

Fremont School Board
C/O SAU 83
Ellis School
432 Main Street
Fremont, NH 03044

SAU 83 Newsletter

'Sharing positive information
about Ellis School with the community'

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Budget Committee Hearing on School Budget

- **Monday FEB 9, 2009**

(BUDCOM meeting starts at 7:00 PM with hearing to follow at 7:30 PM)

School District Meeting

- **Saturday, March 14, 2009 @ 5:00 pm**

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

Look for the next issue of our SAU 83 newsletter the beginning of March. That edition will contain more specifics about warrant articles to be voted on at the School District Meeting on March 14, 2009 @ 5:00 pm.

COMMUNITY IDEAS WELCOME !

If you have any ideas for news articles or announcements which you would like to see in upcoming SAU 83 newsletters, please send suggestions to the SAU 83 office care of Ginny Manuel:

gmanuel@sau83.org

ELLIS SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

The Ellis School is currently developing report cards for grades Kindergarten through 8. As part of the No Child Left Behind Act, each state is required to develop educational standards specifying what students should know and be able to do. For Ellis School, these standards are reflected in the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) for each grade and subject area. Developing a report card that effectively communicates a child's progress towards meeting these GLEs in each subject is a task still being pursued at Ellis.

Teachers in grades Kindergarten through 8 are working to identify what needs to be taught at various points during the year in order to more effectively assess and report this learning at progress report time and at the end of each trimester.

The final report format must be meaningful for all groups in the school community. Dawn Lewis and Bill Marston intend to invite parents and others to school for an update on progress and to elicit further parent input.

Norm Tanguay - SAU 83 Superintendent

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SEARCH

The Fremont School District has just completed developing the Strategic Plan for the District, and is now moving on to the search for a new Middle School Principal.

Advertising for the position will begin before the end of January. Recruiting of candidates, receiving and screening of applications will be done in February and through the first two weeks in March. Interviews of selected candidates will begin in the last half of March.

It is expected that a Principal will be selected and hired in April. The new Principal will begin on July 1.

Norm Tanguay - SAU 83 Superintendent

Fremont School District website
<http://www.sau83.org>

Fremont Town website
<http://www.fremont.nh.gov>

Ellis School • 895-2511

SAU # 83 • 895-6903

First Student (bus) • 778-6900

DO-ERS OF ALL

Anyone in Fremont who has spent at least 30 seconds or more in the lobby of Ellis School knows that the place would be nothing more than a pile of smoking ash if it weren't for the staff and their extensive support network. The first thing you notice about our community's school is how well it is maintained, both in its daily operations and its outward appearance.

Let's start with the two smiling faces manning the front office. Theresa Blades and Sherri Ficker, who have spent a combined total of 20 years between them as part of Ellis School, are the consummate "doers-of all". If you want a complete list of their day to day responsibilities, you better pull up a chair, because rattling off the seemingly endless tasks they do could take a while. Consider this - their duty begins at the front door where they are the vigilant watch-dogs of the school and all its occupants, making sure that the 100 to 300 guests they buzz in on a daily basis are all there for a good reason. Add to this the fact that they answer all incoming calls, are the safety team leaders in fire drills and lock downs, can track down any student in the building, take care of scheduling, manage student activity accounts, organize State reports, keep track of attendance and student files, welcome and introduce new students and assist the teachers on a daily basis, and you have touched the tip of the iceberg. The list goes on, and yet they manage a smile for everyone. They always have a moment to spare for all 537 students, who they refer to as "their kids". No student who needs a hug, a kind word, or a stuffed furry friend from their menagerie to get through a bad day is ever turned away or leaves the office without feeling better.

Managing to keep daily operations running smoothly at Ellis is really no small feat, and keeping the place clean on top of all that is another major accomplishment. However, Scott Brown and his custodial staff manage to do this, paying endless attention to detail, cleaning EVERY classroom EVERY night. Visitors often compliment Ellis School on how neat it is, and with a family of 537 kids to "clean house" for, that is a true testimonial to a job well done.

It goes without saying that we should remember the tireless contributions of these folks on the Support Staff. This community is luckier than most to have so many "do-ers of all", committed individuals holding up its bottom line.

Martha Abney - PR Committee

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CAROL FOLEY, ELLIS SCHOOL'S GIFTED AND TALENTED COORDINATOR

When Carol Foley joined the Ellis faculty in 2007 to establish a Gifted and Talented program, it was hard to imagine how far reaching her impact would be on both students and the curriculum.

In addition to developing special projects and curriculum for the highest achievers at Ellis, she offers programs to broaden every student's horizon. Carol loves to see children engaged in their work. Her formula for making this successful? She uses science to invite interest, then works math and language arts into the equation. Some of the projects this year include visits to grades K-1 to teach them about turtles and beetles and math labs for grades 1-4. She runs a science club for grades K-6 where projects range from silly putty experiments to forensic science and she offers a debate club for grades 7 and 8.

Student response has been overwhelming to the enrichment programs that Carol has introduced. The kids eagerly await their chance to participate in these hands-on learning opportunities. Carol loves to involve students in research projects, such as gathering statistics for the snow depth and temperature to share with the NH Fish and Game Department, finding a "mystery class" somewhere in the world, or documenting the exact day the first tulips and buds blossom. Grades 4, 5, and 6 get to participate in a Winter Woods and Whitetail Deer Program. To engage students even further, she organizes and encourages participation in a National Geographic bee, Invention Convention, reading rainbow contest, and the New England math league.

Since her arrival, Carol has earned several grants for the school including the Math Science Partnership grant, a US Dept. of Ed. program to increase academic achievement in math and science, and Science 4 All. These grants have helped further teacher development and have an estimated value of over \$340,000. This school year, Carol spearheaded the Safe Routes to School initiative and she has many other projects in the works. She also analyzes curriculum to help the school augment its existing programs.

Carol's presence in the school leaves an imprint on not only the highly gifted students who thrive with the extra stimulation, but all Ellis students who enjoy participating in the innovative projects and programs Carol has to offer.

Laurel Earnshaw - PR Committee

Cheryl Rowell - PR Committee

ELLIS INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO GET HEALTHY AND GO GREEN !!

Join the school at its first annual Go Green ~ Go Healthy Fair on February 7th from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the gym. The event is free and open to the public.

The fair will have a wide range of participants. Wellness booths will include representatives from Breathe NH, NH Healthy Kids, Full Spectrum Wellness, Easter Seals and Serve New England. In addition, a chiropractor and Reiki practitioner will be on hand to discuss mind and body health and a nurse will perform free blood pressure screenings. There will be raffles for bike and ski helmets and gifts certificates for Synergy fitness center in Exeter!

Interested in saving energy? Green living information booths will include solar and geothermal companies as well as our own Fremont Energy Committee. Seacoast Eat Local and Flatbread pizza will have information available as well. Local Girl Scout troops are going green and will be well represented. The Daisy Scouts have challenged all families at Ellis to cancel as many unwanted catalogs as possible. Information on the "Save the Trees" challenge and junk mail cancellation will be available. Brownie Scouts will be demonstrating and giving away recipes for non toxic home cleaners.

Visit the fair for a fun and rejuvenating morning while learning how to save money, green your life and enhance your health and well being!

Cheryl Rowell - Fair Committee