



# News & Notes



## Excused or Unexcused

We are proud of our students' accomplishments this school year, but their busy activity schedules have created a dilemma.

Parents feel students need their rest when they have been gone to activities, so they allow their child to sleep in. The office is notified that the child is sleeping in today. This presents a real quandary for the office. Are they sick? Is it excused or unexcused? In my experience, it is an unexcused absence even if the parent calls. Other students attended the same activity and have arrived at school the next

day on time for class. It is not fair to reward students who sleep in while the others are in class.

Sports, music, church and camp are all worthwhile activities. Our students receive a well-rounded education with many extracurricular events. Academics are not the priority if we allow our students an excused absence to sleep in. We miss many academic hours sending students to activities and student attendance is vital to the learning process.

According to the handbook, sleeping in is unexcused. Our year will only get busier; please be considerate of students and staff when prioritizing your child's life.

*Pam Tieszen*



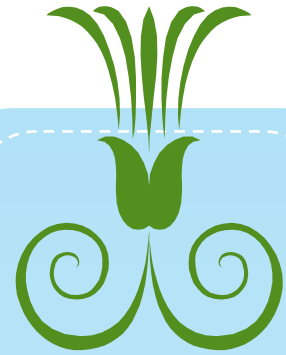
## Steps Forward

Steps Forward, an appreciation meal and fund-raising event, is scheduled for April 27 and 28. Todd Jones is the featured speaker. Tentative plans are for a catered meal at the Arboretum Interpretive Center. Watch for more detailed information next month.



## Enclosures

- March Activity & Menu Calendars – subject to change
- Second Trimester Report Cards
- December 19, 2008 Board Minutes
- Middle School Solo Selection Letter
- Track Schedule - tentative
- Chamber Choir Members & Bierock Recipe/Instructions



## March 2009

### Word for the Day: Individuality

We forfeit three-fourths of ourselves in order to be like other people.

*Schopenhauer*

I fear uniformity. You cannot manufacture great men any more than you can manufacture gold.

*John Ruskin*

If sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

*Proverbs 1:10*

### Inside this issue

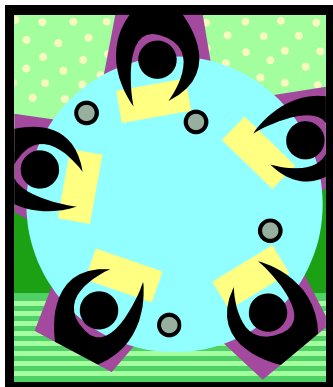
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## North Central Accreditation (NCA) UPDATE

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Five afternoons per school year have been provided for teachers to work on our North Central Accreditation school improvement goals. Teachers are currently divided into three work teams.

One team continues to chip away at the huge ongoing task of improving student writing skills and assessing student writing progress.

A second team, who oversees the consistent implementation of hall and tardy policies, is beginning to work on the new improvement goal of providing teachers with staff development opportunities. Because of limited financial resources, many of these development and growth activities will be organized “in house.” For example, this spring each teacher will have one of his/her class lessons video-taped; then, each they will be asked to watch themselves “in action” and complete a self-evaluation form. Also, some teachers will be asked to make brief presentations during future NCA work days on helpful teaching techniques and skills.

A third team is beginning the somewhat daunting task of developing a comprehensive school emergency and crisis response plan by reviewing plans developed and implemented by other schools before tailoring our own school plan.

In addition, this team also coordinated various informational activities for post-secondary decisions. They conducted a parent meeting to discuss college applications, FAFSA loan applications and testing venues. Recently, the juniors and seniors visited a career fair in Parker where students could visit with college representatives along with business personnel. In fall, several juniors attended College Day, a college fair at USD/Vermillion.

*Amy Hofer*

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## SPANISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

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In January the Spanish Department added an exciting new aspect to our program. Marlana Marlan has been coming two days a week to help Spanish II, III and IV students with their Spanish conversation skills.

Marlana, who prefers being called Elena, is from Mexico. Her husband, Ramón, milks at the Schultz dairy farm. She has a five-year-old son, Angél, who is in kindergarten. Elena is a stay-at-home mother which makes it easier for us to have her come spend time in our classes. She has a home business baking specialty cakes for birthdays and weddings. My students, who love to eat, have benefited from her generous gift of a large and beautifully decorated cake that fed 24 of us the first week she visited our classes.

