



# FRANZEN FALCON

## NOVEMBER 2011

**“Through collaboration between school and community, we strive to foster an environment that promotes academic excellence and positive character, while accommodating the differences of our students in order to create lifelong learners.”**

Dear Franzen Community,

It is my hope that this Falcon finds you well. As I reflect on some of what I see each and every day, it is amazing to see the learning that is taking place in our building. With the combination of outstanding children, supportive families, and the solid professionals of School District 10, Itasca is simply a great place to be! I know I am especially “thankful” this month for our wonderful learning environment. Thank you for your support of our fantastic school. We are truly a partnership that makes such a difference for our students!

As you can see from our staff vision statement on the top of the newsletter, our staff and students have high expectations for learning, which indeed result in high-achieving results. We expect nothing but the best from our students and it's great to know that they do the same for themselves. While still an elementary school, we strive to prepare the students for the rigor and academics the students will be facing in middle and high school. While although some of our assignments and procedures might seem lofty, I believe strongly in setting the bar high, in order that we have goals to attain.

With that, I encourage you to continue to read with your child each night, even if your child is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Research shows that the benefits of reading with your child are extremely beneficial for many reasons. By you modeling the joy of written print, many children will see reading as a pleasant lifelong activity. It's also quality interactive time that means the world to a child. Some parents think that once their child leaves the primary grades, the daily reading between parent and child can end. I urge you to continue this parent/child time, whether it be with a chapter book, non-fiction, poetry, or a simple picture book. As a parent myself, I know the demands of outside activities and busy lifestyles, but making sure you have nightly quality time with your child should be a top priority. You will find the benefits great as your child enters adolescence and the peer pressures teenagers face these days. Your child will remember this for a lifetime, and hopefully pass it along to their kids one day as well.

Please also help us support our community through our Toys for Tots toy drive that is starting the middle of this month. Please send in a new toy or book for a child in need (no teddy bears allowed). Gifts must be unwrapped. Specifically, sports equipment for children over 13 is needed. There is more information regarding this on another page in this edition of the Falcon. We look forward to encouraging our student community to participate and to demonstrate the power of giving.

Our next two dates for conferences are November 17 (4:30 - 8:30 PM) and November 21 (8:00 - 3:00 PM). In these conferences, you will be updated on your child's progress, the plan your child's teacher has for him/her moving forward, and data collected from some formal and informal assessments. Thank you to those who attended on November 2!

Again, thank you for your continued support and involvement!

Yours in Education,  
Mr. Jeffrey J. Murphy  
Principal

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**TAG PROGRAM**  
(Talented and Gifted Program)

**ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT #10 PARENT INFORMATION MEETING**  
FOR

\*Parents of students newly admitted into the TAG Program  
during the fall of 2011

Place:  
**PEACOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Media Center**

Date and Time: **Tuesday,**  
**November 15th, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Presenter:  
**Dr. Marcia Tornatore,**  
**Superintendent**

Topics:

- Qualification Criteria
- General Overview of Program
- Samples of challenging activities provided within the TAG Program

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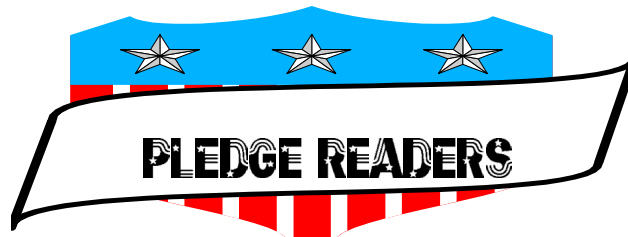
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**We Need Mentors!**  
**We Need You!**

Please consider mentoring a Franzen Intermediate student. This is a weekly or bi-weekly commitment of one hour, one day per week (or every other week), but can mean the world to a child. Please sign up now by calling Jeff Murphy at 630-773-0100 or register via email at [jmurphy@itasca.k12.il.us](mailto:jmurphy@itasca.k12.il.us).

