



THE DRAGON BULLETIN
FLAGSTAFF ACADEMY'S OFFICIAL
WEEKLY Communication Tool

FOR THE WEEK OF: October 20, 2008, through October 24, 2008
PHONE: 303-651-7900

PRINCIPALS' CORNER:

The Board of Directors recently approved a school wide ability grouping policy that I would like to share with the school community. It clearly defines what ability grouping is and how it is to be implemented at Flagstaff. Please take the time to review it and contact your classroom teacher(s) if you have additional questions. The ability grouping policy is as follows:

Ability grouping: *the grouping of students with similar abilities together for instruction and practice. All ability groupings are flexible and based on individual ongoing testing and assessment. Flagstaff Academy utilizes this instructional practice in the content areas of reading and literacy as well as math.*

Implementation:

Reading:

Kindergarten-5th grades-ability groups occur within each classroom with support from special education and literacy specialists. Instruction includes separating students into several smaller groups with specific focus on fluency, comprehension, decoding, phonemic awareness, and vocabulary development. As a general rule students within a grade level do not move to other classrooms for instruction.

Middle school (6th, 7th, and 8th grades)-ability grouping in these grades is grade specific, and in individual cases, occurs across grade levels based on student performance and assessment. Academic support is provided by literacy specialists and special education teachers. Instruction in middle school focuses on the study of literature, vocabulary development, and comprehension.

Math:

Kindergarten-instruction in this grade is whole group as a general rule. Specific topics may be better developed with smaller instructional groups that are formed from time to time.

1st-5th grades: beginning in the middle of 1st grade and continuing to 5th, students are ability grouped across a grade level and consequently move classrooms. At each grade level the students are

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BOARD NOTES: We would like to thank Todd Kannegieter and Margaret Cummings for volunteering the many years they did to serve on the Board of Directors. Welcome Harrie Netel and Rebecca Pepin, our newest board members.

Congratulations to our newly elected Board Officers:

President – Sandra Weckerly

Vice President – Kevin Wells

Treasurer – Jim Willett

Secretary – Denise Staple

We would also like to thank those parents and staff who helped coordinate walking all of the kids over to our new campus for the ground breaking Friday – Hopefully you all saw their smiling faces on the front page of the Daily Times-Call! What a great day and accomplishment to be beginning construction on our new school.

Please check the principal's message for the newly approved policy on ability grouping.

Over the next two years, we will be growing our enrollment. In order to help reach our goals, the Board voted to suspend its practice of not allowing kids to transfer to Flagstaff after October 1st. Please let your friends know that when space allows, they can still get their kids into Flagstaff this year. We will not exceed our class size restrictions, but we do have a few instances throughout the school where classes are not full and we'd like to get kids in those seats now.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGED

Due to the National Election the next board meeting will be moved to Wednesday, November 5th at 7:00 pm. Please change this on your calendar if you are planning on attending.

LOST AND FOUND: We are quickly approaching *COLD* weather and your child's jacket may be in our lost and found. The clothes and lunch box quantity is growing! Please look through it when you are in the building even if you don't think your child has lost anything. You may be SURPRISED!

AVID 4 ADVENTURE is NEXT WEEK! If your child does not have the permission slip, print one off our website to fill in and return. We need this IMMEDIATELY for your child to participate! It will be a great learning experience.

CALENDAR UPDATES FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>
AVID 4 ADVENTURE for K-5th GRADE				
7:25-8:10 am Spanish Class 7:25-8:10 am Adv. Orchestra 3:30-4:20 pm Music Club 4:20-5:00 pm Music Club 3:30-4:45 pm Chess Club 3:30-4:15 pm Dance Club 3:35-4:30 pm Spanish Class	7:25-8:10 am Adv. Band 3:30-4:30 pm Young Rembrandts 3:30-5:00 pm Brownie Troop 494 3:30-4:20 pm Beg. Band	3:30-4:20 pm Choir 4:30-6:00 pm Dragon Pops	7:25-8:10 am Adv. Band 3:30-4:20 pm Beg. Orchestra 3:30-5:00 pm Brownies	7:25-8:10 am Computer Game and Web Design 1:00 pm Enrollment Information Clinic
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the students are grouped based on initial assessments and placed into instructional groups that have students with similar mathematical aptitudes.

Middle school (6th, 7th, and 8th grades)-all middle schoolers are ability grouped based on mathematics assessment and aptitude. Grouping in these grades is content specific and includes regular 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math, pre-algebra, algebra, and geometry.

Important Note: All ability groupings are flexible and fluid. Assessments and student practice are continually monitored and evaluated to ensure optimal student needs and achievement. If students change groups, parents will be notified within 48 hours.