Elena has done many hands-on activities with my students, such as teaching them how to prepare authentic Mexican foods, playing Spanish games where they have to talk, and leading one-on-one discussions to help increase conversational skills. She is willing to have students come to her house if they would like more practice in speaking Spanish.

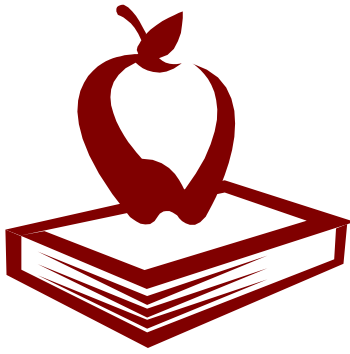
Elena is very friendly and patient which helps all of us become better speakers. She knows enough English to help explain or translate corrections that are needed.

When you see Elena on campus at Freeman Academy, don't hesitate to welcome and visit with her. She loves practicing English. I feel very fortunate to have Elena as a friend and resource person for our students.

*Cindy Graber .*



*Elena Marlan teaches independent study Spanish students how to make sopes, a small thick tortilla. Left to right: Elena Marlan, Ashley Graber, Jordan Ortman, Sara Brockmueller, Jaden Miller, and Jenny Dai.*



## NOTES & REMINDERS

### Scholarship Information for Seniors

GoldenWest is again offering a \$1000 merit-based scholarship for a high school senior to be awarded after completion of their first semester in a post-secondary educational program. The student must begin their post-secondary education the fall semester following graduation from high school. The applicant's parents or legal guardians must reside within a GoldenWest telephone service area. Application must be completed and returned to the school principal, Ms. Tieszen, by March 13. Applications are not to be sent directly to GoldenWest. Requirements and submission information has been posted on the senior scholarship information board at school.

### Testing News

**Sophomore class parents please note** that PLAN (pre-ACT) test reports were given to your student. Contact Nathan Epp with any questions or for detailed information.

**The Dakota STEP test** will be given to all students in grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 during the weeks of March 30 through April 17. This test is required of all South Dakota students as part of NCLB and tests the areas of math, reading and science. Contact Nathan Epp for detailed information.

### Sports Banquet

**The Winter Sports Banquet** is scheduled for March 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall. This is intended to recognize the student-athletes in grades 5-12 as well as their families for their contributions during the winter sports season. We will once again be having a potluck supper.

The food assignments are as follows:

- Main dishes grades 10, 11, and 12
- Salads grades 8 and 9
- Desserts grades 5, 6, and 7

The school will provide water and table settings.

Immediately following the sports awards, Jon Graber (Rural Mfg.), Jarrod Preheim (Koerner Construction), and Liz Young (Rural Medical Clinic) will be speaking about their internship experiences during the second trimester. The presentations will begin at approximately 8:30 p.m.

I look forward to seeing everyone March 17.

*Nathan Epp*

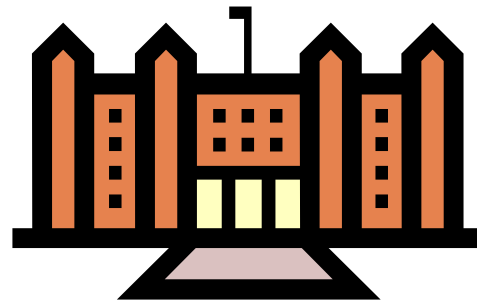
### NEEDED: Track coach for middle school.

Practice is scheduled from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Nathan Epp at nepp@freemanacademy.org or 925-4237, ext. 233.

### Booster Club Notes

Thanks to Debra Schmeichel and Dean Schrag who coordinated the pork barbecue held in January and to Brad and Kris Carlson and Bonnie Young who organized and transported pizzas for our Papa Murphy's night in February. The pork barbecue profit was \$1122.00 and the pizza night netted \$800.00.

Fruit sale delivery is scheduled for March 11. Be sure to pick up fruit orders anytime after 4 p.m. on that day.



## DISCOVERY DAY 2009!

If you know someone who is considering Christian education at Freeman Academy, Discovery Day 2009 is a great time to experience our campus environment. Freeman Academy's Discovery Day will be held on Friday, March 20 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Students in grades 4-11 are invited to spend the day on our campus. They will observe a variety of classes, attend a Chapel service, eat lunch in our dining hall and visit with current FA students.

