



San Diego Unified
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Freese Focus

2010-2011

Alma Hills, Principal and Editor



8140 Greenlawn Drive, San Diego, California 92114

(619) 479-2727

www.freeseschool.org

Welcome to Freese!

The 2010-11 school year is here and we are ready for powerful teaching and learning! Thank you for choosing Freese Arts and Culture Magnet School for your child's education. We are ready for a year of powerful learning. Here is some of the learning planned for the upcoming year:

- *120,000,000 (one hundred twenty million) words on Scholastic Reading Counts by May 20, 2011! That's right. We are challenging Freese students to read 20 million more words than they did last year. With everyone doing their part, we will make our goal.*
- *enVision Mathematics is our new mathematics series. It will be available online for students both at school and at home. With lots of exploration of mathematical concepts and every lesson explained online, we know students will achieve great knowledge in mathematics this year. If you don't have a computer at home, check out this website devoted to getting computers into homes for children: www.computers2SDkids.org*
- *Arts and Culture galore! Once again, through our magnet program we are looking forward to activities in visual arts, music, dance, and theatre. We will have assemblies and field trips as well as events to celebrate arts and culture at Freese.*

We look forward to a great year!

Alma Hills, Principal

Keep this Freese Focus All Year

The first Freese Focus doubles as our Parent Handbook. Much of the information found in this first newsletter will be helpful all year long, so keep it in a convenient place and refer back to it for valuable information.

Don't be Late!

First bell rings at 8:55 a.m.

Please do not arrive before 8:40 a.m.

Class starts at 9:05 a.m.

BE ON TIME EVERYDAY!

Dismissal is at 3:35 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 12:45 p.m. on Tuesdays

Fall Open House & Curriculum Night—Tuesday, September 21st

Help your child get off to a great start this school year. Come to Fall Open House and Curriculum Night to learn about:

- ✓ Grade level content standards
- ✓ Curriculum used in teaching to those standards
- ✓ Expectations and requirements around your child's academic work

Each grade level will make a presentation to parents at a designated time and parents will be able to visit classrooms as well.

**Fall Open House will run from
6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.**

Schedule of Grade Level Presentations

Time	Grade Level	Location
6:00 – 6:25	Kindergarten	Auditorium
6:00 – 6:25	1 st grade	Library
6:30 – 6:55	2 nd grade	Auditorium
6:30 – 6:55	3 rd grade	Library
7:00 – 7:25	4 th grade	Auditorium
7:00 – 7:25	5 th grade	Library

When grade levels are not presenting, their classrooms will be open for visitations.

Family Friday!
*Making Stronger Readers
Through Home/School Connections*

What is Family Friday?

It is a time when Freese families and friends come to school and read with students in the classroom. This home/school connection supports our students and shows them that we all work together to further their education. After reading with students, parents gather in the auditorium for refreshments, announcements and giveaways.

Family Friday Schedule:

- 9:05 – 9:25 – Parents read with students
- 9:25 – 9:40 – Parents gather in the auditorium and enjoy refreshments
- 9:40 – 10:00 – Announcements and Giveaways

Family Friday Dates

- Friday, October 1, 2010
- Friday, November 5, 2010
- Friday, December 3, 2010
- Friday, January 7, 2011
- Friday, February 4, 2011
- Friday, March 4, 2011
- Friday, April 1, 2011

Put the 2010-2011 Family Friday dates on your calendar now and plan to come and read with students. See you there!

ELAC

Advises on English Learner Services

The purpose of the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is to advise the principal and school staff on programs and services for English Learners (EL) and advise School Site Council (SSC) on the development of the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). The ELAC also assists the school on other tasks listed below. Additionally, ELAC reviews the school's annual language census and conducts a site EL Needs Assessment.

For ELAC meeting times, and more information, please contact Debbie Smith, English Learner Support Teacher. (619) 479-2727 ext 2121.

Principal's Chats
Information and Chat Time

This year, Principal's Chats will be run slightly differently than in years past. Parents will still be able to raise topics of their choice as they chat with the principal, but part of the time will also be devoted to sharing information about a particular topic. During the first principal's chat, the principal will share information about our new series in mathematics, enVisionMath.

