



WELCOME TO MISS BUITER AND MRS. AUSTIN

We especially want to welcome Miss Suzi Buitter and Mrs. Joan Austin to Fremont Christian School. Miss Buitter is our new fourth grade teacher. She comes to us from Byron Center, MI and is a graduate of Dordt College in Iowa. She has been

at work preparing for and getting to know the 19 fourth graders. She has also taken on the challenge of softball coach for our Middle School team. Mrs. Austin is our new Special Services Person (SSP). She comes to us with a treasure trove of experience in several different educational settings in the area. She is working hard on establishing where our students have special academic needs and connecting with our teachers.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

We are deliberately making several changes during this school year to respond to the academic support needs that we have at FCS:

- Christian Learning Center (Greg Yoder) will be here 9 ½ days this school year. The goal will be to support, train, advise, observe, etc.
- We will have a consistent Special Services Person (SSP) in Joan Austin. She will be here 15 hours a week to focus on assessment of students, pulling out students, assisting/leading us in the direction that we need to head in Academic support, and being trained/growing in this position.
- We will be increasing our Aide time (Carla Proctor and Ruth Wyn) to assist teachers in working with special needs in our classrooms. This will especially affect grades K – 4th, but we may be able to adjust and utilize them for some individual students if necessary in grades 5th – 8th.
- We will be working toward developing a Fremont Christian School Response To Intervention (RTI) program with training and tools needed as we develop.

HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION

As a special service to parents (and students), this year we are experimenting with providing to you the HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION. This will be sent home with your students on or near the first Friday of the month. Be sure to check your student's backpack for this informative and helpful letter packed with all kinds of valuable information for you and your students. Periodically you will also receive a bonus handout that will zero in on information that will help your students. So this Friday, your student will be given BOTH the September HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION and a bonus handout entitled HOMEWORK HELP. Please send me an email and let me know what you think about them (jfox@fremongchristian.org).

FOX'S FINDINGS

Ready or not, school has begun. I described my feelings to teachers today something like this: "I feel like I have one foot planted somewhere in the summer. I'm still trying to get all of the consolidation projects done. I feel like the other foot is in the first week of school." In other words, I feel stretched. But isn't that kind of how we all feel? One foot still in summer, loving the long, warm, days sitting around the pool or lake and singing, "Summertime and the livin' is easy," and the other foot planted in the present, facing the realities of life and now school days for our children. Life is busy.

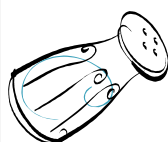
Just reflecting on where our feet are planted makes me think of the reality that we all share as Christians. We have one foot in the world and must face the realities around us, but we also have one foot firmly planted in God's Kingdom. The real reality is that both feet are in His kingdom, because there is not one square inch of His universe where He is not in control. So as we begin this new school year, my encouragement to you and me is to **"seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."** (Matthew 6:33) We do not have to go through life, as the saying goes, with both feet firmly planted in mid-air. We can solidly plant our feet in God's kingdom and do all that we do for His glory.

As we begin this new school year, please be in prayer for our student body and staff as we delve into the theme SHAKE IT OUT! This is based upon Matthew 5:13, **"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."**

One final thought—remember that today is 9/11. May the Lord be with so many who lost loved ones on this day eight years ago. May He also protect us all from such horrors in the days to come.

CHANGE OF PLANS FOR CONSOLIDATED BUILDING OPEN HOUSE

Our planned September 17 Back to School open house is being postponed once again. Why? We want to finish the projects that are presently ongoing before we have this open house. With this in mind, 2nd – 5th grade teachers have already communicated their beginning of the year information with parents. 6th – 8th grade teachers and the Athletic Director will be sending home information via U.S. Postal Service tomorrow—please watch for this important beginning of the year information. The Development Committee is working on plans for this open house which will likely happen on October 27 or 29.



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Matthew 5 : 13*