This is an opportunity for students to experience a day in our school so they can discover first hand what sets us apart. At 2:45 p.m. in the Chapel, an optional information session for parents will be offered. Please invite interested students to join us for a fun-filled day and discover what is happening at Freeman Academy!

Pre-registration is requested. Please call or email by Wednesday, March 18.

Bonnie Young  
Enrollment Director  
byoung@freemanacademy.org  
925-4237 ext. 225

# Schmeckfest

Schmeckfest is fast approaching - weekend dates are March 27-28 and April 3-4. Students will be in class on Friday mornings March 27 and April 3. March 27 we will run the morning classes and April 3 we will run the afternoon classes. Students will be done at noon with no noon lunch being served.

**Students will need to be responsible for their noon meal, work assignments and/or transportation home.** Students need to fulfill their work assignments to assist in fundraising for their classes, or must find replacements and communicate with their advisors.

## Schmeckfest Prep

**Cheese pocket making** for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen will be held on March 2 and March 9 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Pioneer Hall kitchen. Everyone is welcome to come for a full day or part of the day. Please bring a rolling pin. Lunch will be provided. Contact June Pullman for more information: 825-4277 or [djpullman@svtv.com](mailto:djpullman@svtv.com)

**Knepf (cheese buttons)** making for the Schmeckfest meal will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 14 in the Pioneer Hall kitchen. Everyone is welcome – no experience necessary – families included! We need to make approximately 70 gallons of knepf! Come for the day (bring a sack lunch) or a few hours. Cash donations for ingredients would be appreciated. Contact Vernetta Waltner at [vwaltner@freemanacademy.org](mailto:vwaltner@freemanacademy.org) or 92-4237, ext. 235.

## Food Handling In-service Hosted by FA Auxiliary

The Freeman Academy Auxiliary will host a food handling in-service on Wednesday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the dining hall on the Freeman Academy campus. Lavonne Meyer, Turner County Extension Agent, will present an informative program on the requirements for a "Temporary Food Event" including information on the proper preparation and handling of food.

The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend, however, those who will be preparing, demonstrating, or serving food at the upcoming Schmeckfest are especially encouraged to attend. The information provided at this meeting will also pertain to food booths at the Turner County Fair and MCC Sale.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



March will be a busy month for the instrumental music department. It begins with the high school instrumental solo and ensemble contest on Wednesday, **March 4**, at Vermillion High School. Events from Freeman Academy include 20 solos and 15 ensembles. For a schedule of events for the day, please check the school website.

On **March 6 and 7**, seven band students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will travel to Pierre to participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual

Middle School All-State Band. These students were listed in last month's newsletter. The concert will be held in the Rigg's High School Theatre on Saturday, March 7, at 4:00 p.m.

If you are unable to hear the high school ensembles at contest, you will get a chance to hear some of them locally on **March 20** at the Oakview Terrace Nursing Home at 2:00 p.m. and also during Schmeckfest, **March 27 & 28** and **April 3 & 4**.

Another history making event for Freeman Academy will be **March 26 - March 28** when eight students will be participating in the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual High School All-State Band in Rapid City. It is believed that this is the largest group from Freeman Academy to participate.

The concert will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Theatre on March 28. The 173 musicians will be divided into two separate, equal bands with each having its own guest conductor and concert. The "Lewis" All-State Band, directed by Marcellus Brown, Boise State University, Boise, ID, will perform its concert beginning at 4:00 p.m. The "Clark" All-State Band, under the direction of Peter Boonshaft, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, will perform its concert beginning at 8:00 p.m. Special awards will be presented ten minutes prior to the Grand Concert for each All-State Band.

Students were selected through state-wide competitive auditions which include playing major, minor and chromatic scales, a solo, two sight-reading etudes, and a written test. Freeman Academy students participating in the Lewis Band are - *Sara Brockmueller*, senior, daughter of Lee and Marilyn Brockmueller, 1st chair flute; *Lillie Koerner*, sophomore, daughter of Todd and Suzanne Koerner, 6th chair French horn; *Andy Miller*, senior, son of Craig and Jenelle Miller, 2nd chair alto saxophone; *Skyler Newcomb*, senior, son of Joe and Cindi Newcomb, 2nd chair trombone; *Jordan Ortman*, senior, son of Mark and Lori Ortman, 1st chair tenor saxophone; *Lauren Unruh*, sophomore, daughter of James and Sharla Unruh, 16th chair clarinet. Students participating in the Clark Band are - *Carl Lehmann*, junior, son of Dennis Lehmann and Eloise Schrag, 3rd chair alto saxophone; *Karina Ortman*, sophomore, daughter of Mark and Lori Ortman, 2nd chair oboe. Please congratulate these students!

