



# The Monthly Messenger

## March 2010

119 Brevard Road, Asheville, NC 28806  
(828)236-9441 fax-(828)236-9442  
[www.fdnsc.net](http://www.fdnsc.net)

### Important Dates

March 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting 5:45 in MPR  
March 12<sup>th</sup> Parents' Night Out  
6:00 (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser)  
March 13<sup>th</sup> Applebee's Pancake Breakfast  
8:00 (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser)  
March 16<sup>th</sup> Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 in MPR  
(7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser)  
March 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> No School  
March 25<sup>th</sup> PTO Morning Coffee 8:15-9:30  
March 26<sup>th</sup> Parents' Night Out  
6:00 (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser)

### What's happening on Campus?

#### **10:00 a.m. Starts**

Please remember not drop off children before 9:45 on late starts. We want to make certain that all children are accounted for in the morning.

#### **Calendar Changes**

Due to snow on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will hold school on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

We are required to have 180 days of school. Our snow day plan ensures that we will have 180 days of school. In order to regain some of the lost instructional time due to late starts, we will now have full days of school on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions regarding these changes.

#### **Art**

##### **Pottery Residency with John Givvines**

Our K-5 Pottery residency has been rescheduled for June 1-3.

**Our art program is beginning a new unit. We have needs for donation for each child:**

- \*1 stick/small branch OR wood dowel (1 and 1/2 foot long)
- \*4 small or medium, empty, clean, clear plastic bottles (soda pop, water, ketchup, etc., -- NO BIG 2-liter soda bottles)

#### **Athletics**

##### **Basketball**

Our basketball team is amazing! Our students and parent volunteers do a great job representing the FDNsc spirit. The final game of the season is March 11. The game will be played at The Reid Center at 4:00.

##### **Soccer**

Our soccer season for grades 6-8 begins in late March. Games will be played at the Buncombe County Sports Complex. Look for more information to come home with your child.

##### **Middle School Electives**

Our final round of electives has begun. Last year our gardening elective yielded a tremendous amount of vegetables in the summer. We are hoping for another successful growing season. If you are able to donate fertilizer, compost, or seeds (tomato, cucumber, squash or potatoes), we would greatly appreciate it. Donations can be dropped off with Ted in the office.

#### **What is happening in our community?**

##### **FDNSC Yard Sale**

Start cleaning out those closets -- FDNsc will be having a Yard sale on Saturday 3/27 - 8am -1pm. Donations can be neatly stacked

on PJ's porch starting March 14.

If you can help, please contact Melanie Brethauer, 674-9128, melaniejaneb@gmail.com to help with the pre-sale sort - show up on Friday 3/26 at 6 pm. We need help Saturday too - come by, it will be FUN!

### **How Can I Stay Current with FDNSC?**

In addition to postings on our website, you can now follow us on both Facebook and Twitter. If you are having trouble locating us on either media, send Ted an email asking for the appropriate link, ted@fdnsc.net.

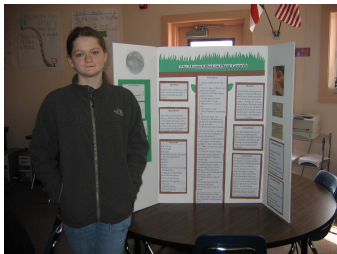
### **What are we Celebrating?**

#### **Cookies for Haiti**

A collection of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students raised \$423 for Haiti. The money will be donated to Hearts with Hands. Thank you to all who participated.

#### **Science Fair Participation**

FDNSC sent four students to the WNC Regional Science Fair at Western Carolina University. A 7<sup>th</sup> grade student placed second in the biology field and will compete at the state level.



#### **Our Annual Campaign**

As of February 28, 2010, we have received \$16,244.46! We have passed the halfway mark of our \$30,000 goal. Let's reach this goal and get our multi-purpose building built!

#### **Our Volunteers**

Once again our inspiring and committed FDNSC families have stepped up to the plate, despite challenging winter weather, to give of their time and energy to support our school these ways: lunch fundraisers, baking cookies, phone-a-thon, basketball coaching, working on the multi-purpose room, letter writing, sending newsletters, parents night

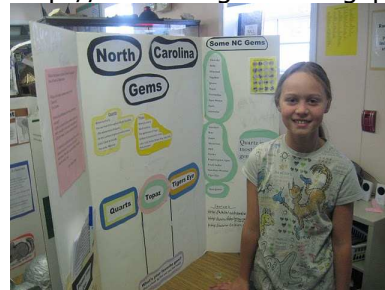
out, driving on field trips and meetings during which plans are coming together for a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to DC, fundraising for the capital campaign, campus beautification ideas, etc.

