

The winner of the School wide National Geography Bee was Fred Hausman (center). 2nd place winner was Christian Weber (left) and Avery Kraus (right) was the 3rd place finisher. All Competitors are pictured on the back page of this newsletter.

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## From the Superintendent's Desk.

Safety and Security Training at ESU
When parents send their children to school, there are typically two things they hope happen every day. They want their children to learn, and they want them to be safe. It is our job to ensure these two things occur and something we take very seriously.

Friend Public School practices drills and procedures for fire, tornado, bus evacuations, and other situations that may pose a risk to our staff and students. When we practice, we evaluate to see if there are areas we need to improve and focus on. Last month, area schools safety and security teams met at ESU to evaluate current practices and learn what they can do to improve. Our team consisted of local police and fire rescue, administration, teachers and our maintenance director. We learned that internally, we know our procedures well and they are carried out flawlessly by students when we practice them. However, when it comes to outside sources, we have learned that local rescue units have to adapt to individual school protocols which can cause confusion and time constraints. Because of this, schools are becoming more unified in their communication processes by using the same vocabulary and establishing a framework for operations. If local police or rescue need to respond to our school, or a neighboring school, the information and protocol is identical which helps alleviate confusion.

During our self-evaluation, we have determined a few areas we will focus attention on the make improvements in safety and security. With the addition to our building over the years, communicating a message throughout the building is a challenge not having a universal intercom system. We are exploring different options to fill that need to ensure information is clearly and quickly disseminated throughout the building and areas which are hard to reach get attention. We are also exploring the idea of a buzz in system when entering the building. Many schools have adapted to this practice which accounts for every person entering the building. Our school is also looking at updating our camera system by replacing some of the older analogue cameras and adding HD cameras for a clearer image. On top of that, we are exploring the idea of issuing ID badges to all staff and possibly students. Although we all know our staff and students in our building, outside sources would not during an emergency.

I believe Friend Public School is a very safe and secure school building. However, one can never be immune to the idea we will never have an emergency or an incident that could cause us to put our practices into reality. Not being prepared, not having plans in place, and not having adequate facilities is a recipe for things to go wrong. We want to be pro active in filling the voids we have found and ensuring our students are as safe as we can possibly keep them.

David Kraus
Superintendent Friend Public School
501 Main Street
Friend, NE 68359
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# from Mrs. Dickinson Elementary Princlpal/Guldance Counselor 

To The Parents of Friend Elementary Students,

I want to take a moment to thank all of the elementary families that came out on Friday night January 12th to enjoy our Elementary Family Game Night. We had approximately 140 participants who enjoyed 50+ games, snacks and some good old wholesome fun. I hope everyone had a great time!!!

January 22nd was the 100th day of school. So many wonderful activities were planned throughout the day to celebrate this milestone. Every activity dealt with the number 100. The halls and classrooms were decorated to acknowledge this special occasion. Everyone in the elementary had a wonderful time.

Spring conferences will be held on Tuesday February 6th. Conferences are a time when parent and teacher come together to share vital information about the student. Communication between a teacher and parents is important. Students are more successful when all parties are involved in the educational process. Spring conferences tend to focus on the gains this year and what is needed as the student moves towards May and the next grade level.

Our elementary certificated staff continues to use our Wednesday early release afternoons to work on professional development. This is a time for educators to collaborate on curriculum, technology, data, and discuss topics that can help increase student success within the classroom.

I have arranged for the theater department at York College to bring their production of Cinderella to Friend Elementary. The performance will take place on Thursday March 29th at 9:00 a.m. in the old gym. This is a fun event we have each year and the students always enjoy the show. The students get to meet and talk with the performers after the production.

The elementary staff continues to work hard to educate these fine young minds. I always see so many exciting learning activities taking place as I walk through rooms. Please remember that you are always welcome to stop in to see your child(ren) learning. We love showcasing the students accomplishments.

## Some exciting happenings coming up within our elementary:

February 6th - 12:30 Early Release- P-T Spring Conferences
February 9th-NO SCHOOL
February 14th-Valentine Parties
March 7th-End of third quarter
March 8th- 9th-NO SCHOOL-Spring Break
March 12th-Fourth quarter (last one) begins
March 12th- 29th-Elementary MAP Testing
March 29th-Cinderella 9 a.m. old gym-York Theater Company

## February Lunch Menu $\bigcirc$





Approximately 140 people attended Family Game Night for elementary students and their families on Friday evening January 12th. Over 50 games were available to play and purchase over a two hour time slot. Individuals enjoyed games, snacks, and conversations on a cold winter's night. Some of the proceeds will be donated to the Borgman family.

Submitted by Alyson Dickinson
Elementary Principal

## 3rd grade 100 Days! activities





Here
is their
finished design:


## BULLDOGS OF THE MONTH

## January 2018



Student
Shelby Lawver

7th grade


The 2nd Grade class made pictures of themselves as old people \& brought items of " 100 "



Students participating in the 2018 Friend Public School Geography Bee were:
Front Row (left to right): Will Vyhnalek, Breckan Schluter, Jacob Weber, Jack Baptista, Avery Kraus Back Row: Reagan Bartley, Vincent Cox, Christian Weber, Fred Hausman

Friend Public School held the annual National Geographic Bee Tuesday night, Janmary 23rd. Students advancing to the school wide bee included:
4th grader Vincent Cox, 5th graders Reagan Bartley and Will Vyhnalek, 6th graders Breckan Schluter and Jacob Weber, 7th graders Jack Baptista and Avery Kraus, and 8th grade students Fred Hausman and Christian Weber. Grant Pave was unable to attend due to illness. The winner of the school wide geography bee was Fred Housman. Second place went to Christian Weber, and Avery Kraus finished in Third place. Congratulations to these students. Fred Hausman will now complete an exam to qualify for the state geography bee held at UNO this spring.

Article submitted by Paul Martin Geography Teacher


## February Calendar Reminders:

## February 6

12:30 Early Release **Lunch served to Elementary only** Parent-Teacher Conferences 2-8 p.m.

February 9
NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

Be watching the website for details on activities during National FFA Week which is February 18-25

The Annual FFA Pancake Feed will be Sunday, February 25
11-1 at the Community Building in downtown Friend

