

Superintendent

David Kraus

Principal

Elizabeth Stutzman

Activity Director

Jim Pfeiffer

Counselor

Amy Hottovy

Reading Classics Team

A BIG SHOUT OUT to a dedicated and hard-working group of fifth and sixth graders. Since last September, these students had been reading books and writing questions in preparation to compete in the Saline County Reading Classic Competition. Unfortunately, the team was unable to participate in the competition. We do not want this to negate all the time and effort put in by these students. They each deserve a great deal of credit.

Mrs. Vyhnalek and Mrs. Eigsti



Fifth Graders: Aniston Meints, Tucker Borgman, Malorie Lawver, Grady Bresson, Gracie Vyhnalek, Avery Tuttle, and Sophie Weber



Sixth Graders: Marlie Johnson, Babe Weber, Caleb Black, and Hunter Svehla





If you would have asked me two weeks ago about the possibility of a Corona virus affecting our school, I would have said "no way". Today, I sit in my office in isolation and connect into meetings via Zoom due to a statewide school closure. If someone stops in, we practice a new term called "social distancing", which I am getting better at!! It is amazing how quickly we can go from our normal and comfortable routines to trying to figure out a whole new way of doing things. Everyone has had to learn how to do business in a new way in which they were never trained, including myself.

It is hard to say "I don't know" when asked questions about the future of this situation. It is not a go-to answer that school leaders and teachers like to resort to. "I don't know" if we will have prom or graduation. "I don't know" if this will go to the end of the year. "I don't know how we are going to feed all our students"...and the list continues. However, I DO know we are going to figure it out, and we have the resources within our staff and community to do so.

In my last newsletter article, I talked about how winning isn't everything and going through adversity makes us stronger. I also talked about how true character comes out in the worst of times. Well, folks, here is some adversity for us and an opportunity to work together and show our true, caring spirit for one another. I have been overwhelmed with the caring and understanding of our community. We have found some temporary new ways to learn and stay connected with one another. We are all building this airplane in the sky without blueprints, and I am very proud of the efforts.

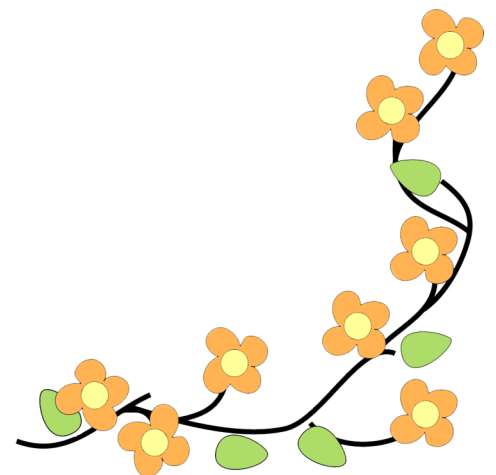
I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work in making this new learning experience the best it can be. Staff have been amazing at trying to make something work for their kids in such a short amount of time. I want to thank the parents for being understanding and for accepting their new role as a parent/teacher. I am hopeful this pandemic abates itself in the near future so we can get students back into our building and life can begin to look normal once again.

Lastly, my hope for everyone is to just be patient and understanding with one another while we ride this out. Hopefully, years from now, we look back and say, "Do you remember the Coronavirus back in 2020 and how it shut down the school for a bit?" I am hopeful this major catastrophe becomes just a minor memory for most. We need to do our part and continue to follow the rules of washing hands, limiting travel, and social distancing from one another.

This plan was put together very quickly; I am sure there are some loose ends or things we are missing. Please email your teacher or contact the school to let us know. We are more than happy to accommodate your needs.

Again, thanks to everyone for doing their part. Bulldog Strong!!!

David Kraus, Superintendent





March 24, 2020

Recommendations for Continued School Closure Due to COVID-19

Based on the current epidemiological risk factors, and projections by state, federal and national health officials, Four Corners Health Department (FCHD), and Public Health Solutions (PHS), strongly recommend that all schools served by ESU 6 close (without students in the school) indefinitely. This recommendation will be reviewed on April 30th. While everyone is anxious to get back to "life as usual," there is a strong possibility that schools will need to remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

This recommendation to close schools is not undertaken lightly. It was made after hours of consultation with education officials at the state and local level, as well as ongoing monitoring of the increase in COVID-19 cases in, and in close proximity to, the counties served by ESU 6.