The first Principal's Chat will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the PD Room. Here is the schedule for 2010-11 Principal's Chats:

- Thursday, September 9, 2010, 6-7 in PD Room
- Thursday, October 7, 2010, 6-7 in PD Room
- Thursday, November 18, 2010 in PD Room
- Thursday, January 20, 2011 in PD Room
- Thursday, February 17, 2011 in PD Room
- Thursday, March 17, 2011 in PD Room
- Thursday, April 21, 2011 in PD Room

SMT & SSC

Give Advice & Make Decisions for Freese

Freese has two governance groups. One is the School Management Team (SMT) and the other is the School Site Council. Both groups have memberships of parents, teachers and staff members. Each year, the SMT advises the principal on the school budget and other issues concerning the school. The SSC oversees the spending of Freese's Title 1 money. Freese parents are encouraged to get involved with these groups. See Mrs. Hills, the principal if you are interested in serving on these groups. Here are the 2010-11 meeting schedules:

Date	SMT	SSC
Wed., 10/13/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 11/10/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 12/8/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 1/12/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 2/9/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 3/9/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 4/13/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/11/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wed., 6/8/10, PD Room	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

Instruction at Freese

All San Diego students will graduate with the skills, motivation, curiosity and resilience to succeed in their choice of college and career in order to lead and participate in the society of tomorrow.

--Mission Statement
San Diego Unified School District

Indeed, teaching students the knowledge and skills they will need in order to be functioning, productive citizens as adults is the reason school doors are open. At Freese, we take our charge of educating children very seriously. This page is dedicated to giving parents some information about the educational program at Freese. We encourage you to stay in communication with your child's teacher for more details on the educational program.

Freese teachers teach a California Standards based curriculum. This means each grade level teaches content established by the California Department of Education. You may see the California Content Standards by going to the following web page: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/index.asp>

Literacy

Core Curriculum in Literacy

In Kindergarten through 5th grade, Freese teachers use the **Houghton-Mifflin** reading series. Through this series, children experience lessons in reading, writing, word work (e.g. decoding, phonics, spelling, vocabulary skills, etc.), language (e.g. grammar, listening, speaking, etc.). Parents may find many literacy activities on Houghton-Mifflin's "Education Place" website at the following link: <http://eduplace.com/rdg/hmr/>

Small Group Instruction (SGI)

Freese teachers regularly instruct all students in small groups, in order to strengthen comprehension and deepen understanding. A variety of materials are used to conduct SGI, such as smaller book sets, magazine articles, the Houghton-Mifflin reading series, etc.

Scholastic Reading Counts (SRC)

All Freese students are required to read independently at school and at home. SRC is a program in which students take a quiz at school after reading a book. If the student passes the quiz, he/she gets credit for the number of words in the book. This year's school wide goal for independent reading is 120,000,000 words.

Mathematics

In Kindergarten through 5th grade, Freese teachers use the **enVisionMath** series. This is an exciting, new series with many resources available to students and parents on any computer with internet access.

At the beginning of the year, every Freese student will receive a username and password which grants access to the math textbook online, as well as a variety of resources that will be helpful in learning mathematics. The first Principal's Chat will devote some time to showing parents how to use these resources online. The sign-on page will be: www.pearsonsuccessnet.com

Science

In Kindergarten through 5th grade, Freese teachers use Full Option Science System (**FOSS**) kits and books to teach Science. Students receive instruction in life science, physical science and earth science through this series. For online interactive activities in science, go to FOSSweb at www.fossweb.com

Social Science

In Kindergarten through 5th grade, Freese teachers use the **Harcourt Reflections** social science series. K through 3rd graders learn about self, environment government systems, communities, and more. The fourth grade focus is on California and the 5th grade focus is on the United States. For more information on the social science series and additional social science resources, visit the Reflections web page at: www.harcourtschool.com/hss

Physical Education

In Kindergarten through 5th grade, Freese teachers use the **SPARK** Physical Education and Wellness program. For more information on SPARK, visit the web site at www.sparkpe.org/physical-education

English Language Development

All students classified as English Learners receive additional small group instruction in English Language Development (ELD) each day. Freese teachers use the **Systematic ELD** series, in addition to suggestions in each textbook series to teach these lessons. For more information about ELD instruction at Freese, see Ms. Debbie Smith, our English Learner Support Teacher (ELST)

Arts & Culture Magnet

(See next page.)

