

March & April 2025 NEWSLETTER

The Bulldogs delivered an outstanding performance at this year's Saline County Spelling Contest held February 4th, 2025, at the Saline County Courthouse. Four of the eight top places went to Friend students. Placing first in the fifth-sixth grade division was sixth-grader, Devin Anderson. Other fifth-grade qualifiers were Max Vossler, Teddy Weber, and Gannon Payne. Sixth-graders Paxin Meints and Camydn Kenny also competed. In the seventh-eighth grade division, eighth-grader Gehrig Weber and Zonder Arp placed second and third respectively, while seventh-grader, Dante Salnicky, placed 4th. Also competing at that level were eighth-grader, Dane Anderson, and seventh-graders Hannah Shonerd and Adilyn Meints.

It was definitely a GREAT DAY TO BE A BULLDOG!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Scholarships

- Seniors should be busy working on both local and national scholarship applications. Deadlines for several local scholarships are quickly approaching!
- The list of scholarship opportunities is updated almost daily. Seniors can visit [Scholarship Central](#) or the spreadsheet of information that has been shared with them via email.
- Many scholarship applications require the student to include a letter of recommendation or other documentation.
 - Seniors are reminded to plan ahead!
 - A lack of planning on the students' part does not equal an emergency on the part of the individual writing a recommendation letter or providing other documents.
- Seniors are asked to notify Ms. Hottovy about the scholarships they are receiving so that information can be announced at Academic Honors Night on May 6.
 - A complete list of scholarship awards will be available at the graduation ceremony.
- A huge thank you goes out to our local benefactors for the many scholarship opportunities offered to our seniors!

Parents/Guardians of Juniors

- Preparation for the state required ACT test on March 25 is underway for all juniors.
 - Parents will soon be receiving an informational letter from the school.
- If your son/daughter will be testing on March 25, please mark your calendar now. It is important for students to have a good night's rest the night before the test and to eat a healthy breakfast that morning.
- Why is the ACT important?
 - Most colleges and universities use ACT scores to judge a student's readiness for college *and/or* to determine if a student will be accepted to their institution.
 - Doing well on the ACT can lead to more scholarships!
 - The test provides information to students on their strengths for education and career planning.
 - The State of Nebraska requires all third-year cohort students take the ACT as part of state accountability testing.
 - ACT results will help school personnel better advise students with their education and career planning. Also, it gives the school another way to analyze the academic development of our students.

Looking Ahead to Next School Year

- Registration for next year's classes will begin during 4th quarter.
 - Ms. Hottovy will visit with each grade level to discuss course options and requirements.
 - A Course Description Handbook will also be made available to students.
- Upcoming 7-12 grade students are encouraged to visit with their parent(s)/guardian(s) about how they might challenge themselves by taking classes that are considered more difficult or rigorous, or maybe just a class that is outside a student's comfort zone.
- High school students will also hear from both the school counselor and Kristi Lawrence, our Southeast Community College SENCAP representative, about how they can earn college credit next school year. Take a look at this website for more information: [SCC SENCAP](#)

Elementary Parents/Guardians

- I hope your student has come home and talked about what he/she is learning during our Character Strong lessons. Maybe you have heard about how students can show they are paying attention, what our feelings are telling us, managing big emotions, how to use the Tree of Choices when it comes to conflict, and how to have empathy while considering others' perspectives.
- Discussing these lessons with your child will help him/her to further practice these skills both at school and at home!

Community Service

- Businesses, organizations, churches, etc. in the Friend school district are reminded to contact Ms. Amy Hottovy or Mrs. Liz Stutzman with community service opportunities that might be available for our high school students over the summer. Thank you to all who have already begun partnering with the school!



Every New Beginning Comes From Some Other Beginning's End...