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## VOCAL MUSIC

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### Contest Results

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Freeman Academy attended the annual Region I vocal/piano contest in Yankton on February 11, 2009. Freeman Academy took 32 events and received eight superior plus, 14 superiors, three superior minus, one excellent plus and six excellent ratings. Events are as follows:

superior plus ratings - solos: Sara Brockmueller -piano and voice, Jordan Ortman-piano and voice, Aaron Tschetter -voice

ensembles: Girls 16, Mixed Group A, Mixed Group B

superior ratings - solos: Lori Rensink -voice, André Eisenbeis-voice, Brittney Ries-piano, Andy Miller-voice, Breanna Ries-voice, Lindsay Waltner-voice, Landon Miller-voice, Vanessa Hofer-voice, Audrey Graber-voice, and Ashley Graber-voice; ensembles: Boys 9, Boys 16, Girls 9, Like Duet (Ashley and Audrey Graber)

superior minus ratings - solos: Caleb Epp-voice, Natalie Butkus-voice, Kieran Waltner-piano

excellent plus ratings - solo: Caleb Epp-piano

excellent ratings - solos: Andrew Koerner-voice, Aprille Hofer-voice, Jonathan Graber-voice, Brittney Ries-voice, Alicia Hofer-voice, Christina Hofer-voice

A big thank you to Kerwin Graber, Nanette Hofer, Sherilyn Ortman, Debra Schmeichel, Mavis Ortman, Donna Ries, Dan Graber, and Marnette Hofer for their part in assisting with rehearsals, private voice lessons, private piano lessons, and accompanying the FA students.

### Tripp Vocal Contest (grades 5-8), May 1, 2009

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The students in grades 5-8 will be attending the annual Tripp-Delmont vocal/instrumental contest May 1. We have started to pick out solos to prepare for Solo Selection Day. Please see the attached parent letter regarding this.

### National ACDA Honors Choir March 4-7, 2009

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Lindsay Waltner, senior, was selected to participate in the National ACDA High School Honors Choir in Oklahoma City, OK, March 4-7. Recorded auditions from across the nation were sent in October and students were notified in November. Performance takes place on March 7, at 7:00 p.m. Lindsay is the daughter of Marge and Everett Waltner. Congratulations, Lindsay!

### Butterbraids

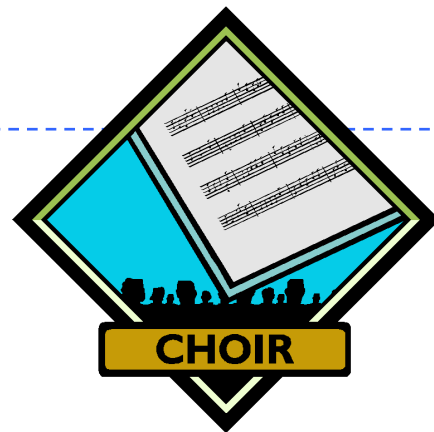
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The Chamber Choir will be selling butterbraids as a fundraiser for their upcoming MSC trip. Sales are going on as we speak (February 25-March 11). Butterbraids are delicious pastries, with a filling of your choice, topped with frosting. Butterbraids come frozen and are easy to thaw and pop in the oven. Butterbraids will be delivered March 25.

### Bierocks Bake Date—March 16

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To help defray the costs of our choir trip, the **Chamber Choir** will once again be making bierocks! Last year each member provided two recipes and we sold all of our bierocks. We will, again, ask each Chamber Choir member to bring two recipes to put together on March 16 in the Pioneer Hall Kitchen and Home Ec. Room. Take note of the attachments that include a chamber choir member list and the bierock recipe. I will need parent volunteers to assist with this event. Please contact Amy at [ahofer@freemanacademy.org](mailto:ahofer@freemanacademy.org) or 925-4237, ext 240.



