

January 9, 2009

Dear Fairmont Parents and Guardians:

I trust that you and your family enjoyed the holidays. The first day back, the eyes of some of our students and staff looked pretty glazed over, but everyone seems to have survived returning to life in the early morning. As we look forward to our final semester of the 2008-2009 school year, I would like to recognize some past accomplishments and preview upcoming events.

Along with the other schools in the district, Fairmont is working towards becoming a Professional Learning Community. In a nutshell, this means that we are using our vision, mission and values to guide us as we work in collaborative teams to continuously improve the achievement of all of our students. All of our teachers have worked together to examine achievement data and construct specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented and time-bound (SMART) goals, the success of which we will evaluate throughout the year. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams have been engaged in ongoing professional development and measures to improve curriculum, instruction and assessment, and our ninth grade teachers are forging ahead with plans to team next year. Our language arts and math teachers have identified essential learning outcomes from the Idaho State Content Standards and will be constructing common assessments to measure attainment of those standards. Eventually all of our core and elective teachers will do the same. All of these efforts are supported by our Professional Learning Community Team: Ms. Golden, Ms. Canavan, Mr. Walker, Ms. Burks, Ms. Parsons, and Ms. Deonier. The entire staff should be commended for their hard work.

The character theme for second quarter was compassion, and our Fairmont students showed themselves to be full of compassion. Our AVID students raised \$750.00 for a local shelter and worked with the DECCA Club at Capital to make the Christmas of a local family much merrier. Our entire student body donated enough food to feed 100 families through the Salvation Army Food Drive. Congratulations to the office aides and Mrs. Davis's eighth period class for leading the charge; however, we are very proud of all of our students

We began a new tradition here at Fairmont last year to celebrate the accomplishments of students that excel in academics, character and extracurricular activities, and we are looking forward to year II of our Falcon Pride Celebration. It will be held on the last day of the semester.

Informally, we call this our academic pep rally, because in addition to recognizing groups of students for their achievements, we will have cheers, riddles and games. The highlight of the assembly will be a chariot race with teachers as the charioteers and students as the horses. We are in the process of finding helmets and other protective gear for our brave, teacher volunteers. It will be a lot of fun for both staff and students, and our Capital Quadrant Area Director, Mr. Mike Cunningham, will preside.

We have completed a successful wrestling and 9<sup>th</sup> grade basketball season. We are very proud of all of our athletes. Not only do they compete with their whole hearts, but they behave with impeccable sportsmanship as well. Our deepest gratitude goes to our athletes and coaches. Eighth grade basketball is just beginning and track and 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball will be here before we know it.

Although we still have an entire semester left of school this year, it is already time to start thinking about next year. Counselors from Capital High School will come to Fairmont on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to register our 9<sup>th</sup> graders for next year; our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will register for next year's classes by the end of the month of February. Our Open House for incoming seventh graders will be held on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30.

We will be beginning a new tradition this spring: a walk/jog-a-thon to promote good health and to raise money for our school. As you may or may not know, schools received much needed funds from the commissions of the sale of sodas. We no longer sell unhealthy, sugary sodas, and we want to make up for our loss of revenue by celebrating exercise and health. On the morning of March 20, we will ask our entire student body and staff to spend a period jogging or walking. We will be asking parents and friends to pledge their support of us. We are planning fun competitions and prizes, and the really fit and confident runners can compete against our champion staff runner, Mr. Walker. So, we're encouraging everyone to begin now getting in shape for the big day.

I have included our Finals Schedule. Please be sure that your students study, get plenty of rest and eat nutritiously during finals so they ace their tests. Please note that school will be released at 1:15 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and at 12:00 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We will not be in school on 1/19 in order to celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Thank you for your support. We have wonderful students thanks to you.

Sincerely,

Amy Kohlmeier

### **Important Dates**

January 14 and 15	Finals and Early Release at 1:15
January 16	Finals and Early Release at 12:00
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 20	Second Semester Begins
January 23	Report Cards Mailed Home
January 27	EXPLORE Test for 8 <sup>th</sup> AVID/ 9 <sup>th</sup> Accelerated
February 3	Academic Advising for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade 6:30 PM
February 11	Open House for Incoming 7 <sup>th</sup> Graders 6:30 PM
February 13	District In-service – No School
February 16	Presidents’ Day Holiday
February 20	Progress Reports Go Home with Students
March 5	NAPE Test for Selected 8 <sup>th</sup> Graders
March 6	Teacher In-service – Release at 12:00
March 12	Rachel’s Challenge
March 20	Jog/Walk-A-Thon; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends
March 23-27	Spring Break

### **FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING CHILDREN - APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

Boise School District continues to accept applications from families qualifying for free or reduced-priced meals. Eligibility is determined based on family household size and income. Providing your child’s food stamp or TAFI number on the application, simplifies the process.

If you were previously not eligible for assistance, but have had a change in income, you may complete an application at any time throughout the year.

Applications are available at the District Services Center or at your student’s school. For further assistance, please contact the Food & Nutrition Services office at 854-4090.

**Idaho needs foster parents. Please call Idaho Careline at 211 or 334-6800 or go online at [www.IdahoChild.org](http://www.IdahoChild.org) for more information.**