

FAIR HAVEN GRADE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2025

Principal's Message

HAPPY Holidays!

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I want to extend heartfelt holiday wishes to all of our PreK–6 families. This season offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the learning, growth, and memorable moments we've shared so far. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support in helping our students thrive. Please take note of these important upcoming events:

Winter Concert

We invite you to join us for an evening of festive music as our 5th/6th general music, intermediate band, 4-6 chorus perform their winter concert.

📅 **Date**: ~~December 3rd, 2025~~ **Postponed until December 10th**

🕒 **Time**: 6:30 p.m.

📍 **Location**: FHGS Gymnasium

We look forward to celebrating our students' hard work and creativity together!

Report Cards

Trimester report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, December 12th. We encourage you to review your child's progress, celebrate their accomplishments, and connect with your child's teacher if you have any questions or would like to discuss their learning in more detail.

Early Release Day

Students will be dismissed at **11:20 a.m. on Wednesday, December 19th**. Thank you for making the necessary arrangements.



December Break

December Break begins on **Monday, December 22nd** and continues through Friday, January 2nd, 2026. **School will resume on Monday, January 5th**. We hope the break brings your family rest, joy, and time together**.**

On behalf of our entire staff, thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for new learning, new goals, and continued growth.

Wishing you peace, joy, and happiness during this holiday season and throughout the year ahead.

Warm regards,
Deborah Infurna
Principal



Upcoming Events

December

3rd - Winter Concert (5/6 general - **POSTPONED music, intermediate band, 4-6 chorus. 6:30 p.m.** (10th snow date)

5th - marking period ends

8th - Board meeting, Benson, 6:30 p.m.

9th - Intermediate Parent Literacy Escape Room Night 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

10th - Winter Concert (5/6 general - music, intermediate band, 4-6 chorus. 6:30 p.m.

PTO meeting 6:00 p.m.

12th - Report Cards go home

15th - 18th 5/6 Student-led conferences

19th - Grade 4 Gingerbread House family engagement activity 9:00-11:00

19th - Veggie Van Go 10:00-11:00 FHUMHS

19th Early Release - 11:20 dismissal

22nd- Jan 2nd - No School - December Break

January

5th - Return to school

12th Board meeting CES - 6:30 p.m.

14th PTO mtg 6:00 p.m.

14th Drama Production - gr. 3 - 6,, 6:30 p.m



Distribution December 19, 2025
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Fair Haven Union Middle & High School





Wishing You the Very Best in Retirement

It is with deep appreciation that we announce the upcoming retirement of our administrative assistant, Terri Demasi, who has dedicated nearly 25 years to our school community. Throughout her decades of service, she has been the welcoming voice on the phone, the friendly face greeting visitors, and the steadfast support behind the daily needs of our staff. Her professionalism, commitment, and calm presence have been invaluable to our school.

Her impact extends far beyond the front office. She provided exceptional leadership in orchestrating our annual Applefest fundraiser—an enormous undertaking that brings our entire community together each year. Her behind-the-scenes coordination, attention to detail, and unwavering dedication helped make this beloved event a continued success.

She also shared her talents and passions with students through her years of leading Sewing Club, a space where she combined her love of the craft with her love for children. Through this program, she fostered creativity, confidence, and connection for countless students.

Beyond her many roles, she has donated countless hours of her own time to ensure our school is a better place for students, families, and staff. Her dedication has touched every corner of our community, and her impact will be felt for years to come.

As she begins this well-deserved next chapter, we extend our heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes. Everything she has done for our school is deeply appreciated, and she will be greatly missed.

Please join us in celebrating her remarkable service and wishing her the very best in retirement. Mrs. Demasi's last day serving FHGS will by December 19th, 2025.

Heartfelt Message to the Community

After 24 1/2 wonderful years of serving the Fair Haven Grade School community, I want to share that I will be retiring at the end of December.

It has truly been a privilege to be part of this school family for so many years. From welcoming new families to seeing students grow and flourish, everyday has brought joy, purpose and connections. I've had the pleasure of working with dedicated teachers, kind-hearted parents and the amazing children who make our school such a special place.

To the parents, thank you for your warmth, patience and partnership through the years. Your kind words, smiles and support have meant more than I can express. This school has always been more than a workplace to me – it has been a second home filled with laughter, learning and love.