This month we had over 130 recorded hours of service.

Thank you again and again! We could not provide our students with such high quality educational experiences without your help.

#### **Knowledge Festival**

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade participated in Knowledge Festival at The Nature Center. It was a great experience for the students. More pictures are available on Ms. Sandy's blog: <http://fdnsc4thgrade.blogspot.com/>.



#### **Class News as reported by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Class of 2010**

##### **Ms. Jessica and Ms. Jo's Kindergarten Class News**

The Kindergarten class is sending letters to their parents. The class is learning about their city and state. In Math, the class is learning about shapes and in Science the class is learning about the five senses.

"The kindergarten class is going to the health adventure on March 12. We have been learning that when sound hits our ear drums, they will vibrate. We have been making self portraits."

The class would like some cereal boxes, oatmeal boxes, and tissue boxes.

##### **Ms. Debbie and Ms. Sara's First and Second Grade Class News**

During Reader's Workshop Debbie's first and second grade class enjoys being in different parts of the room for interactive reading centers. For Writer's Workshop the class has

been making family books and writing pen pals letters. The smart first and second grade class has been working on geometry and it is allowing them to see shapes around Asheville. Currently, they are looking at the lines of symmetry. Earlier in the month, in Science, the students gazed their eyes at the different speeds of a liquid going down a block. Right now the students are studying matter.

The class may be taking a walking trip to the West Asheville Library. They will be going to the Mineral Museum too.

They would like a digital camera and a scanner to see the pictures that they take.

### **Ms. Melissa and Ms. Debbie's First and Second Grade Class News**

Melissa's first and second Grade class of Francine Delany is a very intellectual branch of the school. Currently, the students are studying the phases of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. They are performing many experiments to delve into the unknown world of matter in science. They are learning about Harriet Tubman and other abolitionists. The subject of Math is discussed with great enthusiasm! Students are excited about Geometry, Keeping Skills Sharp worksheets, and how to add large numbers. The students are not aware of their upcoming field trip to Colburn Gem and Mineral Museum, but their teacher is in the process of planning it.

"It's a good class, it's fun, and I like it a lot!"

### **Ms. Roslyn and Mr. Chris' Third Grade Class News**

The intelligent 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class is working on division problems, 3D shapes, multiplication, and coordinate grids in Math. In Science they are looking at the solar system and its many secrets. When they go home they look at the moon and draw it. Also, they are planting Sandy's seeds as a project. In Reading they are stopping and thinking about what things mean before reading on. They have new reading contracts with which they are working. The students have finished exploring the world of poetry by reading and writing it. Soon the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be "Sleeping with the Sharks" at Ripley's

Aquarium. They will be spending the night in the tunnel of the shark tank.

Quote from students: "I like science." "I'm proud of reading."

### **Ms. Sandy and Ms. Catherine's Fourth Grade Class News**

Recently, the 4th Grade has finished their Nature Center projects. A student project won best in the show, so make sure to congratulate her. Her project was on the 'Devils Tramping Ground', a ghostly ring where nothing grows, and people who spend the night rumor to see strange things.

The students are highly anticipating the performance of *the Mystery of the Seahorse*. The play is taking place in May at the Bebe theatre.

Some Exciting upcoming events are Girls on the Run; make sure to sign your child/loved one up quick since there are only 15 spaces. It will be held each Tue. and Wed. from 2:30-4:00 for 12 weeks. Also, parents, make sure to schedule a three-way conference. They'll be held on Friday March 12, Monday March 15, and Tuesday March 16 from 2:30 on till dinner time.

A Quote from a student: "When we went to the festival of knowledge we saw wolves eat their food."

Pens are a top priority for the fourth grade, so please donate them.