Arts & Culture Magnet

The Freese Arts and Culture Magnet program is very special. In a time when arts programs have been severely cut from schools, Freese students are fortunate to have a thriving program where every student experiences arts education in the areas of visual arts, music, dance and theatre. Through a variety of arts rotations, every student has the opportunity to express and expand his or her own talents.

The magnet theme is integrated throughout the curriculum. Visiting artists, actors, dancers, poets, photographers, and musicians work with classroom teachers to provide students with exposure to the arts. Trips to museums, concerts, plays, and dance performances are part of each year's curriculum as well.

Currently, Freese has more than 20 Partners-in-Education who support our magnet and provide us with opportunities for both daytime and evening activities. We encourage our Freese families to join us on these adventures to concerts, museums, theatre, and dance performances.

Current Magnet Partners-in-Education

ArtPower/UCSD
 Cal State San Marcos Center for the Arts
 Center for World Music
 Drummers Without Borders
 La Jolla Music Society
 La Jolla Playhouse
 Mainly Mozart
 Malashock Dance
 Mingei International Museum
 Museum of Photographic Arts
 Resident Artist/Araceli Carrera
 Resident Artist/Felix Diaz
 James Watts/Visual Artist
 San Diego Black Ensemble
 San Diego Chamber Orchestra
 San Diego Early Music Society
 San Diego Guild of Puppetry
 San Diego Police Department/Southeast Division
 San Diego Public Library/Skyline Branch
 San Diego State Univ./School of Theatre, TV & Film
 Stage Seven Dance
 Step Up Theatre
 Stone Paper Scissors
 The Globe Theatres
 Whole Foods Market

Arts & Culture Magnet continued

Mission Statement

Freese Arts and Culture Magnet School endeavors to provide every child with the educational skills needed for future academic and career success. At Freese, Arts and Culture are integrated with academic work to enrich learning and teach students a broader perspective of the world. Multiple measures are used to continually account for student achievement and make adjustments to deliver ever stronger educational programs that lead to greater student achievement.

Vision Statement

- *We strive to attain high academic achievement for all Freese students in all core academic areas.*
- *With parents and community, we help to develop good citizens who will grow into productive, caring members of our society.*
- *We endeavor to immerse Freese students in rich experiences around arts and culture and instill a life-long love and appreciation of arts and culture through exposure, participation and learning.*
- *We promote school/community interaction through multiple partnerships with community members and organizations and we seek to develop deep and lasting relationships with them.*
- *We endeavor to interest our students in arts and cultural activities to the extent that many will seek to enroll in schools and/or classes that focus on the arts in secondary school.*



Attendance

Tardies and excessive absences have a serious impact on students' growth and achievement. It is extremely important for students to attend school every day and arrive on time.

Students can't learn in class if they aren't in class. There is a strong link between attendance and the dropout problem.

Very young children who are frequently absent miss lessons that form the foundation for later learning. Consequently, they may not become proficient readers. The cost is high: poor and minority children with chronic absences in grades 1-4 are at much greater risk of later truancy, academic failure and dropping out.

Without a strong foundation, students often fall farther behind as they move up the grades. Catching up becomes more daunting if failures mount. By high school, students getting multiple Fs often show a pattern of skipping school because they're giving up.

We ask that all parents make sure students are on time and in school every day for the full day unless the student is ill. Please note that checking your student out early without an approved reason is recorded as an unexcused absence.

