



FMS Calendar

January

- 6th Science Fair – FMS Library
 7th Science Fair – FMS Library
 8th Science Fair – FMS Library
 Try-outs for FMS Talent Show 3:45 pm.
 9th Science Fair – FMS Library
 11th Band All Region Clinic & Concert at Liberty High School
 14th FMS Spelling Bee - 3:45 pm.— FMS Library
 16th Power to Change Lesson— **Pep Rally Schedule**
 20th **Holiday (NO SCHOOL)**
 22nd Coffee with Counselors
 24th Band Winter Party 6:00-8:00 pm.
 Talent Show rehearsal - 3:45-7:00 pm. stage & cafeteria
 25th Orchestra Honor Clinic at Liberty High School
 27th Talent Show rehearsal - 3:45-7:00 pm. stage & cafeteria
 28th PTA Meeting 5:30 pm.
 FMS Student Council Talent Show 6:00-7:30
 30th One Act Play 6:30 pm
 31st Yearbook Orders due by 9 am.
 One Act Play 6:30 pm



February

- 6th Basketball and Cross Country Pep Rally— **Pep Rally Schedule**
 7th One Act Play Contest at Heritage High School
 NJHS Spring Dance 4:00-8:00 pm.
 10-14 **Diversity Week**
 10th Orchestra Send Off Concert – 6:00 pm. Liberty High School
 11th Practice STAAR – 8th Grade Math
 Band Honor Clinic & Concert at FMS
 13th Power to Change Lesson—**Pep Rally Schedule**
 Orchestra State Honor Performance trip
 14th Orchestra State Honor Performance trip
 15th Orchestra State Honor Performance trip
 17-21 **FMS Food Drive**
 17th **Staff Development (NO SCHOOL)**
 18th Cheerleading Parent Meeting 6:00 pm.
 20th Orchestra Pre-UIL Concert at Liberty High School
 21st End of 4th Six Weeks

**Yearbooks are available for purchase online. Click the order a yearbook button on Fowler's homepage or copy and paste the link below into your internet browser. You must order before 1/31 @ 9am. At that time we are calling Jostens to give our final number of books to print. If you have not ordered a book by that time you will not get a book. Email our Yearbook Advisor—Jennifer Emrick with questions emrickj@friscoisd.org.
<http://jostensyearbooks.com?REF=A01098308>**

Order Your

YEARBOOK

NOW!

celebrations!



Falcon Theater
STARS

3rd 6 weeks
2013-2014



Theater I STAR
Brooke Meroney



Theater III STAR
Logan Anderson



Theater II STAR
Maria Anaya

At the start of each 6 weeks, Fowler theater students will have the opportunity to be considered for the prestigious FALCON THEATER STAR award. Students must meet the following criteria throughout the entire 6 weeks to be considered for an award.

Be on time and prepared for class every day.

Turn in all assignments on time and be prepared for all class performance projects on the scheduled date.

Go above and beyond in all class work.

Show leadership and initiative in all class projects, group exercises and performances.

Be kind and encouraging to fellow classmates.

Art Students Participate in Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest

Students from Fowler and Wester middle schools are local winners in the Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest.

The annual art contest encourages young people worldwide to express their visions of peace. For more than 25 years, millions of children from nearly 100 countries have participated in the contest.

This was the first year for Frisco ISD to participate. The theme was "Our World, Our Future."

Several local community members including Paige Prater, Gary Sexton, Karyn Hutchinson, Donna Schmittler and Jody Wissing volunteered their time to help judge the posters. Criteria included originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme.

Congratulations to local winners, Wester eighth grader Andreana Tabacco and Fowler seventh grader **Riya Agarwal**. They are led by art teachers Cynthia Parker of Wester and Jennifer Emrick of Fowler.



The two winning pieces of artwork now move on to the District level for the second phase of judging.

Also advancing to the District level judging is an essay written by Wester seventh grader Kelan Lawson. That contest, also sponsored by Lions Clubs International, is an opportunity for young people who are visually impaired to express their feelings of peace

Team News



6th

Congratulations to all 6th grade Star students and Honor Roll students! Keep up the awesome work!

In social studies, students will be continuing their journey around the world this semester with Europe. We will learn about the geography as well as some European history. Be on the lookout for a European culture project soon!