Typically, mentors meet with the students during their lunch hour.  
We have a list of games and activities available for you to use.

Visit the AIMS website at [www.aimsnews.org](http://www.aimsnews.org) for more helpful information!



The following students will be saying the Pledge for the next month:

Week of 11/14/11  
Week of 11/28/11  
Week of 12/5/11

Mrs. Flanigan's Class and Mr. Bergmann's Class  
Mr. Bergmann's Class and Mrs. Lindsay's Class  
Mrs. Lindsay's Class

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## THE WISHING WELL AT FRANZEN SCHOOL

Busy and don't have time to volunteer in a classroom? You can be a big help by donating an item from our Wishing Well to your child's classroom! (All items listed will be for classroom use only!) Find a coin that has your teacher's name, take it with you, purchase the item, and return it with your child once the item is purchased. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and help!



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## NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

### THIRD GRADE

November has been a very busy month for third graders. In science, we will be finishing our unit on the solar system. We will be starting social studies and studying natural resources and early communities. We are still learning our upper case letters for cursive handwriting. The students will soon be writing all of their assignments in cursive!

We are continuing with our multiplication unit in math class. Of course we will continue to work on addition and subtraction math timings. The students are really improving their scores, so please continue to have your student practice math facts and read each day at home.

In computer class, the students are continuing to improve their typing skills by learning proper keyboarding skills. Please try to reinforce this at home when you can.

Students have started to work on persuasive essays. They will persuade a farmer not to eat turkey for Thanksgiving (and the students are the turkeys). Our students have also thought and wrote about what they are thankful for this season. We wish everyone a special Thanksgiving holiday!

#### **FOURTH GRADE**

We can hardly believe that the first quarter is over! We have been very busy already this second quarter. We are very involved in our first basal in Reading. We are reading stories with the theme “You Can Do It!” All the stories talk about situations where perseverance was needed to accomplish a goal.

In Math we have started multiplication. We are still striving for 98% mastery of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Division facts will need to be mastered for second quarter. When the students know their facts it sure does make long multiplication problems take a lot less time!

In Language we are currently studying nouns. They are learning about singular, plural, and possessive nouns. In Science the students are learning about animal characteristics and survival. In Social Studies we are finishing up researching a famous person from Illinois. Next the students will be traveling to the Midwest region to learn about the geography, economy, and people of that region. The fourth graders continue to work hard in every subject area and we know they always strive to do well!

Keep up the good work, fourth graders, and happy Thanksgiving to all of our families

#### **FIFTH GRADE**

It’s hard to believe, but it is already the middle of November. We have recently finished all of the stories in Theme Two of our reading text book. The students are beginning their first novel study on either “The Bridge to Terabithia” or “On My Honor”. It is nice to be able to use a novel to practice honing the students’ comprehension skills.

The kids are learning all sorts of new things in the fifth grade. In Social Studies class they have been learning about the expanding world and the settling of North America. In Math they are mastering their skills with the multiplication and division of whole numbers. Very soon they will be using those skills to help them multiply and divide decimals and fractions. We have started finishing our first health unit in Science class. The students have been learning about how our different body systems work together to allow us to function. Before we began our unit, the classes all took a field trip to Robert Crown, where they learned about the reproductive system and how human life begins.

The sounds of random notes down in the multipurpose room let us know that Mr. Wis is helping the students build our school band. It will not be long until those notes come together as beautiful music! Our days are very busy. The students are working hard and mastering new skills each and every day. Please keep up the good work supporting them at home.

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# **News from the Art Room**

We have a very busy month ahead of us in Art! Currently the third graders are finishing up their “Silhouetted Landscapes”. We’ve found out that objects are silhouetted by the sun at only two times during the day—dawn and dusk. As a result, the sky in our landscapes will be extremely colorful! Next we are learning how we can use oil pastels to layer several colors together to create brand new colors. Once we fill our paper with all kinds of unique and exciting colors, the students will

be quite shocked to find out that we are going to cover it ALL up with black! But not to worry, once we start to “scratch” images and designs into our paper we will be pleasantly surprised by the way the color peaks back through our “Homemade Scratch Boards”!