Be assured that whenever students miss school, they are missing vital curriculum. The more students miss, the more likely they are to develop "holes" in their learning that hinder their academic progress. Students with poor attendance may be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). For more information about attendance, see the following websites:

<http://www.sandi.net/programs/everydaycounts/index.html>

<http://www.sandi.net/depts/sarb/>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/tr/>

2010-11 Attendance Awards

This year, at Freese, monthly perfect attendance will be recognized and students showing improvement in attendance will also be recognized.

Perfect attendance means a student has been at school every day, all day with no tardies or leaving early.

Absences

Parents should follow these procedures when your child is ill:

1. Call school at 619-479-2727 to let us the nature of the student's illness as soon as you know your child will be absent.
2. Whenever a doctor orders your child to be absent, please submit a copy of those orders to the school.
3. Contact the teacher to see if there is work that can be made up from the absence.

Please schedule medical and dental appointments outside the school day unless your child is ill.

Closed Campus/Visitor Policy

To ensure the safety of our students, Freese School maintains a closed campus policy. Under this policy, gates will be locked during the school day. Upon coming to campus, visitors must:

- Report directly to the office
- Sign in
- Obtain a visitors badge
- Badges must be worn on site at all times

Upon leaving campus, visitors must sign out at the office and return the badge.

Volunteers must also follow the campus visitors procedures.

Street Crossing & Safety Patrol

Students are expected to use the crosswalks at all times.



The crosswalk in front of the school on Greenlawn Drive is patrolled by the 5th grade student crossing guards (Safety Patrol). The Safety Patrol are to be obeyed at all times. These students are trained regularly and monitored by our assigned San Diego Police officer.

Health Office



Staff

- Nurse: Ms. Debbie Redmer will be at Freese 1 day per week this year. Her assigned day is Wednesday.
- Health Technician: Ms. Marisol Olmos will be at Freese 5 days a week.

Medication

The "Physician's Recommendation for Medication Form" must be renewed yearly for any student who needs medication administered at school on a routine or as-needed basis. This form is completed by your physician and requires a parent/guardian signature. Medication cannot be dispensed without this authorization on file. The medication and the form need to be brought to the office by the parent/guardian.

- Short-term medication forms may be completed by a parent if a student requires a prescribed medication for 10 days or less (e.g., antibiotics).
- Prescriptions or instructions must be in English.
- Medications cannot be dispensed by the classroom teacher.
- Students may not bring medications to school to administer to themselves.

Parents are encouraged to stay in contact with Freese's health staff regarding your children's medical concerns.

Student Visits to the Health Office

A student must have a pass from a Freese staff member in order to visit the Health Office. Freese teachers are equipped with a first aid kit to address minor scrapes, so we encourage students to stay in class as much as possible. Parents should notify the teacher and the Health Office if there is a reason a student might be expected to make frequent visits to the Health Office.

About Illness



- Children with a temperature greater than 100 degrees orally or 101 degrees rectally should be free of fever (without fever reducing medication) for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school after illness.
- Children with persistent vomiting or diarrhea should not attend school until the vomiting or diarrhea has dissipated for at least 24 hours.
- Children should not attend school if they could have a **contagious disease** (e.g., strep throat, conjunctivitis). See your doctor immediately and obtain the appropriate medication. Generally, doctors recommend returning to school after a 24-hour period of medication. **Please make the school aware of any contagious illness (e.g., strep throat, chicken pox, hepatitis) so that we may alert the parents of children in your child's class of possible warning signs. Individual names are never mentioned in the correspondence sent home.**
- Children should not attend school if they have **live lice**. A child with lice must shampoo with a lice-specific medicated shampoo and show proof of such treatment upon returning to school (e.g., shampoo box or container). A parent will need to accompany the child back to school the day after treatment so that health office personnel may confirm that the child's hair is **free of lice**. The school office should be notified at the first sign of lice, so that we may alert the parents of children in your child's class (**individual names are never mentioned in the correspondence home**). If you are notified that a case exists in your child's classroom, please follow the directions sent home by the health office and check your child(ren)'s hair for lice. Quick detection and treatment will stop it from spreading to other children in the classroom and other people in your household.

Only some health concerns are covered in this section. We encourage parents to contact the Freese health office for any questions or concerns you have around children's health issues.