FCHD and PHS realize that our recommendations carry economic and personal costs for thousands of persons in your school districts. However, COVID-19 is easily spread from person-to-person, and it is not safe for large groups of people to gather. The latest epidemiological evidence has shown that persons, including children, can spread the COVID-19 virus before symptoms develop. This recommendation is meant to help our communities "flatten the curve," and prevent community spread in the ESU 6 service area. The only way to slow the spread of disease, increasing the medical community's ability to treat those infected, is to practice social distancing, including keeping 6 ft. between persons and limiting their contact with other persons, in large or small groups. While children are out of school, locations such as shopping malls, movie theaters, bowling alleys, laser tag or other arcades, and community centers should be avoided.

We encourage those who need general information about COVID-19 to call 2-1-1 or the NE Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Information Line at (402) 552-6645.

While there is currently no vaccine or other medical treatment for COVID-19, there are a few things anyone can do to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, and we encourage you to continue this information with your school populations:

- Practice social distancing. Stay 6 feet away from the person or persons next to you.
- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Showalter".

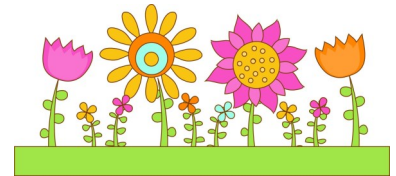
Kim Showalter
Executive Director
Public Health Solutions Health Department
Gage, Fillmore, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer Counties

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura McDougall".

Laura McDougall
Executive Director
Four Corners Health Department
Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties



April



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Please note: ALL Electric Car races have been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19.

Prom --
Postponed until further notice

All school activities/events for April have been cancelled due to the school closure through April 30.

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Updates due to COVID-19 will be sent out as we know more information.

Good Friday

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NO SCHOOL
Easter Break

BOE - Media Center
7:30



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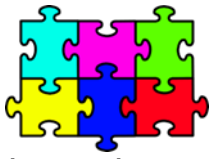
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For the most current and up to date information, please go to: <http://www.pioneerconference.org> and click on Friend or check the calendar on the school website: friendbulldogs.org



Stutzman's Side Notes

"You Learn Something New Every Day"



March was an interesting month, to say the least. I first and foremost highly recommend that you sign up for "Blackboard Messages" to get information about things going on at school and information about when/if we are having school. You can get these through text messages, e-mails, and/or phone calls. Please call Mrs. Segner at the school 947-2781 to get signed up.

As a staff, we really appreciate everybody being flexible and supportive during this time of "The Unknown". This is new territory for all of us, and it seems that most days we get one problem solved and another comes up. Our staff is hard at work making sure we end the school year the best way possible with all of the obstacles that come up daily. Please keep lines of communication open with your kids' teachers during this time. Even though we are unable to be with our students and fellow staff members daily, it is important to focus on what we "Do" have. Stay positive and we can get through this together! As always, in order to make our students successful, it takes the trifecta- the Student, their family, and our school. I am very proud to be our Principal at Friend Public School, especially with such a caring, smart, and passionate group of staff members. My hope is that we will get to be together to finish the 2019-2020 school year.

Go Bulldogs!!! Liz Stutzman- Principal

Activities that are canceled: Spring Music Concerts, Field Trips, The Musical, and Spring Sports.

Activities that we will keep you updated on: Honors Night and Honors Afternoon (Jr. High), 2020 Graduation, FFA Banquet, Prom, Jump Up Day, Preschool Round Up Day, Kindergarten Graduation, Field Day, and the Last day of School.

