

# **Freeport Secondary Schools January/ February 2024 Family Newsletter**

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## **Freeport Christmas Parade**

The Freeport Yellow Jacket Marching Band helped spread holiday cheer during the Annual Christmas Parade in downtown Freeport. The students marched through the town playing Joy to the World and led the crowd as the town lit the Christmas Tree for Santa!



## Armstrong County Senior Band Festival

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to and performing in the Armstrong County Senior Band Festival! On November 20 & 21, 2023 Freeport was represented by 27 band students that spent two days preparing music as an ensemble and performed a concert at West Shamokin High School under the direction of guest conductor, Mr. Lou Ribar.

Front Row (L-R) Maura Maloney, Julia Wesolosky, Kaleb Bodily, Avery Vorse & Abby Jack

Row 2: Jermy Furhman, Carleigh Smith, Nirvan Harrell, Katie McCoy, Madi Burnheimer, Ashely Arner & Kiki Chodkowski

Row 3: Emily Hietsch, Logan Check, Joy Beck, Bridget Beck, Kodi Esau, Rebecca Kibler & Rachel Blose

Row 4: Mr. Smith, Ella Eyler, Cody Stebbins, Jacob Franks, Andy Lucas, Nick Parenti, Max Kruse, Krosby Halleran & Mr. Ribar



## Freeport Band Annual Day of Giving

The Freeport Band was on the move again to give back to the community for our Annual Day of Giving. The Jazz Bands performed at the Pittsburgh International Airport, Nova Park & the Mall at Robinson while trying to give back to the community.



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## Rap-Master Mr. Schell

Mr. Schell, our Jackets Pride Network coordinator at FAMS, has made it a tradition to rap the lunch menu every December. Thank you Mr. Schell for always giving us something to look forward to and making this a fun tradition every year!





## Key Club

Thank you to everyone who purchased shirts during this year's **"Change For Cancer"** shirt sale. We were able to help four families in our district who are currently battling Cancer! Thank you for your continued support.

The Key Club Toy Drive on November 29th, was a huge success! We donated 244 toys and \$100 cash to the Freeport Food Bank to help brighten the Christmas' of children in our area. Thank you to all who donated and those who braved the cold to collect the toys!

The High School Key Club helped at both Buffalo and South Buffalo's STEAM nights. It was a great evening for learning and fun!! Thank you for letting us be a part of your events.

Freeport Celebrated Christmas on December 2nd, Key Club Members volunteered at the card making station and at the craft station during the day. Following the activities many members participated in the Christmas Parade.

Our Students volunteered at the "Enchanted Snowball" for Special Needs Guests at Zion Church. Everyone had a wonderful time whether they were doing hair and make-up, serving the guests or just mingling. What a wonderful way to Celebrate the Season!





## Microsoft Certification Awards

Congratulations to Ava Schaltenbrand who placed 6th and Kylie McConahy who placed 5th in Pennsylvania in the Microsoft Office Specialist Challenge. Winners are based on the score earned in the Microsoft Word certification exam. Students prepare for and take the exam in Mrs. Zboran's MOS certification class.



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## FAMS Snowflake Dance

It was a great time had by all at the FAMS Snowflake Dance on Friday, January 5, 2024. The dance was sponsored by StuCo, the students came dressed to impress. There was a DJ, professional pictures, the Kona Ice Truck, and the concession stand was open.



## FAMS Student Ambassadors Bring Holiday Cheer to Rosebrook and Concordia

Freeport Area Middle School Student Ambassadors represented our school and visited residents at two local assisted-living homes in December. The Ambassadors talked with patients and spent some time visiting and singing along to Christmas carols. During our Live to Give month in December, our advisory groups made Christmas cards which were delivered, and our Craft Club made Christmas wreaths which were also given to the residents.



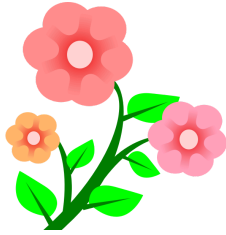
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## FAMS Games Day

Everyone was excited to start our holiday break, and what better way to kick off the time but with Games Day! Students at Freeport Area Middle School participated in a variety of stations which included a Holiday Escape Room where they competed to crack the code before any other groups in the grade level, a Christmas sing-a-long, and homeroom volleyball tournament. Thanks to all the staff members that help plan and monitor the fun afternoon!







**Thank You Mrs. Porter**



The Junior High School/Middle School long time custodian, Lawana Porter, retired in December. Thank you Mrs. Porter for your years of service and always keeping our schools looking great! We wish you the best in your retirement; it is well deserved!