The fourth graders are wrapping up their “Japanese Monsters” and the results are quite unique to say the least! We have seen everything from fierce dragons, to friendly unicorns, and have even seen familiar interpretations of the Muppets! These monsters look great! Next we will learn how artists can transport highly detailed images to several different sheets of paper using the transfer technique. Using a tropical fish theme, the fourth graders will create an outstandingly oceanic scene by piecing together all sorts of aquatic life forms in an “Underwater Montage”.

Lastly, the fifth graders have completed their ships sailing out to sea by using a technique known as linear perspective. Using their mastery of watercolors, they have created truly breathtaking paintings. We are next going to be working with the art form of printmaking to create our own edition of prints. Using a cityscape theme, the fifth graders will be etching a highly detailed and distinctive city scene into foam and will then use brayers, barens, and assorted block printing inks to create their own set of “City Prints”. Time to get messy!

Student art work will be displayed throughout the school as well as the community, including locations such as the District Office and Starbucks! Please stop by these locations to see all of our wonderful art work! The artwork shown is selected randomly and is changed every few weeks or so. I am very proud to be able showcase the students’ artwork within the community!

Parents, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email; I appreciate all parents’ input!

Eric Whitney  
Art Teacher  
Benson/Franzen  
630-773-1232 ext. 4018  
[ewhitney@itasca.k12.il.us](mailto:ewhitney@itasca.k12.il.us)



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## *Notes from the Music Room*

Music students in all grades have been busy singing, dancing, and playing instruments to study musical elements. All grades have been developing singing technique, including listening skills to match pitch and timbre (a specific sound produced by a voice or instrument). Here is a sampling of topics students are currently studying:

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

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- Identifying, performing, and creating rhythm patterns including sixteenth notes
- Identifying and performing songs using the pentatonic scale (5 notes)
- Identifying and performing songs and dances in AB form

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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- Performing and notating rhythm patterns containing one eighth note and 2 sixteenth notes (we are currently labeling this “blueberry” to imitate 3 sounds on one beat with the first sound being the longest)
- Developing recorder technique, including use of correct fingerings, tone, and fluency in reading music notation
- Creating harmony with partner songs

- Exploring locomotor (transports us from place to place) and non-locomotor (moves in place) movement to music

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Developing performance technique in singing and use of recorders and xylophones
- Performing, notating, and reading rhythms containing syncopation, one eighth and two sixteenths and dotted notes

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Informance:** All family and friends of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to the Franzen Gym on Thursday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> to attend an informal performance. Students will be sharing songs, dances, and skills they have been working on in music class. Each Informance will last approximately ½ hour. The start times of each performance are:

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Informances  
 Thursday, Nov. 17  
 12:45 p.m. Agnello & Cuzzone  
 1:30 p.m. Copot & Rosales

We look forward to seeing you there!

**District Choral Concert:** This event involves the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are members of the Franzen Chorus. Students will perform a joint concert with the Peacock Choir on **Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Peacock Gym**. If your child is a chorus member, please look for information he/she is bringing home regarding the dress rehearsal, concert, and annual poinsettia sale. Come get into the holiday spirit and hear these fantastic performing ensembles on December 1!

### **Franzen Chorus Important Upcoming Dates:**

Rehearsal	Nov. 9	2:30 – 3:30	Franzen Gym
Rehearsal	Nov. 16	2:30 – 3:30	Franzen Gym
NO rehearsal	Nov. 23	(Thanksgiving break!)	
Dress Rehearsal	Nov. 28	2:30 – 4:30	Peacock Gym (students will take a bus to Peacock after school and be picked up by parents at Peacock at 4:30 p.m. – more information coming home soon!)
District Concert	Dec. 1	7:00 p.m.	Peacock Gym

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*You are cordially invited to the*  
**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Informance**



Thursday, November 17, 2011

Franzen Intermediate School Gym

12:45 p.m. Agnello & Cuzzone

1:30 p.m. Copot & Rosales

Each presentation will last approximately 30 minutes

Students will perform songs and activities from their music class curriculum. Come get a first hand look into your child's music class experience and see your child perform!