Pre AP ILA students will continue to learn a variety of advanced grammar as we prepare for our next test in mid January. Then, students will immediately begin a 3-week expository essay unit. Tentatively students will select a life-changing event from their "Life Map" and thoroughly explain how and why their thoughts, feelings, and actions changed so dramatically. Students will not retell the significant event since that relates to writing a personal narrative. In addition, students will complete a variety of reading strategies and comprehension/analytical reading skills in preparation for the reading STAAR this spring.

In ILA, students will be learning reading comprehension strategies. They will continue to work on sentence and paragraph structure as well as write an expository essay.

In the new year, math students will begin a unit on proportional reasoning and algebraic thinking. This will include applications of percent problems and understanding benchmark percents such as: 1%, 10%, 25%, 50%, and 100%. Over the break, students should review their fraction/decimal/percent equivalents reference sheet. They will need to have these permanently memorized or practice them regularly, as they will use them often throughout middle school and beyond. We will also explore the coordinate grid and how to reflect objects over the axes.

Students will be responsible for completing Think Through Math assignments online outside of class, in addition to their daily work. They can use the Internet at home or visit the integration lab before school from 7:55-8:20 a.m. to complete these assignments.

We are at an exciting time in Texas history. After Mexico won its freedom from Spain, empresarios like Stephen F. Austin began bringing U.S. settlers to Texas. Unfortunately, many issues began to arise that would lead to the Texas Revolution. Students did a gallery walk to learn about those events. Then, they wrote an essay and are currently working on their "Cutting the Ties" project about the causes of the revolution. Soon, we will be discussing the Alamo and San Jacinto, and how Texas became an independent republic.

7th U.S.

On-level ILA students are wrapping up their study of the play A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Students not only learned about the changes a person can undergo after a good dose of self-reflection, but they also learned historical background information about the Victorian Era in England. After we return from the holiday break, we will focus on perfecting our writing skills as we switch back and forth between two different modes of writing—narrative and expository. Students will also begin reading the poetic novel Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse. In 7th grade Pre-AP ILA, we have just concluded the first half of our Springboard unit over persuasive writing through analyzing and creating advertisements. Next up, students will be learning how to write expository essays and business letters.

Our 7th Grade Pre-AP Science students are busy completing work on their Science Fair projects. They have worked so very hard all semester collecting data, writing a research paper, and creating display boards for their projects! We look forward to our Fowler Science Fair the week January 6-9. In class, students have completed their study of humans and space exploration, and will move into their study of human body systems as we begin 2014.

Our mighty mathematicians will begin Unit 3 on Patterns, Relationships and Algebraic Thinking. Students will be exploring the basics of Algebra with writing and solving one and two step equations. They will also be expanding their knowledge of patterns by connecting the sequence to a table and graph.

Team News



8th

Our 8th graders experienced insightful and professional presentations during the annual Career Day program, from sports communications and video production to veterinary medicine. As the first semester comes to a close, students are completing important projects and beginning others. In Science, the upcoming unit is ecology – the study of living and nonliving organisms. PreAP students completed the final stages of their science fair projects this month.

In Math 8, the focus will be different types of transformations including translations, rotations, and reflections. Algebra students have been calculating inequalities and linear equations. The 8th Grade Social Studies students will be immersed in our first presidents of the United States from Washington to Madison. We will be heeding Washington's Farewell advice, exploring the Louisiana Purchase with Lewis and Clark, and fighting the British in the War of 1812. The students will also take the district Benchmark test the week before the break.

In ILA classes, students will be delving into various pieces of drama, including the Diary of Anne Frank. They will get the chance to really "put themselves into the character's shoes" to grasp an understanding of author's purpose, deeper meaning, etc. The students will continue to examine excerpts from historical fiction passages to learn about important time periods such as World War 2, the Vietnam War, just to name a few. In PreAP ILA classes, students have begun the classic novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Each Monday the literature discussions center around the dialectical journal entries that they are creating as they read. The last essay of the semester

Mrs. Silver's Technology Class Information

All the students are having a good time and learning a lot in the computer classes at Fowler.

The following is a summary of the learning that has been occurring in the classes.

Multimedia I: Terri Silver

The students have been editing sound using audacity software. They created their own sound effects and incorporated their sounds into other software. The students are creating, narrating, and illustrating an original children's storybook – The books will E-publish the book. If there is time their last project for the semester will be creating an E-portfolio of their work. They should bring in a flash drive if they would like to save their work to put on their computer at home. They are becoming experts at learning new software in class.