## WIN Clubs at FAMS

Students in 7th and 8th grade have been participating in WIN Clubs every Thursday since September. Teachers run these clubs once a week, and students selected a club that peaked their interest. Clubs include board games, photography, sports, craft, comic books, environmental, etc. There are also clubs that are a year-long commitment like JPN, StuCo, BotsIQ, reading competition team, and jazz band. Students will be signing up for new clubs January 16-19 if they have not made a commitment to one of our year-long clubs. The second-semester clubs will run from January to May.





# Freeport Care Club News

The FAMS Care Club had a hot chocolate sale during lunch on December 21, raising over \$300.00. All sale proceeds were given to the Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter.

In honor of American Heart Month, the Care Club will sponsor its annual "Buy a Heart, Save a Heart" fundraiser. Students can buy heart-shaped lollipops for themselves or send them to their friends with a Valentine's message. Each lollipop costs \$2.00, and all proceeds from the sale will go to the American Heart Association. Lollipops will be on sale during lunches from February 5 through February 9 and will be distributed on Valentine's Day.

For the Care Club's latest service project, they are sponsoring a winter clothing/personal hygiene drive for the YWCA Women's Shelter. They need toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, hair products, socks, hats, gloves and coats. They will also be accepting cash donations. The collection began Monday, January 8, and will run through the end of January. The Care Club would appreciate any donations; no donation is too small. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Trudgen at [trudgen@freeport.k12.pa.us](mailto:trudgen@freeport.k12.pa.us).



## January Mindset Reset Theme

Our theme for January is Mindset Reset. Mindset Reset allows students to identify attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning. In the month of January, students will focus on goal setting and identify personal strengths and assets. We will also be holding grade-level meetings at the end of January so students stay focused on positive behaviors that will make them productive.



## February Kindness Counts Theme

Our theme for February is Kindness Counts. During the month, we will focus on kindness during classes whether it be in student art work or journal reflections. Our clubs like JPN and StuCo will promote kindness through daily announcements and carnation sales. Our schools will also post bulletin boards that promote students' acts of kindness and recognize what the students are doing to promote positive connections in and out of school.





## Name in Hieroglyphics

6th grade students wrote their names in ancient Egyptian writing of hieroglyphics in social studies class. These are displayed in the 6th grade hallway. Students also replicated this on a papyrus bookmark, which they were able to keep.



## Student Athlete Advisory Council - Winter Service Project

Nearly 50 student-athletes stayed after school on December 4th to complete two winter service projects for the community. All students in attendance worked on making 20 Fleece-Tie blankets for a local homeless shelter and also created over a 100 holiday cards! The holiday cards were delivered to residents of Concordia on December 22nd. Our student-athletes had a fun, fulfilling time of talking with the residents while also singing Christmas carols. A lot of laughter was had by all!





## Middle School Student Council Items

All 8th graders went home with a packet and permission slip for their Kennywood Trip on **May 10th - FRIDAY**. All forms and payment are due **NO LATER** than **Friday, January 19th**. Please ask your child to see their packet.



Stuco will be selling **Carnations and Lollipops** during the week of **Jan 16th - 19th** in all lunches. **Flowers are \$2.00, Lollipops are \$1.00** with a special message attached. Send a little love for **HEART DAY!**



There will be a **Bake Sale** in the month of February with the Care Club - all proceeds will go to the American Heart Association. **Cookies, Cupcakes, and Doughnuts Galore**. We are looking for bakers or buyers to contribute to the bake sale. It can be Valentine Themed or not!! Anything goes! We will be sending out an email with more information on when this will take place and when we would need the items in by.

# The Power Behind A Positive Mindset

Growth mindset is the belief that we are able to become better who we are and grow throughout our entire life. As role models, we can influence someone's mindset by showing them how to learn from mistakes, get excited about new challenges and show how determination can end with a positive outcome!!

**Here are some great ways to help shift into a growth mindset for the new year...**

**1. Create a mantra**

**2. Rewire what we say to ourselves and to others...KINDNESS CAN GO A LONG WAY**

**3. Don't give up- Protect your dreams**

**4. Create goals that are achievable**

**5. Being positive is one key to SUCCESS**

**6. Be STRONG**

**7. Celebrate mistakes, challenges and struggles as they can be another key to SUCCESS**

**8. Praise the process**

**Have an amazing start to your new year!!**

**- The Counseling Department at Freeport Middle and High School**



**Freeport Area School District**



**@FreeportAreaHS**



**Newsletter designed by Elizabeth Craven (11) & Nevea Thomas (12)**