## **Franzen Chorus Concert**

**Thursday, December 1, 2011**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Peacock Middle School Gym**

Chorus members need to be in the band room ready to sing at

**6:30 p.m.**

Chorus members should wear a white shirt and black bottoms.



# CHARACTER COUNTS!

The following students received a Franzen Falcon in the month of October for the pillar of Responsibility.

## Third Grade

Roshan	Bhagwakar	Amelia	Morikuni
Kacper	Bielarczyk	Agiina	Podalsek
Kayla	Bowman	Jolie	Rubio
Bella	Boyas	Mattias	Ryder
Kelly	Grimsley	Gabriel	Webb
Jodie	Lloyd		

## Fourth Grade

Aurora	Battaglia	Vincent	Kruger
Jackson	Clark	Erin	Mack
Dario	Costas	Kate	Marcotte
Paulina	Czupryna	Grayden	McClellan
Aidan	Denman	Maddie	Petit
Elizabeth	Fink	Ryan	Posta
Abbey	Frank	Lindi	Presta
Allyson	Fricano	Olivia	Szylar

## Fifth Grade

Skyler	Beyer	Nic	Nie
Matthew	Cartsens	Grina	Patel
Sam	Edgecombe	Sonny	Spilotros
Max	Ellenbecker	Rosemary	Thuruthikara
Carina	Gobis	Jelena	Vasilic
Lindsay	Hiestand		



## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

**FLU SEASON IS HERE!**

### Flu Facts for Seasonal & H1N1

1. Transmission: droplets that are emitted when a person coughs or sneezes. Viruses and bacteria can last up to 3 days on a hard surface. The dirtier the surface the longer the virus lives.

2. Many people experience hospitalizations related to influenza each year.
3. Infants and toddlers are hospitalized at a higher \*rate.
4. Remember people can die from the flu.
5. Children are infectious for several days prior to the illness and continue to be so for 10-12 days.
6. Research indicates vaccinating school-aged children can have a great impact on reducing the morbidity and mortality in populations at high risk for developing the flu with complications. The most effective public health strategies for reducing the community wide effects of the disease are vaccinations and hand washing..
7. Signs and symptoms of the flu - abrupt onset of symptoms, fever of 100 degrees or greater that last 3 or more days, headache, aches & pains, fatigue, muscle weakness, extreme exhaustion, cough, congestion, sneezing, sore throat, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
8. Treatment - antiviral medication- has been shown to reduce the symptom severity and lessen the course of illness. In order to be effective they must be administered within 12-48 hours after symptoms start.

Remember controlling the spread of flu is a major public health issue at this time of the year.

Any question please call Ruth Barchfeld RN

### **You may want to keep your child home if:**

- A rash is present and has not been evaluated by a physician.
- A child\*s oral temperature is above 100 degrees, or is 1-2 degrees above that child\*s normal temperature. IF A CHILD HAS HAD A FEVER, he/she must be free of fever, WITHOUT the use of a fever reducing medication (such as Tylenol), for a full 24 hours before returning to school.
- Your child vomits and continues to experience nausea and / or vomiting.
- Your child complains of severe, persistent pain. This should be evaluated by a physician.
- Your child shows signs of an upper respiratory infection (i.e., cold symptoms) and they are serious enough to INTERFERE with learning.
- There are signs of pink-eye (conjunctivitis) such as: the eyes were crusted with matter upon waking, there is itching in one or both eyes, or there are crusts on the lashes and / or eyelids. The child should be evaluated by a physician.
- There are open sores that have not been evaluated by a physician.
- There are signs of lice infestation, such as nits in the hair and / or an itchy scalp. Consult the school nurse or your health care provider for guidance. Children with head lice are allowed to return to school once they have been treated and the school nurse has determined that there are no nits present.