Pictures from our "Read with a Buddy Day" and "Grandparent's Day"



School Website: www.friendbulldogs.org

Twitter Account: @FriendSchools

Facebook: Friend Public School

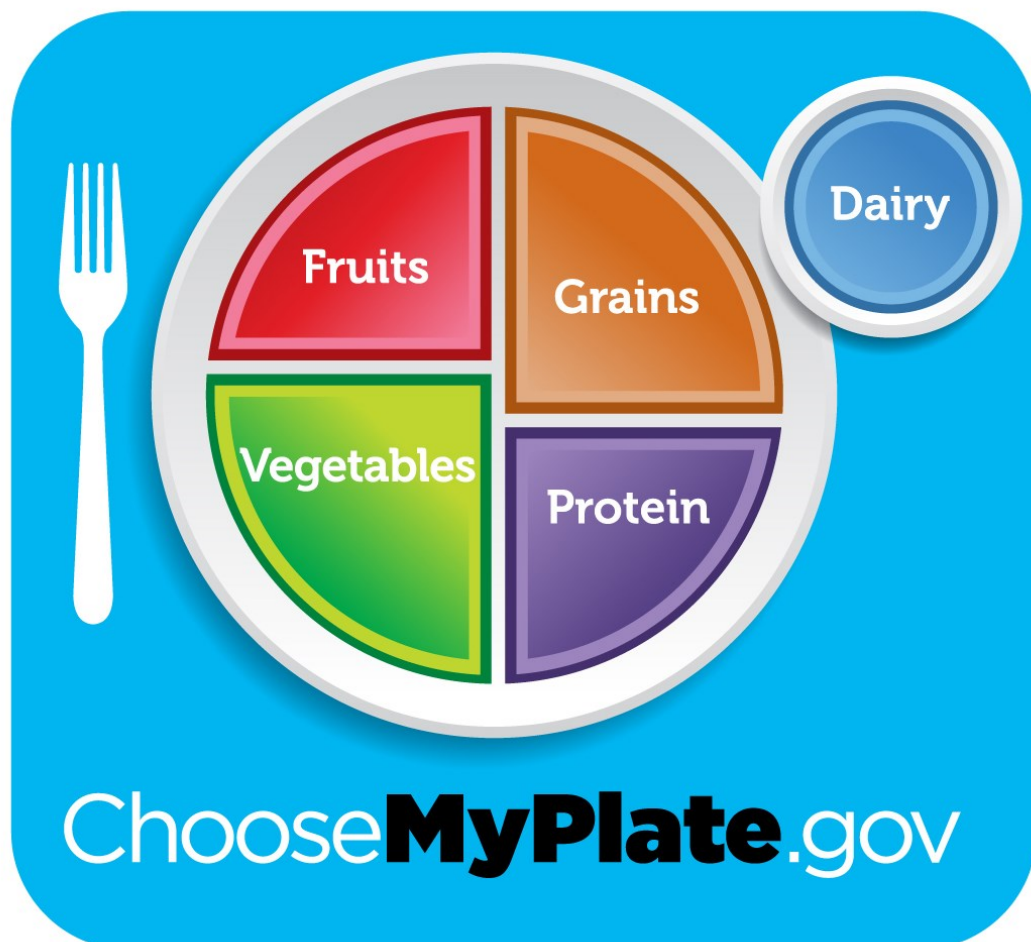
The USDA My Plate program offers some fun games, coloring pages, activity sheets, active songs and even some healthy recipes that families can make together!

<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/browse-by-audience/view-all-audiences/children/kids/games>

<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/browse-by-audience/view-all-audiences/children/kids/kids-activity-sheets>

<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/browse-by-audience/view-all-audiences/children/kids/videos-songs>

<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/myplatekitchen/recipes>



Storage Shed For Sale



8 x12 shed built by
FPS Construction Class
\$1500

Contact Jay Hitchcock
email:

jay.hitchcock@friendschool.org

or cell: 402-432-2489

for
Sale



Talking about Coronavirus*

With Covid-19 impacting each aspect of our daily lives, it is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react. If parents seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Parents should reassure children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy. However,

children also need factual, age appropriate information about the seriousness of this infection and instruction about how to avoid spreading this and other illness. Teaching children positive preventive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety.

