

Help Us Be Prepared for Winter

Every winter we have problems that arise due to the cold weather and the storms that always come our way. Please help us to make sure that the winter months are enjoyable and safe for our students. Parents, you can help us out by remembering a few things as winter approaches:

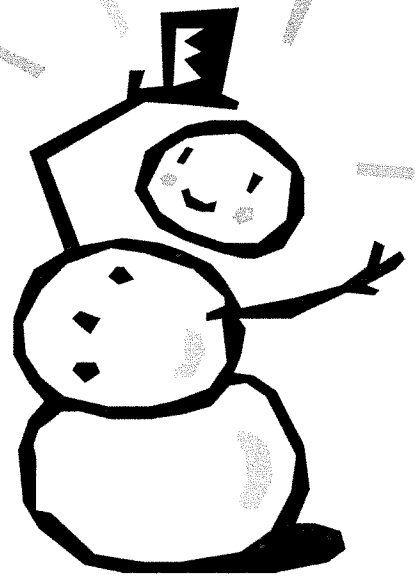
1. **Make sure your children are dressed warmly.** We have recess outside unless the wind-chill is below zero so make sure your child has a hat, mittens (the thin kind aren't warm enough), a warm coat, and boots. Boots and snow pants are required anytime there is snow or water on our play-

ground. A change of socks in the backpack is a great idea as the children's socks always seem to get wet. Also an extra set of mittens is good so they can wear a dry pair for their next recess.

2. **When school is dismissed early due to the weather make sure your children understand where they are to go.**

We always have a few students who don't know if it's grandma's house or the daycare service they need to go to so have a plan in place and make sure your child knows what it is.

There are no activities after school if we dismiss due to the weather. This means there are no youth basketball/volleyball practices or Kids' Connection at First Reformed if we have an early dismissal due to the weather. Late starts and school cancellations are made over KSOU (93.9). You can also check the school website.



So Is There School Or Not?

You wake up and the weather is nasty and your children are demanding to know if school is canceled or delayed. What do you do so they'll leave you alone? Check the following sources:

1. The school's website at www.mocfv.org
2. Listen to the radio: 93.9 FM- KSOU
3. Watch TV: KTIV Channel 4
4. The school district sends out a notice of late starts and cancellations through Infinite Campus and Class Dojo if you've signed up for those services. If you have not signed up for alerts via Infinite Campus or Class Dojo please contact the school office at 737-4606 and we'd be happy to help you set them up.

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ADOPT-A-BOOK PROGRAM

Everyone may participate in the adopt-a-book program. The cost is only \$2 to adopt a book. We hope EVERYONE will consider adopting a book this year.

Thank you to these students and teachers who chose to adopt books for their birthday:

Yahaira Castillo Benitez – Saving Mr. Terupt

Liam Martin – DK: Tractor

Anna Groen – Ragdoll cats

Thomas Stauffer – Mars

Oliver Van Muyden – Scottish Terriers

Kyla Visser – The Princess and the pea

Abby Reyes – The Busy little squirrel

Cole Verschuure – I survived the great Chicago Fire

Giving books in honor or memory of someone or for a special event is a thoughtful thing to do, and it benefits the library as well

Will Stauffer – Memoirs of a parrot – in honor of his teacher's birthday Mrs. Van Wyk : October 27

Palmer Van Marel – Showing horses at the fair – in honor of her friend Pacey Willits

Blakely Van Marel – Great Danes – in honor of her Aunt Rebekah's dog Sully

Yahaira Castillo Benitez – Classic storybook fables – in honor of her sister Perla

Yahaira Castillo Benitez – Classic bedtime stories – in honor of her sister Itzel

Perla Benitez – Rapunzel – in honor of her friend Sadie Rinker

Mr. Andersen – Labrador Retrievers – in honor of his best dog ever Maddie Grace

Paxton Jager – French Bulldogs – in memory of his bulldog Sophie

Rebekah Reyes – Siamese Cats – in honor of her Family

Mrs. Meyer – Goats on the farm – in honor of her daughter Mikayla

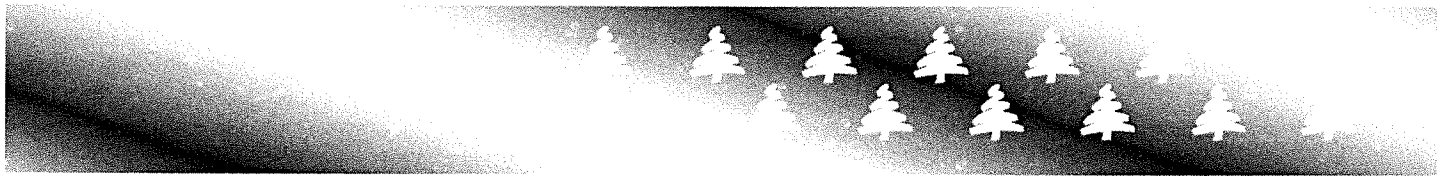
Mrs. Meyer – Cows on the farm – in honor of her son Brayden

Mrs. Meyer – Showing cows at the fair – in honor of Showing Cows. One of her families favorite activities!

Hearing Screenings

The AEA will be conducting our annual hearing screenings from December 16th-20th. They screen all students however, if you wish to not have your child screened, you may contact the school office at 737-4606.





