

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

Wow! What an amazing Family Literacy Night this week! It was great to see so many families involved and enjoying time with one another. We estimate over 100 students and their families participated. Parents, THANK YOU for bringing your child to Literacy Night! It was a busy night filled with many activities, games, and of course, reading. Thank you to Mrs. Franklin for organizing such a great event. A special thank you to all who helped make the night so successful. We had staff and students from the elementary, junior high, and high school helping out. Others volunteering their time included the Thompson Falls Public Library, Thompson Falls Women's Club, the guest readers and the Blue Hawk PTO. Thanks to everyone who helped our Elementary Student Council raise almost \$200 from their bake sale as well. The winners of the drawing are: Quinn Nichols (6th grade), Josh Hutchings (5th grade), McKinnley Lyons (4th grade), Blayke Heinemann (3rd grade), Rhett Ruen (2nd grade), Madison Fairbank (1st grade), and Neveah Watts (kindergarten). If you did not pick up information on the Science of Reading, please view the reverse side of today's newsletter.

4th-8th Grade Ski Trip

Assistance please! One hundred and twenty six students in grades 4-8 have registered for our first ski trip of the year at Lookout Pass! Students and staff will be skiing and boarding on **Friday, January 23rd**. As always, students must maintain passing grades and good behaviors in order to earn the trip. Students choosing not to go will still have a regular day of school. In fact, that day can be a great time for students to catch up on work and get some extra help from teachers. *Parents, if you are planning to ski with your student, it would be extremely helpful if your student could ride with you. Please let Mrs. Gilbert know of your willingness to help, as soon as possible. We also ask that you check in at school the morning of the ski trip.*

FUN FRIDAYS

Our Student Council has chosen the themes for upcoming Fun Fridays.

Jan. 16 - Fuzzy Day - Will you wear something fuzzy, bring something fuzzy or share warm fuzzies with others?

Jan. 23 - Class Colors Day - Kinder-Yellow, 1st-Blue, 2nd-Purple, 3rd-Red, 4th-Green, 5th-Orange, 6th-Pink, Junior High-Black

Jan. 30 - Backwards Day - Wear things backwards today

Feb. 6 - 100's Day - We will celebrate our 100th day of school. How will you demonstrate 100?

Feb. 13 - Neon Day - The brighter the better!

Feb. 20 - Stripes Day - Will your stripes run vertical or horizontal, or both?

Feb. 27 - Blue Hawk Day - Sport your Blue Hawk gear, or wear the blue and gold

END OF 2ND QUARTER

Tomorrow, **Friday, January 16th** marks the end of 2nd Quarter, which means we have reached the half way point of this school year! Watch for report cards coming home with students on **Thursday, January 22nd**. If you have questions or concerns regarding your student's progress, at anytime throughout the year, please don't hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher. Communication plays a key part in student success.

Important Happenings

- 1/15 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 1/16 End of 2nd Quarter
- 1/16 FUN FRIDAY - Fuzzy Day
- 1/16 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 1/19 No School - Teacher Development Day**
- 1/21 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 1/22 2nd Quarter Report Cards sent home
- 1/22 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 1/23 First 4th-8th Gr Ski Trip - Look Out Ski Area
- 1/23 FUN FRIDAY - Class Colors Day
- 1/23 PTO Popcorn Friday - sponsored by Jenny's Travel
- 1/23 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 1/26 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 1/28 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 1/29 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 1/30 FUN FRIDAY - Backwards Day
- 1/30 4th Gr to see Missoula Symphony at U of M
- 1/30 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 2/2 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 2/2 School Board Meeting - 5:00PM
- 2/4 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 2/5 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 2/6 FUN FRIDAY - 100 Day Celebration
- 2/6 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 2/9 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 2/11 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 2/11 PTO Meeting - 5:00PM
- 2/12 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 2/13 Mid 3rd Quarter
- 2/13 FUN FRIDAY - Neon Day
- 2/13 Early Dismissal - 2:05PM
- 2/16 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM

Thompson Falls Elementary

Mr. Len Dorscher,
Principal

School web site:
<https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net>



Thompson Falls School District #2 shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, previous arrest or incarceration or non-program-related physical, sensory or mental handicaps as stated in board policy and MCA 49-2-307, 49-3-205.

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What is the Science of Reading?

Currently, The Science of Reading is a huge buzz word in the world of education. However, it has been around for quite a while. The Science of Reading is simply the term encompassing 50 years of world wide research conducted on how the brain learns to read and the best practices for instruction.

We have learned how different parts of the brain work together to process written and spoken language and what skills are needed to become a proficient reader. Reading is not a natural process, but must be explicitly taught. Students need **both** decoding and language comprehension skills to be a proficient reader.

Decoding skills include:

- **Phonological awareness**-ability to hear and manipulate different parts in words: rhymes, syllables, individual sounds
- **Phonics**-letter sound correspondence
- **Sight recognition**-ability to quickly recognize familiar words

Language comprehension skills include:

- **Background knowledge**-what a reader knows about the world
- **Vocabulary**
- **Language structure**-understanding how sentences are built, grammar, and syntax
- **Verbal reasoning**-being able to infer meaning and reasoning skills for understanding complex ideas
- **Literacy knowledge**-reading genres, text structures, and print concepts

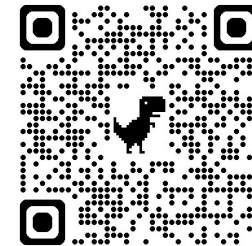
Check out these websites for more information:



[National Center on Improving Literacy](#)



[IMSE What is the Science of Reading](#)



[Literacy Adventures-How our Brains Learn to Read](#)