Hello, Parents and Students,

We have had a great start to 2025 at FPS! Our Blue River Staff Cohort met in McCool and we learned from Dorina Sackman. Our state Frameworks visit for the Nebraska Department of Education (that occurs every five years) happened on January 14th and 15th. It was a success and a great way to celebrate the wonderful things all our staff have done over the past five years to ensure our students' success. We have interviewed and hired four new staff members for the 2025-26 school year (FCS, Preschool, History, and Math), and all four are amazing additions to our team! Our staff competed in the school wide Step Challenge where we "battled" other schools to average the most steps for a month! We celebrated Paul Martin's 60th birthday and our winners from the Academic Pep Rally for their Most Improved Award! The elementary kids showed off their artistic skills with their Valentines boxes and enjoyed their classroom parties! Our Preschoolers invited their families in for another fun "Family Day"! Our juniors have begun their ACT prep work. Our staff has continued to collaborate with the Exeter-Milligan staff to plan and prepare for the 25-26 school year. Dayton Kremer made it to state in wrestling! Finally, to round out the month, we enjoyed meeting with our parents/guardians for parent-teacher conferences- and enjoyed a trip to the book fair! Thank you to everybody who came out to parent-teacher conferences! What a fun and busy time at FPS!

Liz Stutzman- PreK-12th grade Principal

Upcoming Dates:

March 12th: Read with a buddy day for Pre4-6th grades, 2:00 release and the end of the 3rd quarter

March 13 and 14th: SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL

March 17th: 6:30 pm NHS inductions

March 18th: Spring concerts (new gym) Elementary 6:00 and Secondary 7:15

March 25th: ACT for 11th graders

March 29th: Prom (Preview in the old gym at 5:00)

April 18th and 21st: No School Easter

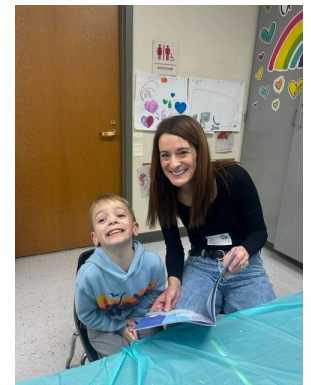
MARCH Breakfast & Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
Breakfast Pizza Meaty Nachos Toppings Shredded Cheese Bread/Butter <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Donuts Breaded Chicken Patty/Bun Broccoli & Cheese Jell-O <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Breakfast Bites Hot Dog/Bun Chili Shredded Cheese <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Egg Cheese Omelet Biscuits & Gravy Tator Tots Juice <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	French Toast Subs Chips Cookie <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>
 10	11	 12	 13	14
Pancake Bites Flatbread Sandwich <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Egg Patty Lasagna Garlic Bread <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Cinnamon Rolls Chicken Fajitas Peppers/Onions Lettuce, Cheese Spanish Rice Cookie <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
17	18	19	20	21
Biscuits & Gravy Hamburger/Bun Sweet Potato Fries <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Chocolate Chip Muffin Walking Taco Shredded Cheese Bread/Butter <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Breakfast Bars Hot Turkey Sandwich Corn Bread/Butter <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Scrambled Eggs Meaty Nachos Toppings Shredded Cheese Bread/Butter <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Pancakes Cheese Breadstick Marinara Sauce Carrots <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>
 24	 25	26	 27	28
Egg Patty Chicken Noodle Soup Turkey & Cheese Slider <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Breakfast Pizza Tacos Hard or Soft Shell Toppings Tator Tots <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	French Toast Rotini Meat Sauce Breadsticks <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Blueberry Muffin Chicken Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn Dinner Roll <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>	Donuts Cheese or Chicken Quesadilla Tator Tots <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>
31				
Chocolate Chocolate Chip Muffin Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Bread/Butter <i>Fruit & Veggie Bar</i>				SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE DUE TO AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS

Our 3- and 4-year-old preschool classes recently hosted a special Family Day, bringing parents and loved ones into the classroom for a fun-filled experience! Families had the opportunity to see where their child plays during center time and enjoy a variety of activities together.

The children put on an adorable performance of "I'm a Little Snowman", delighting their families with their singing. They also created a charming snow globe craft, using their painted fingerprints to make a snowman. Families shared a cozy moment reading a book together and wrapped up the event with a tasty popcorn snack.

It was a wonderful day of connection, creativity, and fun!
Thank you to all the families who joined us!



FPS Student Council Dodgeball Tournament



The annual StuCo Dodgeball Tournament will be held on Friday, April 11th at Friend High School. The tournament begins at 7:00 P.M. in the new gym. Doors will open at 6:45 for participants. There is a \$3 admission fee for spectators who want to cheer on their favorite team!

