

FAIR HAVEN GRADE SCHOOL

MARCH 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Families,
As we begin to see the first signs of spring, there is a renewed sense of energy and excitement in our school! March brings wonderful opportunities to connect as a community, celebrate our students, and prepare for important milestones in the months ahead. Below you'll find information about upcoming events, statewide assessments, and early childhood screenings.

Community Engagement Opportunities
We truly value our partnership with families and invite you to join us for the following events:

- Basket Raffle - Support our music program by joining us Saturday, March 14th for a basket raffle from 10-1:00 in the gym. Proceeds will support our students attending the High Notes Festival.
- Join Your Child for Lunch – We invite you to come in and enjoy lunch with your child! This is a great opportunity to spend time together and experience a part of their school day. See schedule further in this newsletter.
- K-2 Concert – Our young musicians are preparing for their upcoming concert. Please join us as our kindergarten through second-grade students showcase their hard work and musical talents on March 25th at 6:30 p.m.

State Testing
Students in grades 3-6 will begin statewide testing in literacy, math, and science this month. These assessments provide valuable insight into student learning and help guide instruction. We encourage students to get plenty of rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and come to school ready to do their best. Your support at home is greatly appreciated! Testing schedule is posted in this newsletter.

PreK and Kindergarten Screening
If you have a child who will be entering preschool or kindergarten next school year, please be sure to schedule a screening appointment. Screenings help us get to know your child and ensure a smooth transition into school. More details can be found further in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support, involvement, and partnership. Spring is always a joyful and busy time in our school, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Best regards,
Deborah Infurna, Principal



Upcoming Events

MARCH

4th - (wed) Invite a family member to lunch day
6th - Marking Period ENDS
Week of the 9th- Options-based drill
9th - Board meeting FHGS - 6:30 p.m.
11th - PTO mtg 6:00 p.m. Learning Center
11th - (wed) Invite a family member to lunch day
12th Early Release Day - 11:30 dismissal
13th In-Service Day - No school for students
14th- Basket Raffle 10-1 - High Notes
18th - Grade 5 Starbase
18th - (wed) Invite a family adult member to lunch day
20th - Veggie Van Go
25th (wed) Invite a family adult member to lunch day
25th - Concert K-2 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym
26th - 5th grade Sci/SS family engagement night 4:30-5:30
19th - Preschool Screenings at Benson Village School
30th - Preschool Screenings at Castleton Elementary School
31st Falcon Gathering

APRIL

1st - Preschool Screenings at CES
3rd - Kindergarten screening at FHGS
Week of April 6th - Egress Drill (Fire)

Join Us For Lunch!

We would like to welcome families to join their child(ren) for lunch at school. We recognize that a one-day opportunity can be difficult for families so we would like to extend an invitation to pick a day you would like to join your child for lunch from the following dates:

Wednesdays: March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th,

Lunch will cost $5.75 per person. We ask that you call the school (802)265-3883 by the Monday before the Wednesday you wish to join so we can have an accurate count of those attending. You would join your child during their scheduled lunchtime:

Kindergarten -10:55-11:25
Grade 1 - 11:05-11:35
Grade 2 - 11:20-11:50
Grade 3 - 11:30:12:00
Grade 4 - 11:40-12:10
Grade 5 - 12:15-12:45
Grade 6 - 12:15-12:45

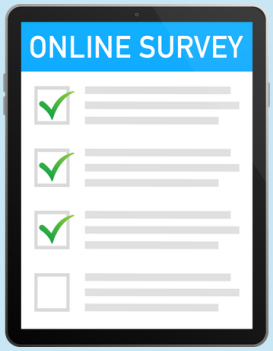


School Climate Survey

QUICK SURVEY

We value your opinion! Annually we seek student, staff and family feedback related to the climate of our school. Staff and our student voice group use this data to make a positive difference in our school environment.

We invite you to participate in completing the School Climate Survey. This survey includes questions about your student's learning, school safety, and interpersonal relationships, as well as your attitudes about the institutional environment and your personal involvement in school.



SCAN ME
with your cellphone camera to access the online survey

State–Wide Math, Reading, and Science Testing Begins

Fair Haven Grade School students will be participating in the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program (VTCAP) provided by Cognia. These assessments are administered annually in the spring to students in grades 3 through 9 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics; and to students in grades 5, 8, and 11 in science. The ELA and mathematics assessments are designed to measure students' mastery of the Common Core State Standards. The science assessments are designed to measure students' mastery of the Next Generation Science Standards.

