsletter.

Note: the desserts need to be prepared the day before they are brought to the Dining Hall and need to be refrigerated. If you are bringing salad items, we ask that you wash the lettuce before delivery. If there is a "2" beside your child's name, this indicates that you are responsible for two desserts or double the amount of salad ingredients (2 heads of lettuce & 4 large tomatoes).

Please have all items delivered to the kitchen by 4:00 pm on the date you are assigned. The Auxiliary will wash your pans and keep them in the kitchen to be picked up. Clearly label your pan.

This is also an opportunity to gain tuition reduction hours by assisting in the kitchen. Vernetta Waltner is head of the social committee and will need help in the kitchen. If you are willing to help and haven't yet received a call, please contact Vernetta at 925-4237, ext. 235.

We will also have poinsettias, red and white, as part of our decorations. Each year we offer parents the option to buy the plants after the final concert at a price of \$15 each. They are lovely, big plants. Please contact me to reserve your plants, indicating the number and color you would like.

If you have further questions, please feel free to email or call me.

Thank You,
Amy Hofer Vetch
925-4237, ext. 240
ahofer@freemanacademy.org

Upcoming Events

* Subject to change

November

- 26-27 Thanksgiving, NO SCHOOL
30 MS GBB (H) v Alcester/Hudson 4:00 pm
BBB Prac Begins
Prayer Meeting CH 6:30 pm
Board Meeting MH 7:00 pm

December

- 3 MS GBB @ Centerville 6:00 pm
4-5 State Oral Interp @ Sioux Falls
8 Comm. Mtg CH 10:00 am
MS GBB @ Gayville/Volin 6:30 pm
9 ESC Mtg Library 7:30 am
Coffee & Conversations 10:00 am FH
SDSU College Rep DH 12:30 pm
10 Yuletide - Grades 5-12 PH 6:30 pm
11 GBB/BBB @ Alcester/Hudson, JV's 5:00 pm
12 Yuletide - Grades 5-12 PH 6:30 pm
14 HS Choir to Salem Home 1:00 pm
MS GBB v. I-W @Wakonda 6:00 pm
15 Early Dismissal 2:50, Staff Mtg 3:00 pm
GBB/BBB (H) v. ORR, JV's 4:30 pm
17 GBB/BBB @ Hurley, JV's 5:00 pm
19 MS GBB TVC Tourney @ Hurley TBA
GBB/BBB @ Walthill, GJV-3:00, BJV-4:00 pm
21 GBB @ Andes Central 6:30 pm

- 22 Prayer Mtg CH 6:30
Board Mtg MH 7:00
23 Early Dismissal 12:00
24 Christmas Vacation Begins-No School
24-25 Prv Res all day FH
26 Prv Res 5:00-11:00 pm FH
28 FA Alumni Event 7:00 pm SH

January

- 4 School Resumes
5 Comm. Mtg CH 10:00 am
GBB (H) v Dakota Christian 6:15 pm
7 BBB @ Andes Central 6:30 pm
8 Early Dismissal 12:50 NCA Work Day
9 GBB (H) Mitchell Christian 6:30 pm

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

Calendar Reminders

December 10 & 12 —

Yuletide Concert & Dinner
(reservations required)
6:30 p.m., Pioneer Hall

December 15 —

Early Dismissal - 2:50 p.m.

December 23 —

Early Dismissal - 12:00 p.m.

December 24 – January 1—

Christmas Break – No School

January 4 —

School Resumes

FREEMAN ACADEMY

Where Faith & the Arts

Bring Learning to Life

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Visit Freeman Academy's website for information on:

Etch USA

Dining Extravaganza

Benefit Auction

Sports Schedules

Online Gradebook

For more information or to report any problems on the website,
contact *Nicolle Hofer Timmerman* at
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