Guidelines:

- Maximum of 6 players per team (teams can have students from mixed grade levels)
- Open to grades 9 - 12th from any school
- Each team must have at least 2 girls and 2 boys
- Teams must have at least 1 Friend student on a team
- A maximum of (3) 8th grade **Friend** students on a team.
- Clean gym shoes only on the gym floor - non-marking soles
- 5-minute time limit for each game except the championship
- Concessions (candy bars and drinks) will be available for purchase
- Teams in costume will be entered for a prize



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Speech @ McCool
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Start of Spring Practice BB District Final JH Quiz Bowl @ Thayer Central 4:00 Intro to Ag Field Trip-Wildroots Central City	JH Quiz Bowl @ Seward EMF Speech Showcase (Exeter) 7:00	Girls State BB Lincoln	Girls State BB Lincoln	2:00 OUT Girls State BB Lincoln	Girls State BB Lincoln
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Daylight Savings Time starts	BOE-Media Center 7:30	EMF FFA Chapter Meeting (Exeter) 7:00 York Play 8:30 (Elementary only)	2:00 OUT End of Quarter 3 FCA Lunch Meeting Boys State BB Lincoln	NO SCHOOL Boys State BB Lincoln	NO SCHOOL Boys State BB Lincoln	Boys State BB Lincoln
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	St. Patrick's Day NHS Induction Ceremony 6:30 District Speech @ McCool Junction 9:00 ACT NOW-Juniors	Elementary Spring Concert 6:00 Intermission HS Spring Concert 7:15	Pioneer Conference Quiz Bowl @ Diller-Odell 1:00	EMF FFA Officer Meeting (Exeter) 7:00	2:00 OUT TR @ Doane Indoor Class C 10:00	JH Quiz Bowl @ David City
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Pioneer Conference JH Quiz Bowl @ Southern 1:00 EMF FFA Officer Interviews	ACT-Juniors HS JV TR @ Thayer Central 12:00	TR Pioneer Conference Indoor @ Doane 8:45 County Government Day	State Speech @ Kearney HS FCA Lunch Meeting	2:00 OUT	Prom
30	31					

For updated information, please go to
[https://friendbulldogs.socs.net/
vcalendar/](https://friendbulldogs.socs.net/vcalendar/)

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		TR Turkey Creek Relays (Friend) 10:00	BG @ Syracuse 9:00 State FFA Lincoln Regional Career Fair (Juniors)	JH TR EMF Invite (Friend) 10:00 State FFA Lincoln	2:00 OUT State FFA Lincoln	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	TR Meridian Invite (Friend) 10:00	BG EMF Triangle (FCC) 4:00 Dental Day K-4, 7, 10	BG Roy Horner Invite (FCC) 9:30 FCA Lunch Meeting	JH TR @ Sandy Creek 10:00	2:00 OUT Student Council Dodgeball Tournament	JH TR MUDECAS @ Tri-County 9:00
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	BOE-Media Center 7:30	JH Quiz Bowl MUDECAS @ JCC 12:00	BG @ Milford 9:30 Quiz Bowl MUDECAS @ Davenport 10:00 4th Grade Field Trip-Lincoln	2:00 OUT TR @ Deshler 10:00 BG JV @ Red Cloud 9:00	NO SCHOOL	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday	NO SCHOOL	TR EMF Invite (Friend) 10:00 BG JV @ Clay Center 9:30	BG @ David City 9:30 JH Quiz Bowl @ Seward	District Music EMF FFA Officer Meeting (Friend) 6:00 FCA Lunch Meeting	2:00 OUT JH TR @ David City 10:00 District Music EMF FFA Banquet (Exeter) 6:00	TR MUDECAS @ Pawnee City 9:00
27	28	29	30			
	BG Dual @ Blue Springs 4:00 TR @ McCool (JV) 9:15	TR @ SRC 9:00 JH TR @ Centennial 1:00 BG JV @ Red Cloud 9:30	BG @ Palmyra 8:30			For updated information, please go to https://friendbulldogs.socs.net/ vcalendar/



2024-25 YEARBOOK

Order your yearbook today!

\$33.53

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- 🔗 <https://www.treering.com/purchase>
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BULLDOGS OF THE MONTH



Staff

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Kim Hulse, Stacy Kirchhoff*

Female Student

Malorie Lawver

Male Student

Will Vyhralek

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