Dates to Remember in December

December 11th: Orchestra Tour & Choir Concert at 2:25 PM

December 12th- 1st grade Gingerbread Houses-2:15 pm

December 13th- 5th grade Human Growth & Development-2:15 pm

December 20th: 1:15 PM dismissal for town students; 1:25 for bus students, PM TK starts at 11:30 am

December 21st-January 1st: Winter Break

January 2nd: Classes resume on Thursday the 2nd

Parent-Teacher Conferences

A big thank you to all the parents who made our fall parent-teacher conferences a huge success. Over 460 conferences were held during these two nights and our attendance was 99%. We, as a school, really appreciate the caring and involved parents that we have. Your dedication to the education of your children is fantastic.

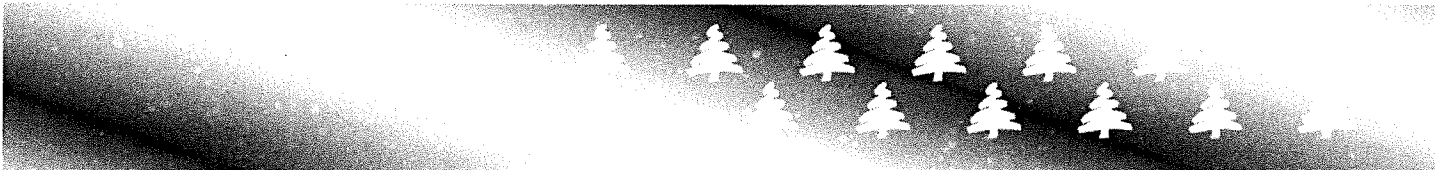
Please remember that you can, at anytime, contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns. We are always willing to set up a time if you feel the need to talk.

Holiday Concert

On December 11th at 2:25 PM the 5th grade chorus and Orchestra will perform for our students at Orange City Elementary. The Orchestra will travel throughout the district on this afternoon giving several performances and will finish their day performing with the 5th grade chorus. All of the grades will be in attendance so room will be limited but, as always, parents of students performing may certainly join us if they wish.

Once the students are done performing at the Orange City Elementary building, students can ride their regular bus home. Orchestra students need to bring their instrument, music, and a foldable music stand on that day. It would be great if they could wear something red to look festive, but please don't feel like you need to go out and buy something. If you have any questions please give me a call. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Mrs. Haverdink



Make your child responsible for learning spelling words

Spelling words are as inevitable as taxes. So how can you help your child deal with this weekly task without feeling like it's *your* homework? Use the following process to make your children responsible for their learning:

- **Day One.** – For each word on the spelling list, your child says the word and spells it aloud while looking at it. Then he writes the word while looking at it.
- **Day Two.** – Your child repeats the steps for Day One.
- **Day Three.** – Your child looks at and says each word, but covers up words while writing them—testing his memory. He checks his spelling and writes each misspelled word correctly three times.
- **Day Four.** – You give your child a verbal practice test. He again checks his own work and writes misspelled words correctly three times.

Responsible children are more likely to succeed

Kids who learn to be responsible do better in school. They get along better with teachers and peers. They make better decisions. They're more apt to try, follow through and succeed.

To teach your child responsibility, be sure to:

- **Practice what you preach.** For example, you can't expect your child not to use foul language if you do.
- **Help your child see** how his actions affect others. Develop a habit of reflection with questions like, "How do you think Jose felt when you said that?". "If someone hits you, how do you feel about him?"
- **Use discipline to teach,** not punish. Always talk about what your child might do differently next time.
- **Enforce consequences** regularly. In advance, be clear about what will happen when your child doesn't follow the rules. Then follow through.
- **Remind your child** of lessons learned in the past. "Remember when Eric pushed you? Remember how we talked about your walking away, then later telling him how you felt?"

Stay calm when you encounter defiant behavior

There are times when even the most mild-mannered child gets defiant. You don't have to wonder what she's going to do—she'll tell you. When a child acts defiant, it's easy for a parent to lose control. You're angry. You're confused. And of course, you're worried about the future.

Here's how to control your own reactions so you can stop your child's defiance:

1. **Stay calm.** You told her to study because she has a math test. It's important. Look her right in the eye. Put a hand on her shoulder if you need to. Then say again, in a calm voice, "It's time to study." The calmer you are the more forceful you'll be.
2. **Let her know** the consequences. Remember, these can be positive. "When you're done studying, we can watch your favorite video."
3. **Pick your battles.** It's okay to say, "You have made me think about what I said. Taking these clothes up to your room right now is not that important. But when it is, I expect you to do what I ask."

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mrs. Marra's Birthday	2 Day 6	3 Day 1 Mr. Puttmann's Birthday	4 Day 2 Mrs. Korthals' Birthday	5 Day 3	6 Day 4 Early Dismissal 1:15 PM	7
8	9 Day 5 Mrs. Puttmann's Birthday	10 Day 6 Mrs. Foughty's Birthday	11 Day 1 Elem Orchestra & 5th Choir Christmas Concert 2:25 PM	12 Day 2 1st Gr Gingerbread Houses 2:15 PM	13 Day 3 5th Gr Human Growth & Development 2:15 PM	14
15	16 Day 4	17 Day 5 Mrs. Angie Boersma's Birthday	18 Day 6	19 Day 1	20 Day 2 Early Dismissal 1:15 PM Winter Break	21
NWAEA Hearing Screening - TK-5th Grade						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
***** No School – Winter Break *****						
			Christmas Day	Mrs. Haverdink's Birthday		
29	30	31	1 January	2 Day 3 Classes Resume	3 Day 4	4
***** No School - Winter Break *****						
			New Year's Day			