



December 2024

December Fun: This year's theme will be Elf Pets: A Fox Cub's Christmas! We are also excited to bring the 12 days (December 5th) before Christmas break to our students. From wearing Santa hats and flannel shirts, to dressing up in their PJ's, students will be experiencing some fun events during the month of December! Be watching for an Elf on the building during the month of December!

Holiday Shop: During the week of December 9th students will be able to shop for Christmas at our Holiday Shop sponsored by PTO. Students will be given a flyer and can bring money in to purchase gifts or gift certificates online for family and friends. Info coming soon!

Attendance/Grades: Please be sure your children are completing their work on time. Students should be here no later than 8:45 am each day. Breakfast begins at 8:30 and ends at 8:55 am. Please be sure to call the school if your child will be absent. Final Forms info should be updated with correct phone numbers.

Read: Please continue to encourage your child to READ, READ, READ! Students need to be exposed to reading as much as possible. Ask your child questions about what they read as this helps to increase comprehension. *Kids who read only one book a day will hear about 290,000 more words by age 5 than those who don't regularly read books with a parent or caregiver.*

Communication: Stay connected with our building by joining our Atkinson Facebook page. In addition many of the teachers (not all) have a Bloomz page, Class Dojo, Remind app, email, or some way you can communicate personally with your child's teacher. If you aren't on our school wide phone call list, text, or e-mail for alerts please update your information in Final Forms. You can also view your child's grades online through progress book. Call the school if you need help with this.

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and we wish you a Merry Christmas!



Happy Holidays!

Chris Ward, Principal

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ABSENCES AND LEAVING EARLY

School hours are from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. **The first bell rings at 8:45 am** for the students to enter the building. There is a strong correlation between good school attendance and academic success. Please make every effort to make sure your child is in attendance regularly to receive the full benefit of school. Students will be considered tardy/late to school if they are not in their classroom at 9:00. If you know your child will be out of school due to illness or any type of absence, please call the office at 419-332-5361 before 9:30 am. Anyone picking up or dropping off a student during school hours needs to sign them in/out in the office. **A note from the custodial parent needs to be sent to school in the morning if the child will be leaving during school hours. We cannot release a child to anyone other than the custodial parent during the school day without a written note from the parent.**

Habitual Truancy

- ★ 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse
- ★ 42 or more hours in one school month without a legitimate excuse
- ★ 72 or more hours in one school year without a legitimate excuse

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Attendance Policy

- ★ Students are allotted 5 days of excused absences without a doctor's note in one school year.
- ★ After 5 days of excused absences a doctor's note is needed. Otherwise absences will be considered "unexcused".



Welcome to the School Counselor's Corner



December is all about ***Gratitude!*** Students have been learning and practicing different ways to show gratitude. Specifically, students have learned about the importance of positive self-talk, identifying people and things they are grateful for, and recognizing different emotions. I encourage students to continue practicing showing gratitude not only at school but at home as well!

GRATITUDE Family Newsletter

PurposeFULL
People

Gratitude Overview

We are looking forward to focusing on Gratitude this month! One way to think about Gratitude is "choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives." Practicing Gratitude can increase our well-being and even our happiness!

Gratitude is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Well**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like emotion regulation, positive self-talk, and stress-management.

Conversation Starters



- Can you share or show what it means to practice Gratitude?
- What is something you are Grateful for every day?

PurposeFull Pursuits

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Gratitude. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!

- #1** What are some small, specific things that you are Grateful for? Maybe it is your favorite water cup, the way the cat sleeps on the chair, or when your grandma bakes banana bread. Spend some time as a family trying to think of at least 10 small things that you have Gratitude for and then choose to notice them this week with a smile.



- #2** Review Gratitude as a family! Remember that Gratitude is choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives. Find a place in your home to display a glass jar. Cut up small slips of paper and place them next to the jar. Use the jar to collect special people, places, events, and memories that your family is thankful for. Find a time each week to add slips of Gratitude to the jar and assist students in writing or drawing gratitude as needed. Having a gloomy day or a challenging time as a family? Pull out the slips of Gratitude and read them aloud together as a reminder of your Grateful moments.