Front Office

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

- We encourage parents to make sure all children are on time to school every day. In the event a child is late to school, the child should report directly to the classroom if arrival is between 9:05 and 9:10. For tardies at 9:10 or later, students must report to the attendance office to get a tardy slip.
- For the sake of our children's safety, we are obligated to adhere to strict guidelines when releasing children to an adult. **All adults picking up a child before dismissal must provide us with a picture ID.** No exceptions!
- Make sure you check the "**OK to release student to above adult**" box on the registration form, for any parents and all emergency contacts you authorize to pick up your child.
- Only persons 18 years of age or older are allowed to check students out of the office for early dismissal.
- All visitors to our campus must sign in at the front office and wear a visitor's badge while on campus.
- All volunteers must complete a volunteer application and have a tuberculosis (TB) clearance in order to volunteer in schools.
- Once the volunteer application and TB clearance is completed, all volunteers must sign in and sign out in the Volunteer Binder located in the front office and wear a volunteer badge while on campus.
- Please note dismissal times and be on time to pick up your child. (**3:35 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 12:45 p.m. on Tuesdays**) There are no provisions for students who have not been picked up after school.

Discipline Plan:

Freese's Formula for Success

Parents are asked to teach and encourage Freese students to behave appropriately in school. Good behavior is critical to a positive learning environment.

What Freese Arts and Culture Magnet School Expects of Students

Students of Freese, like members of any community, have both rights and responsibilities. It is the job of the school to protect these rights and insist upon students fulfilling these responsibilities. By all members of the Freese community understanding and implementing these rights and responsibilities, learning and student achievement will be stronger and better every day. Here are expectations for all in the Freese community. All classes will discuss further what each of these expectations mean and how to implement them:

- ❖ **EXPECTATION #1 - Respect yourself.**
For example, take pride in your work, be honest, use appropriate language, take responsibility for your actions, ignore negative comments, etc.
- ❖ **EXPECTATION #2 - Respect others.**
For example, respect others' personal space and property, keep hands/feet to yourself, listen/wait for your turn, use physical/verbal self control, etc.
- ❖ **EXPECTATION #3 - Respect learning.**
For example, attend school daily, be on time and prepared to learn, participate in class, turn in completed class/home assignments, do your best in school work, etc.
- ❖ **EXPECTATION #4 - Choose to do right.**
For example, comply promptly, compromise when necessary, follow directions and rules, bring appropriate snacks, work cooperatively, etc.

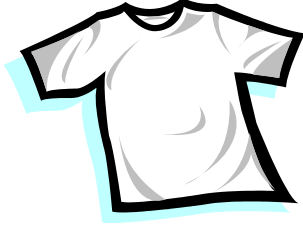
Behavioral Interventions

When a student does not respond to the discipline plan or to staff direction, a series of interventions will be used, which may include the following:

- ❖ Warning from Freese staff member with directions and opportunity for self-correction
- ❖ Student completion of a Freese Behavior Chart with a plan to behave appropriately
- ❖ Time out in a different classroom along with completion of Freese Behavior Chart
- ❖ Referral to Counselor
- ❖ Referral to Principal
- ❖ Suspension
- ❖ Involvement of Law Enforcement Officers

Dress Code

Students are expected to wear modest clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for school. Clothing must cover the body and be non-distracting.



Students must:

1. Wear closed shoes at all times. (Closed shoes cover the toe and the heel.) Tennis shoes are best for school. Sandals and high heels are not permitted.
2. Shoes with rollers are not permitted.
3. Pants must be worn at waist level. No “sagging”.
4. No hanging belts or chains.
5. Hats must be worn only outdoors and properly. Hat rims must face forward; not turned to side or back.
6. Bandanas are not allowed, neither are any clothing that promote gangs, or appear gang-related.
7. No make-up, long nails, or distracting jewelry.
8. No big hoop or dangling jewelry.
9. No large, flashy jewelry or belt buckles.
10. Shorts, skorts, skirts and dresses should come at least to mid-thigh. (No short shorts, skorts, skirt and dresses.)
11. Blouses/shirts must cover stomach.
12. Spaghetti straps, halters, cropped tops are not allowed.
13. Only messages that are appropriate for elementary school are allowed on clothing. Messages that promote sarcasm, disobedience, violence, drugs, alcohol, gangs, or any other negative message are not allowed on shirts. Plain shirts with no messages are best.