### **Ms. Robyn and Ms. Debby's Fifth Grade Class**

In Robyn and Brian's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class they just finished reading aloud *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech. They also created short stories for their 1<sup>st</sup> Grade buddies. Soil pollution is what the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is focusing on in Science. They are experimenting with different soils to see which ones erode. In Writing, they are studying a favorite poet and modeling their own poetry after the poet's style. Students have also completed author's studies where they read multiple books by an author and studied their style. Brian is showing them how to find patterns in Math and they are about to move on to

Algebra. For Weekly Math they are reviewing decimals and fractions. They went to the Asheville Arts Museum and drew their own patterns and then printed them.

On March 13 the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is holding a fundraiser at Applebees, 1655 Hendersonville Road.

"In both classes we are learning a lot."

### **Mr. Brian's Sixth Grade Class News**

Sixth grade just finished reading aloud *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals, one of the students from the Little Rock 9 that integrated Central High in 1959. Independently, they are researching different topics in Social Studies such as Black History and Civil Rights. Heat and energy are the main topics they are focusing on in Science. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade is experimenting with containers to see which containers are better insulators. In Math they getting ready for conferences and are reflecting on what they have done over the year. On Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade was on TV. They went to Manna Food Bank and packaged food boxes for a competition on the television program, The Biggest Loser, which will be aired in March. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade is going to hang out with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class at Western Carolina University to meet their Science buddies.

### **Ms. Brady and Ms. Kendra's Seventh and Eighth Grade Class News**

The amazing 7<sup>th</sup> Grade is working on writing persuasive essays. Some of the topics that the students are choosing are: *should kids be able to choose their own books* and *the harm of plastic bags*. While writing these essays the students are learning the methods of persuasion: logos, ethos and pathos.

In Social Studies, the students have started looking at the patterns of migration by studying the Lost Boys of Sudan. They are also recording their media consumption to determine how much screen time they consume

The hard working 8<sup>th</sup> Grade is surveying North Carolina history in Social Studies. They are also learning about personal essays, and are choosing what topics to write about in

Writer's Workshop. To come up with these topics, they are listening to "This I Believe" from Edward. R. Murrow's famous program.

"What one discovers in writing such essays is where one stands on complex issues, problems, questions, and subjects. "In writing the essay, one tests one's feelings, instincts, thoughts are the crucible of composition." -Joseph Epstein

Brady's class would like a hand-cranked pencil sharpener, or just regular pencil sharpeners. She would also like some disinfecting wipes.

### **Mr. Rob's Seventh and Eighth Grade Class News**

3/8 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Field Trip to WCU  
3/11 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tour of Asheville High School and SILSA 8:45-10:45  
3/12 Parents' Night Out (to raise money for Washington D.C) 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent, Michelle, has contacted congressman Heath Shuler's office concerning a tour of the White House during the end of year field trip to DC. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade parent Melanie is organizing a HUGE yard sale March 27 at FDNCS. Please contact her if you would like to donate items or volunteer your time. Thanks to all the parents who have volunteered their time and effort toward this amazing trip. We still need parents to volunteer to manage two car washes this spring. Please contact Mr. Rob for volunteer opportunities.

During Math, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade is using raw spaghetti to find and solve the equations of lines. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is completing an algebra unit concerning simplifying expressions and solving equations.

In Science, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade is studying the periodic table of elements and listening to "The Element Song" in class. They are currently composing beautiful brochures of their favorite element. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade built amazing artificial arms using objects we were able to collect at home. The next unit of study is genetics.

Quote from a student: "Everything you do will affect you in the long run."

## Student Poets

### "Spring is Coming Close"

The radio told me that spring is coming early.  
After the snow passes, there will be flowers and trees.  
The sky looks like spring today.  
The bees will be collecting pollen.  
I already smell the honey.  
And I smell spring.  
By a third grade student

### "The Snowman and the Freezer"

One time in Greenland, there was children playing,  
They built a snowman while the snow was decaying,  
They went inside to have their hot chocolate,  
But when they came out, the door? They forgot to lock it,  
Charlie, the eldest, well, he was worried,  
He thought something might have gotten in, but if it did, in a hurry,  
It was true because of the snowman, yes, he had gone in to find the freezer,  
He wished to stay alive while his friends wouldn't get another breather,  
Charlie led the others back in except little Lily,  
But then she called out,  
"Hey, where's our snowman Billy?  
It's as if he's gone and hid in a pot!"  
They all looked down, but there he was not.  
Said Benjamin (he was Charlie's brother),  
"I think that we should go tell Mother!"  
"Go outside, and look around." Is simply what she said.  
"And anyway, how could a snowman possibly be dead?"  
They looked and looked and looked, and then they looked some more.  
And again, there he wasn't, so they went back through the door.  
But then, out called Benjamin, he said to search the house.  
They did, and they had just searched mother's blouse,  
When they went upstairs, and couldn't bear it.  
In Charlie's room, they saw the puddle.  
In it floated a carrot.  
By a fourth grade student