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**FINALLY...A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO  
EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH OUR  
HALLOWEEN PARTIES!**





Franzen School will be collecting “Toys for Tots” starting on November 14 through December 14.

Please send in a new toy or book for a child in need (no teddy bears allowed). Gifts must be unwrapped. Specifically, sports equipment for children over 13 is needed.

We look forward to encouraging our student community to participate and to demonstrate the power of giving.

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## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### **PLEASE READ:**

1. **Please make sure your child brings their lunch every day.** We cannot provide your child a lunch if they forget it. We do not have the personnel, materials or time for making your child a lunch. If you need to drop off your child's lunch, please put their name on it. We get many lunches and want to make sure your child gets their lunch.
2. When dropping off your child's instrument, please bring it directly to the front hallway under the bulletin board.
3. It is the **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY** to call the office when your child is going to be absent or late. You can call the absent line from 4:30 p.m. until 7:50 a.m. at 630-773-1232 press 5, extension 1525. After 7:50 call the school office and give the information to the secretary. If you leave a message or talk to the secretary, please give your child's name, reason for absence, teacher, and if you would like to pick up homework. Requests for homework must be made by 9:00 a.m. so the teacher can get it ready. If you ask for homework, please come and pick it up. It can be picked up after 2:30 and before 3:30. **Homework requests in advance will not be honored.** **You must call the office every day your child will be out.** If you send an e-mail to your child's teacher regarding an absence or change in their after school plans, please e-mail the office as well. Please e-mail [jrobertson@itasca.k12.il.us](mailto:jrobertson@itasca.k12.il.us).
4. If you are picking your child/children up early from school, please write a note. This way the teacher can have them ready along with their homework and you will not have to wait.
5. If you need to make a bus change or sign up as a new rider, please note it will take **minimum of 5 school days** to make the change. Please plan accordingly. PARENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FIRST **BEFORE MAKING ANY DAY CARE ARRANGEMENTS.** A TRANSPORTATION CHANGE FORM **MUST BE FILLED OUT BEFORE ANY CHANGES ARE MADE.**
6. Franzen School closes at 3:30. The doors are locked at 3:30 and the office is closed. The Itasca Library and Wood Dale Library have copies of all Franzen's textbooks.
7. Please send an extra set of clothes to school with your child. They will be going out during the winter and if they do get wet they can change their clothes without having to disturb you at work or home.
8. If you have a new cell phone, work or emergency numbers, please send a note to the office so we can updated our records. **We need current and working phone numbers for all students in case of an emergency.** If you are going out of town or the country, please let the office and teacher know who to contact in case of an emergency. Please make sure we have current emergency numbers and people to contact if you cannot be reached.
9. Parents please note the following regarding after school plans:
  - a. If your child rides the bus some days and walks other days unless we get a note from you or a phone call from you, your child will do what they are scheduled to do on those days. No changes will be made to their normal routine unless we hear from you.

b. If your child is normally a walker and they are going home with another student, you will need to write a note telling us that they are going home with another student. We need notes from both parents even if your child walks home.

c. Children who do not normally ride the bus cannot ride the bus to go to a friend's house. You will have to pick them up and drive them to the friend's house.

d. **Please call to make any after school changes BEFORE 12:00.** The office gets very busy at dismissal time and there is only 1 secretary in the building at that time.

10. **Treats for Special Occasions - Please send treats that are nut-free.** Please read the ingredient labels since manufacturers change the ingredients. Please make sure treats are manufactured in a nut-free factory. Non-food items such as stickers or pencils are preferred. Please see page 36 in the Student/Parent Handbook for a list of approved birthday treats/snacks.