Multimedia II: Terri Silver

The students have created sound effects in online software. The students have created QR codes – and placed the codes on a flyer for MM2. Now, they are learning some basic web development – the students are learning some basic html code and should be able to create some simple websites. They will also build a website to display their work. The students will be creating a virtual museum, using Google Sketch Up – they will place their PhotoShop artwork to display on the walls of the museum. They have also created flyers for teachers in the school. The students have really been doing a wonderful job this year – I am anxious to see what they create in Video Production 2 next semester.

Animation: Terri Silver

The students have been creating animations using Flip Boom software, PhotoShop Elements, and Google Sketch Up – They have been doing a wonderful job creating a variety of animations – from a haunted house to a animated holiday E-card. The students are working hard and doing a terrific job with their animations – they have grown so much in their capabilities. I am so proud of them. Shortly, they will be inserting their holiday cards to their personal Google websites; they created in class through their school YouTube accounts. Next semester they will be creating a stop motion animation and a 360^o and begin to use 3D animation software – they will have a wonderful time with that. I can't wait to see what they come up with. Look for more information about the Animation class in future newsletters.

Tips for Going Green during the winter holidays:

- **Turn off or unplug** holiday lights during the day.
- Reduce the number of bags thrown out by **bringing reusable cloth bags** for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases.
- **Wrap gifts in recycled** or reused wrapping paper or newspapers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper.
- Bake cookies or other goodies for your friends and love ones and **package them in reusable and/or recyclable containers** as gifts.
- Buy cards made from **recycled paper** (look for "post-consumer" content) and printed in **non-toxic inks**.
- Reuse the fronts of **old holiday cards as gift tags**.
- Decorate with more **energy efficient LEDs** (light emitting diodes) strings rather than the larger, old fashioned lights.
- Save energy by making sure that your **doors and windows have good seals** on them. Leaky windows and doors can be like having an open window in your home, letting cold air in and warm air escape. By getting better seals, you'll also save on your winter heating bills.
- **Wear more layers** inside to keep the heat down. Turning the heat down just a few degrees can make a big difference in your energy consumption. Make use of sweaters, slippers and throw blankets to stay warm.
- When you don't want to deal with frost on your windshield, you can put a piece of **cardboard on your windshield**. This will prevent frost from forming, and will keep you from having to scrape the windshield or start the car.



This month's **Student "Green Giant"** is **Ara Gevorgyan**. Ara works hard during cafeteria recycling, reuses paper, and is enthusiastic about things GREEN!

We also named our **Teacher "Green Giant" ...Mrs. Millstone!!!**

Mrs. Millstone uses one-sided reusable paper often, recycles batteries, and uses a reusable cup rather than a disposable cup often! She is a wonderful example for everyone at Fowler Middle School. Thank you, Ara Gevorgyan and Mrs. Millstone for all of your help to make Fowler the Greenest School in Frisco. We are lucky to have you, and you are setting a great example for our students and faculty!!!

Upcoming Dates:

- **Tuesday, January 7th – 3:45-5:15 – GreenFlix in Room 814**
- **Tuesday, January 21st – 3:45-4:45 – Green Leadership Team Meeting in the Library**
- **February 10th-21st – District Competition – Cell Phone Recycling (Start collecting those cell phones!)**

Counselor's Corner



As we begin the second semester of the school year, there are some important dates that the counselors would like you to be aware of over the next few weeks.

We are excited that **February 10-14, 2014**, Fowler will be celebrating Diversity Week. The theme for this week will be **"I am Diversity"**. We are looking forward to celebrating the many gifts, talents and unique experiences that make the Fowler community so special.

Also, we have several important registration and orientation dates coming up for our 8th grade students. Please look over the dates below so that you can be involved in your student's registration process for the 2014-2015 school year.