While I am excited to begin this new chapter of life, I will always cherish the memories, friendships, and community spirit that have defined my time here.

With heartfelt appreciation.
Terri Demasi



Student Support Center Strategies



School breaks can be a wonderful time for families: no rushing to school, more freedom to play, and plenty of potential for memorable moments. But the change of routine can also throw kids off balance, so a little structure goes a long way in keeping things calm and fun.

1. Keep an easy routine
Even though it's a break from school, children often feel better when there's some predictability. Aim for consistent wake-up and bed times (maybe a bit more relaxed than school days), regular meal times, and dedicated downtime. This helps their bodies and minds stay regulated.

2. Mix activity and quiet
Kids usually have more energy during breaks, so give them room for active play. Go for a walk, play in the snow, or a board game. Then follow with a calming activity. Read together, do a puzzle, draw, or simply sit and talk. The interplay of activity plus calm gives the nervous system a good balance.

3. Include kids in planning
Let the children help choose one or two activities each day. This gives them ownership and excitement. At the same time, offer your own choices. Balance freedom and boundaries.

4. Manage screen time
It's tempting to let devices fly free during a break, but too much screen time can lead to overstimulation, crankiness, or trouble sleeping. Set limits and pair screen time with movement or offline fun. Transition out of screen time with a calming activity so the shift to bedtime is smoother.

5. Build in connection and family time
Breaks are a great opportunity for connection. Use this to your advantage by doing things together. Cooking, playing a game, getting outdoors, or just talking. These positive interactions help children feel safe, regulated, and emotionally grounded.

6. Be flexible and kind to yourself
Even the best-laid plans may go off track. That's okay. Give yourself grace, adjust the schedule, and reset. When you stay calm and positive, children sense that and often mirror it.

A school break doesn't mean a free for all. With a little routine, movement, connection, and kindness, kids can stay regulated, happy, and energized for whatever comes next! We look forward to seeing you back in the new year!

Grade 4







Over the last several months, fourth graders have been learning about Natural Disasters in Literature Circles, ELA and Science. During ELA, students learned how to analyze nonfiction texts by exploring the book Earthquakes by Seymour Simon. During this time they learned about earthquakes and also how to infer, analyze and use critical thinking skills while reading nonfiction texts. In Literature Circles, students have explored fictional novels where the characters experience various Natural Disasters, such as; wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes and twisters. In Science, they have done various experiments and activities focused around landslides, earthquakes, hurricanes and volcanic lava! On early release days, students have also engaged in STEM projects focused on creating structures that can withstand earthquakes and hurricanes. This unit will conclude with students researching and writing an informational essay to teach others about a Natural Disaster of their choosing!







Welcome To FHGS

We are pleased to welcome Hannah Fifield to FHGS as our new Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Fifield currently serves at FHUMHS and will be transitioning to FHGS beginning December 8. She will spend a couple of weeks training alongside Mrs. Demasi to become fully acquainted with the responsibilities of her new role.

Hannah lives in Poultney with her husband and daughter. She shared, “I am eager to join such a wonderful team. I can not wait to make new connections with the students and families of this community. I have big shoes to fill, and I am delighted for the opportunity.”

We look forward to welcoming her to our school community and as a member of the FHGS Team!





Scan the QR code and start shopping!

Bundle Up

Please remember to dress for the weather. We try to bring all students outside daily, following our district's guidelines for outdoor classes.

If you need support with winter gear please reach out to: Carrie Ann Wolcott, Home School Liason ext. 7068



FHGS PTO

We were excited to see so many families at our Halloween Dinner Booth. We served around 350 people. Thank you to the families and school staff who provided donations to help make this event so successful. This has become a fun community event that we look forward to each year!

Our Fall Fundraiser was a great success! As a thank you to the students for participating, we are planning a special ice cream treat.

We are looking forward to doing some Family Movie Nights again this year. Stay tuned for information coming soon. We are hoping to start after the holiday season.

Our next meeting is on December 10th from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the FHGS library. Please consider joining us!

Grade 1 Math

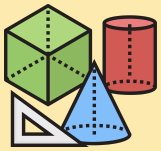
Grade 1 students have been exploring with pattern blocks in Bridges math. Exploring with pattern blocks in Bridges Math for first graders supports key math development by building up spatial awareness, geometry understanding, creativity, pattern recognition, vocabulary, and real-world connections. This hands-on approach fosters foundational skills and promotes a positive attitude toward math.