### Ceasura Barista, Schmeckfest, located in the Music Hall

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The *Ceasura* (musical term for 'a complete break') *Barista* will once again be offering a space for people to entertain the coffee sippers. Currently, Paul Peterson and Co. is booked for Saturday, April 4, 3:00-6:00 p.m. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please have them contact Amy Hofer Vetch at [ahofer@freemanacademy.org](mailto:ahofer@freemanacademy.org) or 925-4237, ext. 240.

### MSC Choir Festival, April 15-21, 2009, Chambersburg, PA

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Chamber Choir will be traveling to Chambersburg, PA this year for the annual Mennonite Choir Festival. This year the Mennonite High Schools will meet in their regional assignments (7-8 schools) as opposed to the mass choir which includes all the MSC schools.

Several years ago the music directors and the administrators decided to split the schools into two groups every other year to attend a Regional MSC Choir Festival. This decision was due mainly to the size of the mass choir and concern for an appropriate venue for the hosting school. Last year we attended a mass choir festival in Hartville, Ohio. Parents of Chamber Choir members will be receiving information in early March regarding this trip.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

\* Subject to change

## February

- 23 GBB Districts
- 24 Prayer Mtg. – 6:30 CH  
Board Mtg. – 7:00 MH
- 26 GBB Districts
- 27 Winter Beach Party – 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade – 4:00-8:00 FH  
GBB District
- 28 Noodle Making - DH  
7/8 BBB TVC Tourney TBA

## March

- 2 Cheese Pocket Making – 9:00 a.m. DH  
BBB Districts TBA
- 3 Enrollment Steering Comm Mtg - 7:30 a.m. FA  
Library  
Communication Mtg – 10:00 a.m. Chapel  
BBB Districts TBA
- 4 High school Instrumental Contest – Vermillion
- 4-7 National Honor's Choir – Oklahoma City, OK
- 5 12:50 dismissal, NCA Work Day
- 5 BBB Districts
- 6 "Freeman 1<sup>st</sup> Friday", 12:00 lunch –DH  
Farmer Appreciation – 6:00 – DH
- 6-7 Middle School All State Band – Pierre
- 9-12 Visions Phone-A-Thon
- 9 Cheese Pocket Making – 9:00 a.m. DH
- 10 2:50 Dismissal; 3:00 Staff Mtg ~ MH
- 11 Fruit Delivery/Pick-up After School

- 12-14 State GBB Tournament  
MSC Principals' Mtgs – Bluffton, OH
- 13 Bio II Class Field Trip ~ Brookings  
Girls' 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Fondue Party –  
4:00 – 9:00 FH
- 14 Knepf Making – 8:30 a.m. DH  
Boys' 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade BB Camp – 8:00 – 12:00 SH
- 16 Bierock Mkg by Chmbr Choir Students –  
3:30 – 10:00 DH/ADM Kitchen
- 17 Winter Sports Banquet – 7:00 p.m. DH
- 18 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Gr. Food Safety – 2:25 CH  
Schmeck Community Food Safety – 5:30 DH
- 19 Finance Comm. Mtg – 7:30 MH
- 19-21 State BBB Tournament
- 20 Discovery Day!  
HS Music @ Oakview Terrace – 2:00
- 26-28 All-State Band – Rapid City
- 27-28 Schmeckfest
- 31 Prayer Mtg – 6:30 CH; Board Mtg – 7:00 MH  
Lounsbury Early Bird Track Meet—Centerville  
Dan Lennon Track Meet—Vermillion

- GBB Girls Basketball
- BBB Boys Basketball
- GJV Girls Junior Varsity
- GV Girls Varsity
- BJV Boys Junior Varsity
- BV Boys Varsity

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

## April

- 3 Freeman 1<sup>st</sup> Friday – 12:00 lunch-DH  
Mid-term
- 3-4 Schmeckfest

### FREEMAN ACADEMY

*Where Faith & the Arts  
Bring Learning to Life*

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# March

## Calendar Reminders

- Thursday, 3/5 – 12:50 Dismissal, NCA Work Day
- Tuesday, 3/10 – 2:50 Dismissal, Staff Mtg.
- Thursday & Friday, 3/19 & 3/20 – No Bus Service
- Friday, 3/20 – Discovery Day!
- Friday & Saturday, 3/27 & 3/28 - Schmeckfest