January 16, 2014 Power to Change Classroom Meeting – Healthy Relationships



8TH TO 9TH GRADE

**January 22, 2014
(9:00-10:00am)** Coffee with the Counselors – Liberty & CTE Counselors
Topic: High School Information and Course Selection

January 23, 2014 Liberty High School Counselors visit 8th graders through Science classes

January 24, 2014 CTE Center Counselor visits 8th graders through ILA classes

January 27, 2014 Red Hawk Rally (Parent Presentation) @ Liberty High School

January 29, 2014 Complete 4-Year Plans with 8th graders – Math classes (Murray)

January 30, 2014 Complete 4-Year Plans with 8th graders – Math classes (Sitzler & Millstone)

January 31, 2014 Complete 4-Year Plans with 8th graders – Math classes (Ashmore & Bobo)

February 5, 2014 9th grade course request cards due to US History teachers

February 6, 2014 Liberty Counselors visiting w/students individually during US History classes (Students will turn in their cards to US History on February 5th.)



Finally, at the end of this six weeks, **February 18-28, 2014**, the Fowler Student Council will be sponsoring the **Frisco Family Services Food Drive**. Our student body will be collecting items for needy families in the area. There will be more details as we get closer to the drive, yet please encourage your students to take part in this worthy cause.



Frisco Education Foundation Grants for Great Ideas

Congratulations to **Patience LeBlanc** for receiving a grant from the Frisco Education



SLAB Adopt-a-Shelf



This year's students have exceeded expectations by bringing items from home, and even creating learning opportunities!



Each week, a "shelf of the week" is chosen and honored with a treat from the librarian and recognition of their accomplishment on their shelf.

We are really having fun with this, and can't wait to see what the students come up with next!



Overdrive for the Holidays! (In other words... free ebooks!)



Got a new Nook, Kindle, or tablet wrapped and ready for your student? When they open it, don't forget they can get library books for **free** through Overdrive, FISD's virtual library. The break is a perfect time to catch up on reading, and you can't beat free! Click the Overdrive link from the library web site <http://bit.ly/fmslibrary> to get started.

From the Desk of Nurse Paz



Listening Skills

Teenagers are no longer children, but they are not yet adults. While teenagers are developing more independent thoughts, feelings, and values, it is only natural for them to question their parents' rules, beliefs, and expectations. As teenagers are testing their new independent roles, it's not an easy time for parents. But if teens don't get love, security, and a feeling of safety from their family, they might look elsewhere, even toward friends who are a bad influence.

Good communication—talking and listening—with your teenager may be the most important part of your relationship.

Since teens are forming their own identity and testing limits, some conversations may lead to disagreements and become uncomfortable. Your goal is to have open, respectful, and honest conversations. Teens need to feel loved and that their point of view is respected, even when you disagree.

An essential part of the communication exchange with your child is receiving messages from her. They can be verbal messages (questions, requests) or non-verbal ones (actions or non-actions). Listening is a learned skill, and with effort you can become better at it. In the process you will be setting a good example for your children, and they will become better listeners too.

Active listening is the central component of communication. When you become an active listener, you are telling your child that the channels of communication are open. You are recognizing that your child has a need and/or a desire to share her feelings and thoughts, and that you are receptive.

There are several skills and techniques involved in active listening that will decrease the likelihood that you will be judgmental or critical, or will lecture or belittle. These skills allow you to help your child get in touch with what she is really feeling and thinking, analyze it, and put it in perspective so that problems do not seem bigger than they really are. It will also build a bond between you and your child, and make her more receptive to what is on *your* mind.

To become an active listener:

- Set aside time to listen. Block out distractions as much as possible. In order to hear and understand what your child has to say, you have to want to do so, and want to help your child with any concerns she has at the moment. Some parents and children find they can communicate best just before bedtime or when they share an evening snack.
- Put aside your own thoughts and viewpoints, and place yourself in a frame of mind to receive information from your child. Give her your complete attention, and try to put yourself in her place so you can better understand what she is experiencing. Make her feel that you value her thoughts and consider them important, and that you are sensitive to her point of view.
- Listen to, summarize, and repeat back to your child the message you are hearing. This is called reflective listening. When appropriate, gently state what you think she may be trying to say. Do not just parrot what you hear, but go beneath the surface to what your youngster may be thinking and feeling. Remember, the spoken words may not be the true or complete message. The underlying messages may include the feelings, fears, and concerns of your youngster. Assign these feelings a name or label ("It sounds to me as if you are scared... sad...angry...happy").
- Maintain eye contact while your child talks. Show your interest by nodding your head and occasionally interjecting "door-openers" or noncommittal responses like "Yes...I see...Oh...How about that." Encourage her to keep talking. Although these may seem like passive responses, they are an important part of communication.
- Accept and show respect for what your child is expressing, even if it does not coincide with your own ideas and expectations. You can do this by paying attention to what your youngster is communicating, while not criticizing, judging, or interrupting.