You know your children best. Let their questions be your guide as to how much information to provide. However, don't avoid giving them the information that health experts identify as *critical* to ensuring your children's health. Be patient; children and youth do not always talk about their concerns readily. Watch for clues that they may want to talk, such as hovering around while you do the dishes or yard work. It is very typical for younger children to ask a few questions, return to playing, then come back to ask more questions.

When sharing information, it is important to provide facts without promoting a high level of stress, remind children that adults are working to address this concern, and give children actions they can take to protect themselves.

Time to Talk

Remain calm and reassuring.

Children will react to and follow your verbal and nonverbal reactions.

What you say and do about COVID-19, current prevention efforts, and related events can either increase or decrease your children's anxiety.

Remind them that you and the adults at their school are there to keep them safe and healthy.

Let your children talk about their feelings and help reframe their concerns into the appropriate perspective.

Make yourself available.

Children may need extra attention from you and may want to talk about their concerns, fears, and questions.

It is important that they know they have someone who will listen to them; make time for them.

Tell them you love them and give them plenty of affection.

Avoid excessive blaming.

When tensions are high, sometimes we try to blame someone.

It is important to avoid stereotyping any one group of people as responsible for the virus.

Be aware of any comments that other adults are having around your family. You may have to explain what comments mean if they are different than the values that you have at home.

Monitor television viewing and social media.

Limit television viewing or access to information on the Internet. Try to avoid watching or listening to information that might be upsetting when your children are present.

Speak to your child about how many stories about COVID-19 on the Internet may be based on rumors and inaccurate information.

Talk to your child about factual information of this disease—this can help reduce anxiety.

Constantly watching updates on the status of COVID-19 can increase anxiety—avoid this.

Be aware that developmentally inappropriate information (i.e., information designed for adults) can cause anxiety or confusion, particularly in young children.

Engage your child in games or other interesting activities instead.

Be honest and accurate.

In the absence of factual information, children often imagine situations far worse than reality.

Children can be told this disease is thought to be spread between people who are in close contact with one another—when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

It is also thought it can be spread when you touch an infected surface or object, which is why it is so important to protect yourself.

For additional factual information contact your doctor, or check the <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> website.

Know the symptoms of COVID-19.

The CDC believes these symptoms appear in a few days after being exposed to someone with the disease or as long as 14 days after exposure:

Fever

Cough

Shortness for breath

For some people the symptoms are like having a cold; for others they are quite severe or even life threatening. In either case it is important to check with your child's healthcare provider (or yours) and follow medical instruction.

Review and model basic hygiene and healthy lifestyle practices for protection.

Encourage your child to practice every day good hygiene—simple steps to prevent spread of illness:

Wash hands multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds (singing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star slowly takes about 20 seconds).

Cover their mouths with a tissue when they sneeze or cough and throw away the tissue immediately, or sneeze or cough into the bend of their elbow. Do not share food or drinks.

Practice giving fist or elbow bumps instead of handshakes. Fewer germs are spread this way.

Giving children guidance on what they can do to prevent infection gives them a greater sense of control over disease spread and will help to reduce their anxiety.

Encourage your child to eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, and exercise regularly; this will help them develop a strong immune system to fight off illness.

*Adapted from [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\): A Parent Resource](#). National Association of School Psychologists

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

This website has some of the most frequently asked questions and answers about the Coronavirus from the Center for Disease Control, including how this virus spreads, what exactly is meant by community spread, are symptoms the same in different age groups, travel inquiries and more.

There are so many sites offering up information that may or may not be based in science; **look to trusted sources**, i.e. CDC (Center for Disease Control), WHO (World Health Organization) and local sites such as the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Public Health Solutions and speak with your primary care physician if you have concerns for yourself or someone within your home.

EMF FFA Happenings

The EMF FFA chapter has had a very successful spring. In January, we had six members interview and apply for their State FFA Degree in Milford. Members submit a minimum of two years of records and interview with a panel for this degree. All six of our members passed screening and will receive their State FFA Degrees this year. Abby Eberspacher, Josie Vyhnalek, William Yokel, Jacob Bottom, Sarah Casper and Kate Houlden were our applicants this year.