FHGS VT STATE COGNIA TESTING

GRADE	DATE	TEST SUBJECT AREA	ESTIMATED TOTAL LENGTH OF TEST
Grade 3 9:00-10:30 Grade 4 8:30-10:00 Grade 5 9:30-11:00 Grade 6 8:30-10:00	Session 1: March 31st Tuesday Session 2: April 1st Wednesday Session 3: April 2nd Thursday	ELA	170 minutes
ELA MAKE-UP	Friday, April 3rd Monday April 6th		
Grade 3 9:00-10:30 Grade 4 8:30-10:00 Grade 5 9:30-11:00 Grade 6 8:30-10:00	Session 1: April 8th Wednesday Session 2: April 9th Thursday	MATH	125 minutes
Grade 5 9:30-11:00	Session 1: April 13th Monday Session 2: April 14th Tuesday	SCIENCE	125 minutes
MAKE-UPS:	April 13th - 17th		

SCHEDULE

The VTCAP assessments are computer-adaptive with a variety of accessibility features available to students.
At FHGS we are scheduling assessments twice a week with no more than one assessment per day.
Students will be provided snacks from the FHGS PTO and allowed breaks when needed.
After students have completed testing, Individual Student Reports will be sent to families as soon as available. These reports will provide information on what your student(s) learned in relation to the statewide academic standards.

Early Middle Level Happenings



During the month of February, our Early Middle Level students in grades 5 and 6 focused on friendship and kindness. Students in both grades created projects that shared positive, encouraging messages.

Fifth and sixth graders each randomly selected a same-gender "secret friend" and created a personalized kindness message for them. The goal was to keep their identity a secret until the scheduled reveal for each grade level. Thanks to the PTO's generous annual donation of small gifts, all students were able to "shop" for their secret friend. These gifts and friendship grams were exchanged and celebrated just before February break, spreading smiles and strengthening our school community.











1ST GRADE

First Grade Marks the 100th Day of School



First graders in Mrs. Roberts' class proudly celebrated the 100th day of school! It was amazing to see how much they've learned, grown, and accomplished since September.

To mark this special milestone, our class spent the morning exploring the number 100 in creative ways. Students designed their own t-shirts that used 100 items, practiced skip counting, wrote about things they could do 100 times, and even imagined what they might look like at 100 years old.



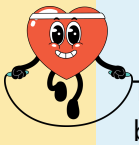


The room was filled with excitement and laughter as students realized just how far they've come. First grade students are 100 days smarter, braver, and more curious. They can't wait to see what they will learn in the next 80 days!

FHGS PTO

The PTO was excited to support the theme of kindness in February. We were lucky to have school staff volunteer their time to help us get materials ready for our annual "Kindness Store". This is an opportunity for students to choose something special for someone in their classroom to promote kindness and build positive relationships in their school community. This month, we are happy to provide snacks for students for Read Across America week. This has become a nice addition to the special activities that teachers and staff provide for students each year during this fun week.

Kids Heart Challenge



We are incredibly proud to share the outstanding success of this year's Kids Heart Challenge!

Thanks to the enthusiasm, generosity, and dedication of our FHGS families and students, our school community raised an amazing $3,500+ to support children with heart conditions. This achievement truly reflects the compassion and strength of our community.

In addition to fundraising, it was inspiring to see 18 families complete hands-on CPR training at home, gaining valuable, life-saving skills. What an incredible way to turn learning into real-world impact!

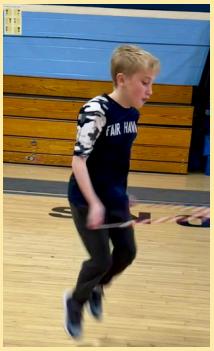
Our students also deserve special recognition for their energy and commitment. Their excitement while learning about heart health, staying active, and making a difference has been wonderful to see. They should all feel very proud of the positive impact they've made. This event was more than just a fundraiser, it was a powerful example of teamwork, kindness, and community spirit in action.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us set such a positive and inspiring example for our students!