Assessment:

The current ability groupings model will be revisited on an annual basis by examination of testing data including CSAP, PALS, NWEA, DRA2, and writing prompts as well as other informal assessments. Individual student performance and grade level trends will be studied to ensure that instruction within this model is working effectively for optimal student performance.

NCAR Hosting Super Science Saturday

The National Center for Atmospheric Research is hosting Super Science Saturday this weekend, October 25th, to get kids excited about science.

NCAR's science wizards will give demonstrations throughout the day on renewable energy, recycling and composting. Xcel Energy will also be on hand with an interactive display of its Smart-Grid technology being installed across Boulder.

The free event, which runs from 10AM to 4PM, will also have a hand-crank –powered train, Segway rides for children 12 and older and a super sticky Velcro wall.

The event takes place at NCAR's Mesa Lab, at the west end of Table Mesa Drive.

For more information, call 303-497-1174 or go to <http://www.ucar.edu/outreach/sss/>



A COAT DRIVE "One Warm Coat"

coordinated by the Flagstaff Academy Girl Scouts, is going on now until November 18, 2008. All coats will be donated to the OUR Center in Longmont. Thank you for your help in bringing "One Warm Coat" to those in need in our community. Drop boxes are located at school entrances.

SAVE THE DATE !!!

Flagstaff Academy's 3rd Annual Spring Gala will be held on March 14th, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel in their Grand Ballroom.



CAST for MAGIC OF THE SEASON		
Megan Grabau	5th	Mrs. Claus
Max Weckerly	3rd	Mr. Claus
Janaye Walker	5th	Lemon
Chance Roberts	6th	Dr. Jack
Brendan Williamson	4th	Cleo
Madeline Vagle	5th	Cookie
Kelsey Pepin	4th	Lubby
Jessica Yuhas	5th	Donner and Understudy to Mrs. Claus
Kyle Cunningham	4th	Rudolph
Angela McKelvey	4th	Dasher
Alexa Ginn	4th	Dancer
Avi Moskoff	3rd	Comet
Lilly Fine	2nd	Narrator #1
Savahna Novak	4th	Narrator #2
Max Nieberger	5th	Understudy



Book Fair Kick-Off Event--Jungle Animal Mask Contest

Use your creativity and imagination to create a jungle animal mask that celebrates our Book Fair Safari theme. All grade levels are invited to compete. Masks must be homemade and easily attached to a wall, e.g., papier-mâché, paper, etc., and no bigger than 11 "x17". Entries will be judged and first place prizes will be awarded to one K-2, 3-5, and Middle School participant. Entries must include student's name and teacher/grade. All entries must be delivered to the Library by the end of the school day on Thursday, November 6.

Book Fair Sneak Peak!

Look inside the Scholastic Book Fair flyer in your student's Friday Folder for instructions on how to create your student's Wish List online. This is a great way to get an early look at featured books and watch video book previews on selected titles. When you are done previewing books you can print out your student's Wish List and bring it with you to the Book Fair.

Grand Day Lunch

K-2 students invite someone Grand to come to have lunch with you on Wednesday, November 12. Invitations will be sent home in the October 31st Friday Folder.

Guidelines for Halloween Day, Friday, October 31st: 3:05pm - 3:25pm there will be a parade through the school. Morning Kindergarten will have their parade at 10:00am. Each class is responsible for their own party times. **No scary costumes, masks, gore, make-up, weapons or artificial coloring of hair.**

Have a SAFE Halloween!

The Colorado Master's Chess Tournament was a great experience for all of those who attended. **Flagstaff Academy won 1st place in the K-3 division!** Players were **Ming Ming Sun, Ayden Roberts, and Alakh Patel** in the K-3 division. They were against schools with as many as 12 players, WOW! **Ming Ming Sun was 2nd place in the K-3 individual division.**



We had six other members participating, including Cory Kohler, Devon Melocco, Colin Bruce, and Matt Reh. All of our members did very well and exhibited core virtues in their sportsman-like conduct.

The next tournament is November 15th. All who are interested are welcome to attend even if you haven't been able to attend the club.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! November 13th and 14th we need help in our Book Fair during parent/teacher conference days. We are trying to fill one or two hour slots during both days. Call Julian and let her know what time works for your schedule.

School Closure information for inclement weather:

Yes, it is time to think of this again. If St. Vrain School District closes school, we are automatically closed as well. You will be able to see this information on Channels 4, 9, and 7 as well as under Flagstaff's name. It is unlikely we will be closed if St. Vrain is not. However, if you are curious check the same Channels for Flagstaff's name.

