December 2016

Farley Fox Tracks

*The official newsletter of the Farley Elementary School **P**arent **T**eacher **O**rganization*

What's up with the PTO?

We hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving break! We would like to take a moment to reflect on the many things we are grateful for at Farley Elementary…

We are thankful for the wonderful teachers at Farley. They continue to set the bar for excellence in and out of the classroom. Many of them volunteer to run the extracurricular clubs and events like Book Club and Robotics. At the last PTO meeting we learned there are over 80 students signed up to participate in the Robotics Club. We were also treated to a video presentation from the 3rd grade teachers and the 4th grade teachers treated us to a game of Kahoot! Our teachers teach, plan, volunteer and guide for our students and still find time to make learning fun.

We are thankful for the amazing staff at Farley. We have great office, custodial and nutrition staff as well as fantastic paraeducators and specialized support staff. They work hard to provide a safe, clean and effective learning environment for our foxes. They, too, volunteer their time and resources to help make Farley events successful. We hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving lunch!

We appreciate the support and help we receive from the entire Farley community. You now have the opportunity to help the school district as they develop a new five-year plan. Dr. McWilliams visited our PTO meeting to encourage feedback through the Plan 2021 online survey. If you were not able to attend the meeting, please visit the district website and fill out the survey. Our input is vital as they design this blueprint.

We hope to see you at the next PTO meeting Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., in the Library.

Angelyn Vogel and Cat St. John, PTO Co-Presidents

Upcoming Events

PTO Meetings
(Childcare Provided)

5:30 Thursday, December 8 in Library
5:30 Thursday, January 12 in Library
5:30 Thursday, February 9 in Library

Early Release Days

School dismisses 45 minutes early

Wednesday, December 7
Wednesday, January 25
Wednesday, February 8

No School Days

Thursday, December 22-Tuesday, January 3 (Winter Break)
Monday, January 16, 2017 (MLK Day)

Other Events to Remember

Saturday, December 3	Book Fair from 9 am – 5 pm at Barnes & Noble (benefitting Auburn-Washburn Libraries)
Wednesday, December 21	Winter Class Parties @ 2:45

- ✓ Remember to Clip Box Tops and send them to school with your student!
- ✓ Make sure your Amazon purchases benefit Farley via Amazon Smile!
- ✓ And keep shopping with your Dillons Plus Card linked to Farley!

Farley Elementary School – *Established 2009*

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"Like" Farley Elementary School on Facebook (select "see first" from the Like pull-down menu!)

Dr. Cassidy's Corner

Greetings from the front office! It is difficult to believe that we are in the home stretch for the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year! As we reflect on the fall semester, I am amazed at how much we, as a school community, have accomplished! Teams of teachers have creatively challenged our students with the rigorous curriculum provided by our district, PTO volunteers have hosted meetings and put on a fantastic Fox Trot, Watch DOGS and countless others have volunteered numerous hours, and students have demonstrated tremendous growth academically, socially and behaviorally thanks in part to our involvement with the University of Kansas and the CI3T project!

What is the Ci3T project, you might ask? As a school, our staff is working in tandem with KU regarding the **Comprehensive, Integrated Three-Tiered** approach to teaching students academic, social/emotional and behavioral expectations. Traditionally, schools have only focused on the instruction of academics; we now integrate social/emotional and behavioral instruction into our teaching through the Second Step curriculum. Ask your student about his or her weekly Second Step lesson…and see Mrs. Danielson's article below for more info.

Have a wonderful Winter Break!

Dr. Cassidy

From your Counselor: What is Second Step?

Here are some of the themes we cover across grade levels in our Second Step curriculum, mentioned above by Dr. Cassidy. In the beginning, we focused on being a respectful learner and what that looks like in all areas of the building. Being a respectful learner includes focusing attention and listening to show respect. This theme also highlights how showing respect helps us get along with others.

Other concepts are using self-talk and being assertive. Self-talk means talking to yourself in a quiet voice in your head. It can help you stay focused, stay on task and handle distractions. The students were able to demonstrate self-talk in role-play scenarios. Being assertive means asking for what you want or need in a calm and firm voice. The students learned they could be assertive in a respectful way in order to seek what they want or need. For example, if a student doesn't understand a concept in math class, he or she should ask an adult assertively for help.

If you have any questions regarding the social/emotional curriculum, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season and that you notice your child using some of the skills they have learned through the curriculum. **~Mrs. Danielson**

Book Fair Dec. 3 to benefit USD 437 Libraries!

Every other year the Auburn-Washburn Librarians jointly host an author or illustrator for our students. The PTOs in individual buildings help pay for the author's presentation fees. Librarians raise money for all other author expenses (ex. airfare, meals, and hotel stay). To raise money for this and other district literacy projects, the librarians are hosting a Barnes & Noble Book Fair on **Saturday, December 3, from 9am to 5pm**. If you shop on that day please tell the cashier that your purchases are going toward the Auburn-Washburn Librarian's Book Fair. A percentage of the day's sales will go toward the librarian's author fund. You may also order online and have the purchases count towards our district. From December 3-8, go to **http://www.bn.com/mybookfair** and enter our **book fair ID# 11988102. (Unfortunately, purchases of gift cards do not count.)**

Please watch for the full information sheet coming from Mrs. Kufahl. Thank you for supporting reading in our schools!