STAFF



Notes from the Nurse



With flu and stomach bug season in full swing, we ask that students experiencing the following symptoms be kept home until their symptoms are **resolved for at least 24 hours to reduce the spread of infection:**

- **Fever**
- **Vomiting (from illness)**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Red painful eyes (with drainage or crusting)**
- **Unusual rash**
- **Difficulty breathing or severe cough**
- **Any symptoms that that require more care than what can be provided in school**

If your child experiences one of these symptoms above while at school, they will be sent home (excused).

When students come to the health office and DO NOT have the symptoms listed above and have minor complaints, we often try to encourage them to “stick it out.” Sometimes, if your student makes multiple visits or has unusual complaints, we will call, or email you as a courtesy so that you can help us decide the next best course of action. Parents are welcome to pick up their children for minor illness/complaints however these absences may not be excused by the nurse. If your child has a chronic condition that they are missing school for frequently, let's work together to come up with a plan! I am always happy to help.

**** Just a reminder that ALL medications and/or and treatments that are to be given or available at school must be accompanied by a parent and physician authorization form.**

These forms are available on the Fremont city schools website, or you can call or email me and I will send one home. This includes any over the counter medication (such as Tums, Tylenol, or cough drops) as well as any emergency or daily medication. Sorry there are no exceptions to this rule and new forms are required each school year.



Thank you for your consideration in these matters, don't forget to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. As always, if you have any updates, or health concerns about your child, or if there is just something that you want to give me a heads up on-please, call me at the school or email me.

Sincerely,
Colleen RN/BSN/LSN
osbornec@fremontschools.net
Health office phone : (419) 332-5361



Upcoming

EVENTS

December

- ★ December 20 -
End of the 2nd nine weeks!
- ★ December 23 -
January 3
WINTER BREAK !!!!!



January

- ★ January 6 ...
SCHOOL RESUMES !!!!!
- ★ January 10 Grade
Cards sent home.
- ★ January 20 ... NO
SCHOOL - Martin
Luther King Day!
- ★ January 30 & 31
Mobile Dentist





PLEASE do **NOT** drop off or pick up your student in the front loop. This drive is for bus drop off and pick up only. Thank you for your support!

Please update your

FINAL FORMS

Please remember that if you change phone numbers, address or contacts, you must update your information in Final Forms. The school staff depends on this information to be current in case you need to be contacted.

WINTER WEATHER AND RECESS

Please make sure that your child is dressed properly for outside recess during the winter months. **COATS, HATS & GLOVES** are a must!



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Lunch Notes



- BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ARE FREE OF CHARGE FOR ALL BUILDINGS THIS YEAR!
- NO FAST FOOD OR FOOD FROM OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CAFE
- PACKERS MAY BUY AN EXTRA MILK FOR \$.50.
- MONEY CAN BE ADDED TO STUDENT'S ACCOUNT FOR MILK WITH CASH OR CHECK (PAYABLE TO FREMONT CITY SCHOOLS) OR ONLINE THROUGH WWW.FREMONTCITY.FAMILYPORTAL.CLOUD



COMMUNITY

PTO MEETING

Meetings are at 5:30 in the Atkinson Cafe

MEETING DATES:

December 10, 2024

January 4, 2025

February 11, 2025

March 11, 2025

April 8, 2025

May 13, 2025

Volunteers
needed

OFFICERS:

President: Brittany & Blair Ellenberger

Secretary: Janelle Opelt

Treasurer: Allison Eaglen

Teacher Rep: Christina McBride

Teacher Rep: Evilia Sandoval

Join us on
Facebook!

Join the Atkinson page by searching for "Atkinson Elementary School" or scanning the QR code to get school updates and view pictures!



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