School Rules

Students are expected to:

1. Follow directions of all staff members at all times.
2. Come to school on time and remain at school until dismissal.
3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
4. Walk, never run, while on school campus except as permitted at recess and P. E.
5. Dispose of trash properly.
6. Bring only nutritious lunches from home.
7. Bring only school approved materials to school.
8. Keep school materials/property clean and free from graffiti and inappropriate markings.
9. Exercise proper hygiene by regularly bathing, brushing teeth and wearing clean clothes.
10. Use appropriate language at all times. Cursing and shouting are never permitted.
11. Treat all staff members and students with respect. Hitting, fighting, bullying, and defiance are never permitted.
12. Come directly to school in the morning. Do not stop at stores or other locations as you walk to school. Do not leave campus once you have arrived at school.
13. Go directly home or to a parent approved location after dismissal.
14. Follow the directions of the School Safety Patrol when crossing the street.

Cell Phones

Cell phone use is limited to before or after school. Cell phones must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional program, in classrooms and at lunch time. School officials may take the device away if it is being used during times not permitted.

IPODS, Digital Devices, Toys

Bring only school approved materials to school. Teachers will inform students of approved school materials, as those items vary according to grade level. Ipods, MP3 Players, Gameboys, PSP players, toys, games and digital devices are not allowed at school. Do not bring toys, games or digital devices to school.

Zero Tolerance

Freese enforces the Zero Tolerance Policy of the San Diego Unified School District. Zero Tolerance prohibits the possession and/or use of weapons of any kind on a school campus. The policy includes any objects being used as a weapon as well as weapon facsimiles (e.g. toy guns, etc.) Also, students who have been involved in repeated fighting may be subject to zero tolerance guidelines.

Bicycles and Other Wheels

Bike riding, scooter riding, skating, and skateboarding, are not allowed on school grounds at any time. Shoes with wheels are not allowed. Grades 4-5 students may ride bikes to school. You must wear a helmet and keep your bike locked in the bike rack. Students riding bikes to campus must get off the bike and walk it at all times when on campus.

Freese Song

To the tune of "You're a Grand Old Flag"

We are Freese kids and we're the best in the land
We are smart, we are kind, and we care
We work real hard and we do our part
To make our community strong

Every heart beats true for the tan and the blue
Where Freese tigers learn and grow
And everyone will always know
Freese tigers are Number One!
"GO FREESE!"

Playground Equipment Rules

Basic rules: follow the arrows – climb up, slide down, keep moving. Students must have adult supervision nearby at all times while using equipment.

1. No running, pushing, hitting, pulling, shoving, or tagging while on the equipment or pad area.
2. No standing or sitting on or on top of equipment.
3. No jumping off equipment to the pad.
4. Slide down the slide, feet first, one person at a time, getting out of the way, before another slides.
5. No spinning on chinning bars.
6. No upside down dropping off of bars.
7. No standing, sitting, crawling, lying or playing under the equipment.

Harassment

Sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated. If violations occur, disciplinary action will be taken. Any discrimination on the basis of race, creed, national origin, sex, or handicap will not be tolerated.

Freese Student Creed

We are Freese kids
And we're the very best
We will work extra hard
We won't settle for less

We will be on task
We will follow each rule
We will learn something new
Today in school

We will make ourselves proud
And our community shine
We will remember to be
Respectful and kind

We will always keep learning
Because learning is fun
Our education is important
Our education is number one



Student Arrival and Departure

Students arrive at school only through the main gate located at the front of the school, between **8:40 a.m. and 8:55 a.m.** each day—unless they are enrolled in Prime Time Before-School-Academic Programs.