Create opportunities for your child to solve the problems she may be facing. Encourage and guide her. Ask her to bounce ideas off you, which might eventually suggest solutions to problems.

When parents are active listeners, other people may describe them as having good intuition and as being "tuned in" to their children. The process of active listening will help your child understand her feelings and be less afraid of the negative ones. It will build bridges and create warmth between you and your child. It will also help her solve her own problems and gain more control over her behavior and emotions. And if your child sees you as an active listener, this will make her more willing to listen to you and to others.

Source:

[Caring for Your School-Age Child: Ages 5 to 12 \(Copyright © 2004 American Academy of Pediatrics\)](#)

PTA TEACHER GRANTS

Fowler PTA voted to approve \$5001.00 in teacher grants. The approved grant proposals are:

- Subscriptions to the Dallas Morning News for the Texas History Classes
- Diversity Wrist Bands for each student during Diversity Week
- Self Inking Stamps for the ILA teachers to help with assessing student writing
- Incentive prizes for students when their parents complete Parent feedback surveys
- Registration and packets for students to compete in the American Mathematics Competition
- Headphones for student use when using different technology in the computer lab
- STAAR workbooks to help prepare students who need extra help before Math STAAR
- Classroom Library for students in Functional Academics
- 8 electronic Writing and Drawing tablets for use in Multimedia, Video Production and Animation Classes

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) News!

We are right in the middle of the Holidays, so things have slowed down somewhat, but we really need to have more Dads and father figures get involved with the WATCH D.O.G.S. Program at Fowler even after the Holidays. So we are looking at planning a "Kick-Off" Event for 2014 sometime in January or February. More information will be coming on that, but this program is very important to the success of Fowler Middle School with our staff and with the students. **Our students still really need you!**

As mentioned before, it really does not take a lot of time and any time that you can give, even if it for only two or three hours, would be appreciated by the staff and for sure the students. As part of your New Year's resolution, look at volunteering more at the school and spending more time with the students of Fowler. We need to "re-energize" our WATCH D.O.G.S. Program in 2014 and beyond.

You can contact our WATCH D.O.G.S. Coordinator or Top Dog, David Luna, at dluna@knightonline.com or fowlerwatch-dogs@sbcglobal.net to get more information and to get on the schedule.

I have shirts available in the office if you need one when you volunteer. Just get with me or Ms. Leonard, and we can get you a shirt for the day or one to keep!



Spirit Wear

Hello Fowler Parents and Students:
If you did not get a chance to place an order yet for Fowler Spirit Wear, there will be some inventory available for purchase (limited sizes). Please feel free to email Shahnaz Savul at ssavul786@gmail.com for details.

The Falcon Reporter



Programs

Regarding PTA Programs, specifically Arts in Education:

Here are the **Reflections Contest results** from our school level competition.

If the student submitted more than one entry, the respective title is listed:

Award of Excellence

(advancing in competition)

Visual Arts: Kayla Quilantang 7th, Samuel Liu 7th, Jin Lee 8th

Photography: Rishik Ram "Stop making excuses, go do it!" 8th

Literature: Nitin Gharpure "Dreams Don't Have Grades" 8th

Music: Shree Balaji "Hero" 8th

Award of Merit

Visual Arts: Shree Balaji "Ligjht" 8th

Literature: Nitin Gharpure "Seed" 8th

Music: Rishik Ram "Find your greatness, it awaits you!" 8th

Honorable Mention

Visual Arts: Shin Lee 6th, Lauren Kim 7th, Ivy Park 6th, Nikita Kulkarni 8th, Maddie Benedetto 8th

Music: Arundhati Ghosh "Flight of Imagination" 6th, Anjika Bhalla 8th

Participation Only

Visual Arts: Myrah Savul 6th, Tiffany Guan 8th

Music: Arundhati Ghosh "Thoughts" 6th

Award of Excellence winners represented Fowler at the PTA council level judging on **December 4th.**

Although none of the visual arts or photography entries moved on, the music and literature entries are still being judged. Good luck students!

PTA news