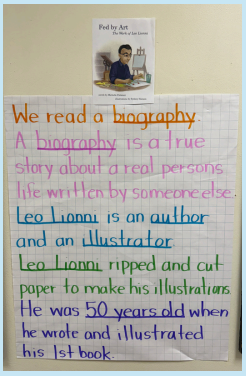


Grade 1 Literacy

This month, first graders conducted an author study of Leo Lionni. Did you know the famous author and illustrator published his first book at 50 years old? Students explored Lionni's work, looking and listening to a number of his stories. The firsties have been asking and answering questions about the books: "Who are the characters?" "Where does this story take place?" "What is the problem in the story?" and "How is the problem solved?" Students planned, designed, and created a cooperative group mural focused on the story elements: characters, setting, problem, and solution.

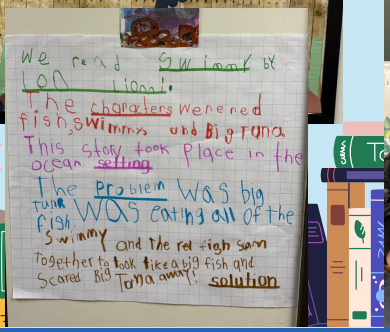




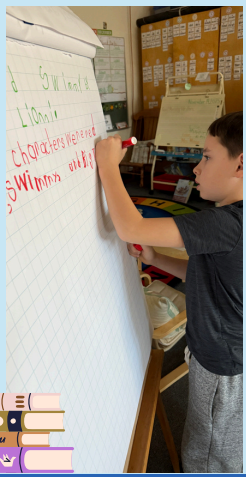












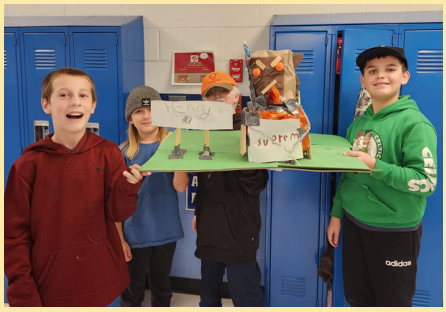
Early Middle Level Happenings

Before Thanksgiving Break, Early Middle Level fifth and sixth graders participated in an engaging interdisciplinary unit that culminated in FHGS's Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Students began by reading Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet in their homerooms, followed by a look at the history of parades through primary-source photographs. With this background knowledge, mixed-grade groups collaboratively designed and built their own creative parade floats.

After a couple days of hard work, the floats were ready to debut. The entire school lined the hallways as winter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving themes rolled by, along with nods to sports, Minions, Baby Yoda, The Lorax, and The Polar Express. Younger students clapped and cheered as each float passed, and it was clear from the excitement around the main level that everyone thoroughly enjoyed this festive school tradition.















Library Time

This month in the library, students explored the power of small, everyday objects through our read-aloud When You Find the Right Rock by Mary Lyn Ray. The story invited students to slow down, observe the world around them, and appreciate how even the simplest things—like a rock found on a walk—can hold meaning, memories, and wonder.

After reading, each grade engaged in a hands-on activity inspired by the book:

K–2: Can You Make a Flat Rock Roll?

Our youngest learners became engineers as they experimented with ways to make a flat rock roll. Using tape, paper, rubber bands, and aluminum foil, students planned, tested, redesigned, and shared their ideas. Their creativity was impressive as they discovered how small changes in shape or material could transform a rock's movement.

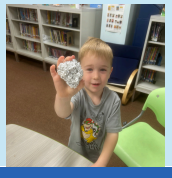
Grades 3–4: Creating Pet Rocks

Students in grades 3 and 4 tapped into their artistic sides by designing their own pet rocks. With pipe cleaners, pom-poms, googly eyes, and construction paper, they turned ordinary rocks into imaginative characters full of personality. This activity encouraged students to think about how everyday objects can become something special with just a bit of creativity.

These projects not only connected beautifully to the themes of the book but also fostered curiosity, problem-solving, and creativity across all grade levels. We had a rock-solid month in the library!

































Falcon News

Our students continue to do an amazing job reporting the daily news each morning on our Falcon News broadcast! Thank you to Grade 3 for reporting in October and Grade 6 for being our reporters for the month of November!!