## Spring Projects

Contrary to popular belief, spring is just around the corner. This means renewed and hectic activity on building, grounds work and beautification of our campus. I have been amazed at the recent show of volunteerism from our families and the community. I am looking forward to working with the usual suspects as well as new individuals and groups who share our vision of a more permanent and sustainable school and campus.

To whet your appetite here are a few examples of the projects we have planned for the near future.

New Multi-Purpose Bldg. – this is the biggie, we hope to start construction this month depending on the elusive spring thaw. There will be many opportunities to volunteer during all phases of this construction. The FDNAC building committee is the best resource for information on where and when to volunteer on this project.

Window replacement in PJ's Arts Bldg. – We have a grant that enables us to replace the original windows with new units that will add to the aesthetics and energy efficiency of this multi-use building. Again the building committee is handling the installation on this project.

Nature Trail and Outdoor Classroom – another grant will enable us to improve our nature trail and at the same time we will start work on an outdoor classroom under the large, old oak tree below the playground. These projects are a continuation of our playground/picnic area improvements already underway. If you haven't visited this area lately, ask me and I will be happy to show you what we have done and share our vision for the future.

Landscaping – New construction and grading are hard on our existing landscapes. It can be disheartening to see areas torn up for infrastructure that were just recently improved. There will be a continual need for grounds work over the next few years. If you share my enthusiasm for this kind of fun contact me or the building committee for ways to help.

Obviously the FDNAC building committee has its very capable hands in all of our projects. Again this is the best resource for information on volunteering. You can get contact information for the committee from me, Nancy, or Ted. I am looking forward to a very active and rewarding spring and summer and continued associations with all our families and friends.

Frank Griffin

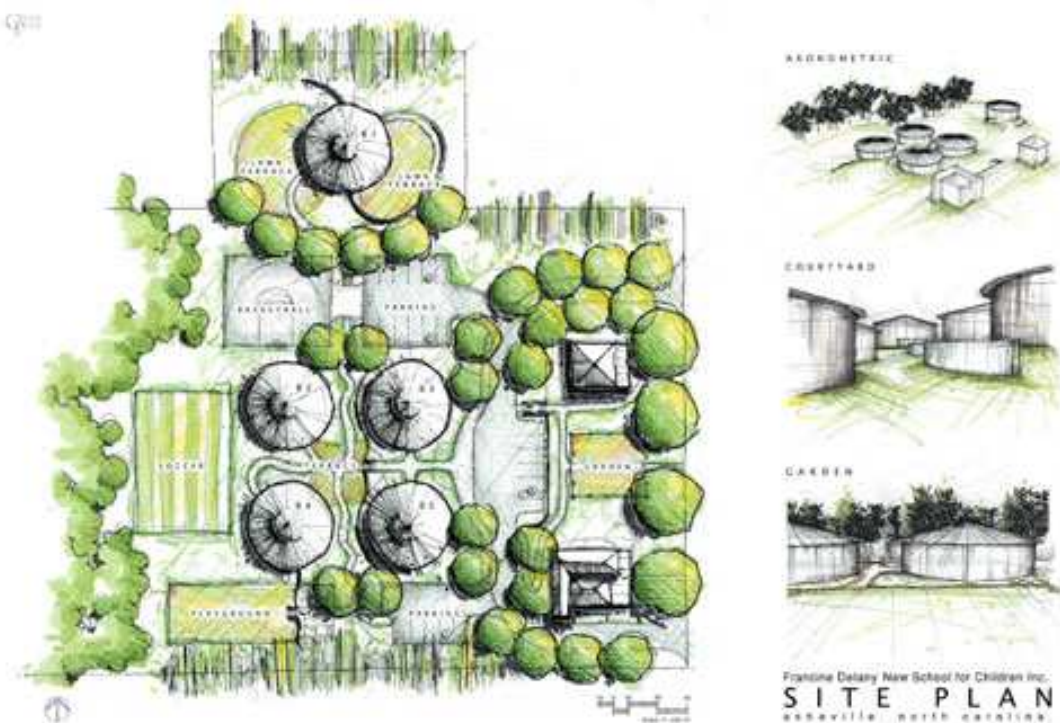
## How Can I Help?