Before the bell, students must line up at their designated grade level line in the front hallway. They may not wander throughout campus. Once the bell rings, students wait for their grade level to be called. When a grade level is called, students in that grade level walk through the entrance and to their classroom. Running through the hallway is never allowed.

The dismissal bell rings at 3:35 p.m. every day except Tuesdays. Tuesday dismissal is at 12:45 p.m. All students walk to the front of the school in an orderly manner with their teachers at dismissal. Students are not to leave their dismissal lines, until dismissed by teachers, to go home, to Prime Time or to pick up kindergarteners.

Kindergarten students are dismissed from their classrooms. All authorized persons - parents, as well as siblings, friends, cousins, etc. - must wait at the front gate prior to student dismissal. Waiting for students outside their classrooms is not permitted.

Freese Library Policy

In order to check out books from the library, new students and incoming Kindergartners need to have a signed parent permission slip.

Kindergarten through second grade students may check out one book at a time and keep it for one week. Third through fifth grade students may check out 2 books at a time and can renew books if they have not finished reading them.

Students are responsible for any lost books, including books checked out from other San Diego Unified Schools. If a book has been lost, arrangements can be made with the library to replace the book, so please contact the Freese Library if your child has lost a book.

Meals at School

Free breakfast and lunch are provided for our students at Freese Elementary. Breakfast is served first thing in the classroom each school day. Students arriving late to school will miss the opportunity for breakfast at school. All students receive daily a fifty minute lunch/recess time. Students may bring their own lunch from home if they wish. If a lunch is brought from home, all items in the lunch must conform to the following lunch guidelines:

- ✓ Students may bring a **NUTRITIOUS** lunch to school. Nutritious lunches include items like healthy sandwiches, vegetables, fruit or crackers.
- ✓ Items such as **GUM, CANDY, DRY NOODLES, CHIPS, CHEETOS, AND SODA are not APPROPRIATE as a lunch item.** Please do not bring these items to school.

Since both breakfast and lunch are provided inside the school day, Freese will no longer offer a snack time, so please do not bring snacks to school. The one exception will be for kindergarten students who will have a short snack time in the afternoon.



Freese Program
Coordinator: Ms.
Tamika Turner

If you would like
your student to
participate in

Prime Time and he or she is not already enrolled, complete an application ASAP, turn it in to Prime Time, and you will be informed about availability.

Applications can be obtained at Freese or at the following link:

<http://www.sandi.net/20451072011459433/site/default.asp>

A few words about Prime Time pick-ups and drop offs...

1. SAFETY FIRST – Please obey all traffic laws!
2. Prime Time drop offs and pick-ups will be at the back gate on Skyline Drive.
3. Please do not block the gate.
4. Please do not make U-Turns from a parked position.
5. Thank you for being safe.

Important Dates

2010

Sept. 7	First day of School
September 21.....	Open House
November 7.....	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 11	Veteran's Day Observance
Nov. 15-Nov. 19.....	Minimum Days/Parent Confs.
November 22 – 26	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 20 – Dec. 31	Winter Break

2011

January 3	School resumes
January 17.....	Martin Luther King Observance
Feb. 1 - Feb 2.....	OCILE for 4 th & 5 th graders (4 th – Old Town, 5 th – Balboa Park)
February 11	Lincoln Observance
February 21	Washington Observance
March 13	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 16-18....	Minimum Days/Parent Conferences
April 4 - April 8	Spring Break
Apr. 21 – May 12.....	STAR Testing Window
May 20.....	Spring Open House Festival
May 30	Memorial Day Observance
June 13.....	5 th grade Promotion
June 13	Last Day of School/Minimum Day



Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Students may be dropped off along Greenlawn Drive and should walk down the stairs near the front office to enter the school grounds. Students may also be picked up along Greenlawn Drive. Upper grade students will exit the campus by walking up the stairs near the front office. Most primary grade students will exit the campus by walking up the stairs near the bungalows on Greenlawn Drive.

The bus-loading zone is located on Greenlawn Drive between Skyline Drive and the Safety Patrol crossing area. Please do not park or drop students off in the bus-loading zone.