With sincere appreciation,
Mr. Patel













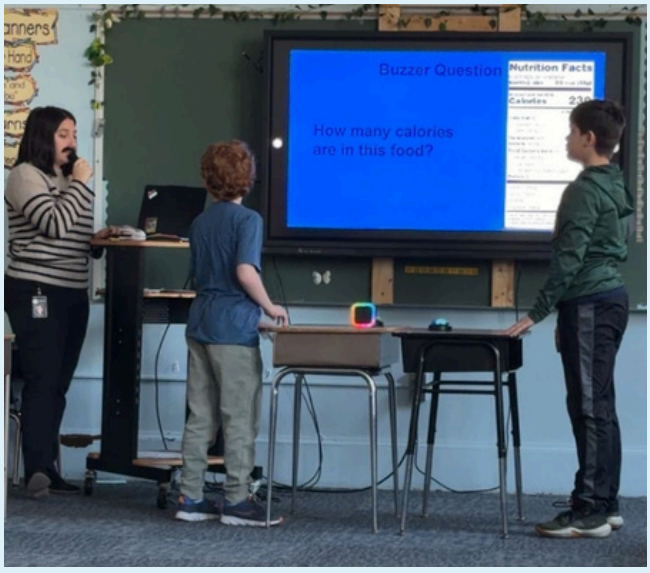


Health Class

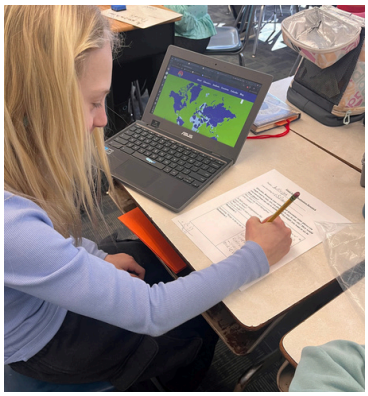
This month in Health class, students have been learning about nutrition and the crucial role that healthy eating plays in maintaining our bodies' strength and energy. We explored the different food groups, discussed how to build balanced meals, and talked about how nutrients help our bodies grow, think clearly, and stay active. We also connected this learning to our heart unit, discussing how nutritious choices keep our hearts strong and healthy.

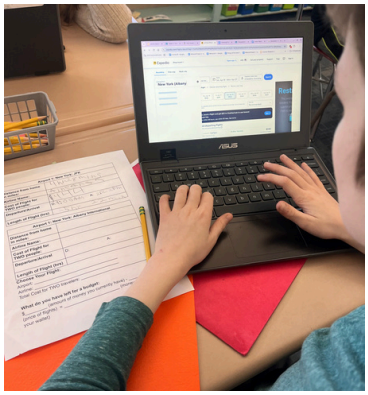
To wrap up the unit, students participated in a fun review game inspired by the game show Family Feud. They worked together to answer questions and reinforce what they had learned throughout the month. We ended our celebration of learning with a taste test featuring a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables. Many students were excited to try new foods, and some even discovered new favorites!





Grade 4





The fourth graders have been engaging in a self-directed learning project. This project focuses on the topic of travel! Each week, students engage in a different task based on travel planning. Students have been given an initial "budget" of $5,000 to travel to a foreign country. They must budget for themselves and an adult travel companion. However, everyday, students have the opportunity to add to their budget if they receive a ticket for positive behavior, leadership and hard work!

To begin the project, students used world maps to select various countries they might like to visit before narrowing it down to a final destination. Students are "traveling" to countries such as Ireland, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Jamaica, Australia, Mongolia, Syria, New Zealand and many many more! Once their destination was chosen students needed to book flights. Using Expedia and Google Maps, students engaged in "booking flights" by looking at different flight options from Montreal, Boston, New York City and Albany to their destination. They then chose their best flight option and subtracted that expense from their budget. After that students began researching fun travel destinations in their country. Students will continue this process, by learning about transportation options in their country, how to budget for fun and food and developing a ten day itinerary specific to the dates they were given. This learning experience combines math, reading, research, writing, critical thinking, geography, culture, and social studies skills with real world experiences. They will finalize this project with a presentation and a persuasive opinion piece regarding why people should travel to this destination!

Student Support Center

Empathy is a big word with a simple but powerful meaning. It means understanding how someone else feels and caring about their feelings. When we use empathy, we try to imagine how someone else might feel - LIKE PUTTING OURSELVES IN THEIR SHOES.



Empathy matters. Empathy helps us build strong friendships, solve problems gently, and make our classroom a place where everyone feels safe and valued. When we recognize others' feelings and respond with kindness, we make the world a better place for the people around us.

Empathy is about actions that show we care. Here are some ways we can show empathy in school -
Listen Carefully
Helping Someone Who's Feeling Sad - ask "Are you ok?"
Including Others (In games and activities)
Saying, "I understand that must have been hard."

Fair Haven Grade School held its own Empathy Challenge from January 19 - February 19, 2026. The challenge was, "Get caught showing empathy and earn a ticket for a daily raffle during the Falcon News. The prize was a Falcon Buck!! The Empathy Challenge was a wonderful learning opportunity and A LOT of FUN!!!

For more information on empathy and other feelings visit:
https://www.dianealber.com/collections/spot-series

Pre-Enrollment Universal Preschool

Developmental Screenings









March 30, 2026
Fair Haven Grade School
Phone 802-265-3883

April 1, 2026
Castleton Elementary School
Phone 802-468-5624

Call to make an appointment

Kindergarten Registration

- When: April 3, 2026 1-2 p.m.
- Where: Fair Haven Grade School
- **If you attend the FHGS preschool you do not need to attend**
- For children turning 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2026



Contact us!

802-265-3883

What to bring:

- *Birth Certificate
- *Immunization records
- *Registration Form

screening takes 45-60 min.

Sign Up Now