### **Volunteer:**

We have many campus needs and any help is appreciated. If you would like to participate in the current opportunities listed below contact Ted, ted@fdns.net or 236-9441 ext 386. You can also review upcoming events on our website to learn more. The link is listed under the "Activities" tab. Listed below are some of the ways we need help this month:

### **Ways to help that won't cost a dime!**

- **Attend the next PTO Event** Come and be part of a great organization helping with and hosting many of our community building events. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00 in the multi-purpose room.
- **Help with Spring Projects** Contact Frank, frank@fdnsc.net, about upcoming projects.
- **Spring Fling** Be part of our Spring Fling committee. This is a terrific community builder and potential fundraiser. We need lots of dedicated individuals to make it happen.
- **Teach an Elective Class** If you have a skill or passion that you would like to share with our middle school students next year, send Ted an email to let him know about your interest. We are planning the electives for next year.
- **Spread the word about charter schools** You can learn more about the wonderful things that charter schools are doing and how to spread the word by visiting the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools website, <http://www.publiccharters.org/>. Remember, we do not get public funds for buildings, transportation, or textbooks. By making legislators aware of the wonderful things happening at FDNSC, we can make a difference.



**Francine Delany New School for Children  
Intent Form for School Year 2010-2011**

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

My child **will attend** next year. \_\_\_\_\_

My child **will not** attend next year. \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am **undecided.** \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent /Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Fill out one slip/child and return to your child's teacher by March 31.\*\***

**Francine Delany New School for Children  
Intent Form for School Year 2010-2011**

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

My child **will attend** next year. \_\_\_\_\_

My child **will not** attend next year. \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am **undecided.** \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent /Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Fill out one slip/child and return to your child's teacher by March 31.\*\***

**The FDNSC Development Committee is looking for folks who are interested in helping out with the Spring Fling Basket Raffle.** The proceeds from this project will help the community move closer towards building a new Multipurpose Room. Our aim for the project is have fun, promote our own and local businesses and professional efforts, and raise a minimum of \$5,000 towards our building goal.

Last year, two awesome baskets were raffled off and \$1,200 was raised. This year we are aiming for 5 baskets that we all feel great about promoting to our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. **If we are all able to do part of the work, we are confident we can reach our goal.**

**What can you do to help?** You can --

- Help gather items for the baskets. (We hope to have them ready to go by March 19th.) You can do this in several different ways. You can
  - Donate a service that only you can provide (feel free to be creative with this!) or an actual item that you have at home (re-gifting items in excellent condition);
  - Donate a small amount of money towards purchasing items for the baskets;
  - Help seek donations from local businesses and/or individuals.
- Help sell raffle tickets (from March 22 through April 29th.) If each family were able to commit to selling 25 tickets we will meet our goal.

Our basket themes this year will be **F**amily Fun, **D**esserts and Delicacies, **N**ew Asheville Adventures, **S**elf Indulgence and Care, and **C**ultural Enrichment Experiences.

Please review the sign up list below and consider how you are able to help with this project. You can return this slip to your classroom teacher or the office. **Please do so as soon as you are able.** You can also contact Ted (ted@fdnsc.net) or Evan Richardson (242-2779) to find a way to help.

Please know that if we do reach our goal of \$5,000 together we will celebrate with a Field Day on Friday, June 4 at Amboy Park. It will be a great opportunity to have fun together as a community and to thank each other personally for all the work we are doing to make FDNSC a better place for our kids!

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**FDNSC Spring Basket Raffle Sign Up Sheet**  
**Please return to your child's homeroom teacher**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child(s)**

**class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I will help with this project by (please check all that you can commit to doing):**

**Donating a service, item or money for the baskets, such as** \_\_\_\_\_

**Helping to solicit donations for the baskets, such as** \_\_\_\_\_

**Helping to sell raffle tickets. Our family will sell** \_\_\_\_\_ **tickets.**