



The Wildcat Journal

Dear Parents / Guardians:

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We are officially at the halfway point of the school year! Our Faust School teachers and professional support staff have been working diligently with their students to help them learn successfully to the best of their ability. Their goal is to guide and support them through their education so that they can grow up and be responsible individuals and lifelong learners.

At Faust School, we want our parents to play a huge part in their child's education. The first place children start learning is in the home with their parents and family members. Most children look at their parents as role models, so parents need to stress the importance of education. We want our parents to be involved in their child's education and form a partnership with their child's teachers to ensure the child is doing what they are supposed to at school and home. It is also important for young adolescents to develop respect and compassion for others. We want them to be honest, thoughtful, and make good moral choices. This will help them to do better in school and become good citizens and future leaders.

Aside from academics, middle school is a time when students also experience social and emotional growth and challenges. Teaching adolescents good values helps build their character and allows them to make good decisions. One thing that you will notice is that adolescents in their middle school years are going to make some mistakes. Having this opportunity to make mistakes will give them the ability to learn from them. When young adolescents try something new, most will make mistakes, but much can be learned through self-reflection and correction. At school, when students make mistakes, we turn them into teachable moments. Instead of saying you made a mistake, we ask, "What did you learn from this lesson?" "What could you have done differently?"

Lastly, we want to thank you for allowing us to become a partner in your child's education. Please continue to reach out to us if you ever have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for their future success.

Best regards,

Mrs. Regina Barrale
Alfred S. Faust School Principal



Mathematical Minds at Work

The students at Faust School are working diligently to improve their math skills and expand their math minds. Our fifth graders had fun learning how to add and subtract fractions. They have also excelled in making common denominators! Next up, they will be tackling multiplying and dividing fractions. The sixth graders are becoming equation and expression experts! They will soon be diving into ratios and proportions. Meanwhile, the 7th grade pupils are analyzing and solving percent problems. Students are working with discounts, markups and simple interest problems. These mathematical simulations connect fundamental math skills into real-world context. Faust's 8th graders are practicing their fluency with linear and nonlinear functions. Finally, the 8th grade Algebra students are showcasing their abilities with linear equations and inequalities. The new year is definitely off to a great start for the students of East Rutherford!

Stigma-Free School

Faust school celebrated Mental Wellness Month and No Name-Calling Week from Tuesday, January 21st—Friday, January 24th. The school district partnered with the following organizations, Stamp Out Stigma and GLSEN. One of the highlights from this event was that the school's Gay-Straight-Alliance and Girl Group at Faust school collaborated in the planning of the activities. The week started on Tuesday, since schools were closed for Martin Luther

King Jr.'s birthday. On Tuesday, the faculty at Faust wore their Stigma-Free t-shirts provided by the Superintendent, Mr. Giancaspro.

GLSEN stickers were also handed out for the school community to wear. Home-

room was extended for students to view a stigma-free informational video that was followed up with a self-assessment to assist students in being stigma-free. On Wednesday, January 22nd, it was impossible to find a mirror at Faust. Instead of seeing one's reflection, the mirrors were covered with positive affirmation signs and mental health facts. Thursday, January 23rd, the school community came together to contribute in the creation of a No-Name Calling Bulletin Board. For lunch, students were able to eat and watch Disney's Pixar's Inside Out. The week ended on Friday with the continuation of Inside Out and homerooms viewing the District's Twitter account to review photographs of the school's activities.



Steam

Students in our STEAM cycles are learning how to use CoderZ to program virtual robots. This course provides students an opportunity to apply their mathematical skills to computer programming!

Eggciting Things in Science

Mrs. O'Connor's classes were able to design safety vehicles in science class. The goal of the lab was to create a cart that would safely carry their egg in a collision while using math to stay within a set budget. Students were also given an opportunity to improve their designs. This was an EGGciting way to start off their new unit on forces and motion.

Explorations

Explorations ELA classes have been wrapping up a half year study on reading and writing narratives. Currently, students are gaining practice with extracting evidence from informational texts by reading closely and annotating. This practice will set students up for success in a unit on research task writing. In order to complete a research report, students will view media on a topic as well as utilize the school's online resources to complete their research. The ELA teachers will support students with paragraph organization, sentence structure, and mechanics along the way.



Music Department

Faust band and choir members have been busy performing at the "American Dream", The East Rutherford Civic Center and at their annual Winter Concert.

Upcoming Band Performances

Teen Arts Festival5/15/20 8th graders

Spring Concert6/02/20 7pm

Trills & Thrills Music Fest....6/05/20 6th-8th grade

8th Grade Commencement....6/19/20

Spanish

Senora Foxes' 6th and 8th grade students are beginning their third unit of study. They will be studying about meals and their relationship with the culture. Instructional time will also be devoted to learning about the beautiful island of Puerto Rico.

For Valentine's Day the Spanish department will be selling beautiful bracelets or pulseras made by young artisans in Nicaragua. All proceeds will be donated to a great cause, The Pulsera Project. The 8th grade Spanish Honors Class will be working along side the Student Council hosting the sale. This sale will begin February 10th during lunch. The Pulseras are \$5.00 each.



Bridge to Terabithia

The fifth grade ELA classes have been reading the novel, Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson. Students have been enjoying learning about the characters as well as applying their lessons on narrative elements to dig further in their understanding of this story. During this unit, students have been learning how to respond to open-ended questions with the RACE model (Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain) and have been investigators searching for examples of figurative language present throughout the novel. We will end the unit joining classes to watch the movie and compare scenes and experiences.

Social Studies

7th grade students recently completed their study of regional differences between the North and South. To serve as a unit assessment, students participated in a class discussion on a combination of units. This provided students with the opportunity to connect concepts and events across the time periods. Students will be working on writing an argumentative essay on the Industrial Revolution's impact on the United States.

Fact Fluency

In an effort to reinforce foundational math facts, students need to develop math fluency. When students can recall facts quickly and easily, it provides their brains with the opportunity to digest new information. In an effort to boost math fluency, students are being asked to log on as often as possible and complete a personalized session of math facts! Working together with the counseling department, homerooms will earn completion points. Every time a homeroom earns 150 points, the homeroom will sign a letter from the word RESPECT. The first homeroom to sign all the letters in the word RESPECT, will win a prize.

Bi-weekly updates for which homerooms are on the leaderboard will be released. Please encourage your child log in as often as they can. Students are more than welcomed to stay with a teacher during recess or after school to use a computer. Have your child log onto xtramath.com to get started today!



Faust Choir at the Senior Center!

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To Report an absence—please call Ms. Wolfe—201-804-3110