On January 15th, we participated in Leadership Development Events at the Holthus Convention Center in York. We had a fantastic and successful day at this event. Zach Spohn participated in Discovery Speaking and received 3rd place and the alternate to state. Kiarra Fennell placed 5th out of 23 in Creed Speaking and was a finalist. Chase Svehla placed 12th out of 23 in Creed Speaking as well. Kate Houlden and Abby Eberspacher participated in the Job Interview area. Abby placed 11th out of 22 and Kate placed 7th out of 22. In the area of Ag Demonstration we took two teams. The team of Kiah Songster, Cade Kresak and Avery Kraus placed 5th out of 16 teams and the team of Josie Vyhnalek, Christian Weber, Kylie Weber and Jaiden Papik placed 8th out of 16 teams.

In February, our chapter members celebrated National FFA Week. We had numerous dress up days throughout the week, taught lessons in elementary classrooms, hosted an FFA Pep Rally and had a drive your tractor to school day. We unfortunately had to postpone our Petting Zoo for the elementary due to weather but we are still hoping to reschedule this to the end of April or May when the weather and conditions are more favorable. Next, Kooper Jelinek, State FFA President, visited our chapter and facilitated different workshops for all of our members.



Focus areas were honoring tradition while creating new traditions, team work and opportunities in the Ag industry for members. Also in February, we saw our first Career Development Teams compete in district competition. On February 26th, the Poultry team and two individual welders competed in Lincoln at The Career Academy. While our Poultry team did not qualify for state competition, Ben Bartu finished 3rd overall in the O/A welding area and Jesse Duba finished 13th in the MIG division. To round February out,



three members traveled to Kearney to participate in the 212/360 Leadership Conference. Members were able to meet with members from across the state and focus on personal growth and community development.

March started off with our annual community Pancake Feed. The pancake feed was hosted at the Friend Community Center this year.

Members served pancakes, sausage and drinks to community members who came. We flipped over 200 pancakes on that morning and served 40 pounds of sausage. Also in March we took a large number of members to compete in the last part of Career Development Events. Members had been studying and working hard on practices since December for these events. We had a very successful showing at this event hosted at Southeast Community College in Beatrice.

The following are the results of these competitions

- District Champions and qualified for state - Agri-science - Avery Kraus, Kylie Weber, Zoey Borgman and Shelby Lawver
- 2nd place and qualified for state - Floriculture - Josie Vyhnalek, Abby Eberspacher, Cameryn Brandt and Kate Houlden
- 2nd place and qualified for state - Livestock Management Team - Ty Underwood, Casey Underwood, Kole Svec, Peyton Pribyl and Clint Oldehoeft
- 5th place and qualified for state - Natural Resources - Christian Weber, Joanna Yu, Fred Hausman
- 5th place and qualified for state - Agronomy - Chase Svehla, Jackson Beethe and Eli Johnson
- 4th place Ag Sales - Kiah Songster, Vivian Weber, Cade Kresak and Kiarra Fennell

Individual Top Ten Honors at Districts go to:

- Kylie Weber - 6th place in Agri-science
- Christian Weber - 5th place Natural Resources
- Joanna Yu - 6th place Natural Resources
- Cameryn Brandt - 7th place Floral
- Kate Houlden - 9th place Floral
- Josie Vyhnalek - 10th place Floral
- Ben Bartu - 8th place Ag Mechanics



Currently our State FFA Convention has been cancelled due to the COVID 19 outbreak, but they are working on re-scheduling competitive events for a later time. As of now, most of our FFA plans are on pause, but after discussion with the administration and the extension of the school closures until April 30, we have decided to cancel our banquet for this year. Awards are still being ordered, certificates, pins, plaques for state qualifiers. The 2020-21 officer interviews will take place via Zoom. Please check out the EMF FFA Chapter Facebook page for more updates and information.

Bulldogs of the Month



Daniel Hakes
Math/Media Center



Abigail Gilmer
Freshman

If your child(ren) would like breakfast and lunch that the school is offering during the school closure, please call the school office at 402-947-2781 to get put on the list.

This is open to ALL students PreK-12.

Friend Public Schools
501 South Main St.
P.O. Box 67
Friend, NE 68359

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