For safety reasons, the parking lot will be closed at the beginning and end of the school day. Please note the following times:

Parking Lot Closed: 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Mon. – Fri.
 Parking Lot Closed: 3:20 p.m – 3:50 p.m. MWThF
 Parking Lot Closed: 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays

If you need to visit campus around opening or dismissal times, please park on the street and walk on to campus, as chains will block the parking lot entrance during these times.

Additional traffic safety notes:

- Please follow the posted street signs and do not leave your car unattended in the passenger-loading zone.
- Encourage your child to obey all traffic rules.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk and instruct your child to do the same. Crossing in the middle of the street poses a grave danger for adults and children, alike.
- Tell your child to wait until you stop at the curb before approaching the car.
- Instruct your child to cross at the crosswalk if you are parked on the opposite side of the street from Freese.
- The streets around Freese are consistently patrolled by the San Diego Police Department and they will issue citations to violators.

We thank all parents who abide by the SDPD and school rules for picking up and dropping off students. Traffic is very congested during arrival and dismissal. Please continue to obey all signs posted regarding traffic, as well as the school safety patrol.

Student Recognition Programs

Throughout the school year, students have opportunities to join in numerous celebrations of achievement at Freese. Here are some of the ways we celebrate student successes at Freese:

Principal's Bonus Club – Freese students have an opportunity to be a member of the Principal's Bonus Club every month. In order to be a member, students must:

- ✓ Complete all class work
- ✓ Complete all homework
- ✓ Behave appropriately
- ✓ Have no tardies

When the teacher verifies these four things for a student, the student receives a Principal's Bonus Club card and an award pencil. Students' names will be posted on the Awards Board in the front hallway. Occasionally, members also get special bonuses such as special assemblies or other items.

Awards Assembly Recognition – Teachers can select students for Awards Assemblies, held almost every month, to be recognized in a variety of categories. In the past, students have been recognized in such areas as reading, math, science, social science, citizenship, most improved, athletics, etc. The whole school comes out for Award Assemblies. Students are called up and given a certificate for their achievement. The school sends invitations to parents when their child is slated to be recognized.

Monthly Perfect Attendance Certificate/Awards – All students who achieve perfect attendance for a month of school will receive a Perfect Attendance certificate for that month. When available, additional awards will be given for perfect attendance.

Proficient/Advanced Honor Roll – All students who achieve all Proficient and/or Advanced marks on their Standards Based Report Card will be placed on the Honor Roll. That Honor Roll will be posted on the Awards Board in the front hallway.

Reading Awards – At the end-of-the-year reading celebration, student reading awards will be displayed and reading achievers will receive trophies, medals and/or ribbons, based on their achievement. These awards are sponsored by the Freese Foundation and are based on the number of words a student has read according to Scholastic Reading Counts.

Proficient English Learner Reclassification

Celebration – Near the end of the year, English Learners who meet certain criteria are reclassified as Fluent English Proficient. In order to be reclassified, an English Learner must achieve a certain level on their CELDT test, proficient or higher marks in designated areas on their report card, and have the recommendation of their teacher. A celebration of this achievement is usually held in June.

Freese Golden Acts Tickets

This year, Freese Golden Acts tickets will be issued for exceptional positive acts that Freese staff members see students performing. A monthly drawing of the Freese Golden Acts tickets will be held in which students may win school supplies.



Hints for Success

Parents, if you have a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student, these "Hints for Success" are found in your child's planner. Feel free to discuss these points with your child any time during the year.

Homework

- ✓ Write your assignments in your planner, including the dates projects are due. Use the planner to remind you of daily assignments due and to pace yourself on longer assignments.
- ✓ Choose a quiet place to do your homework, away from the TV and other distractions.
- ✓ Try to do your homework at the same time every day—make getting it done a habit.
- ✓ Ask for help if you don't understand the assignment.
- ✓ When you finish your homework, put it in your notebook, planner, or backpack. Put your backpack in a place where you won't forget it in the morning rush to get to school.

School Work

- ✓ Listen attentively. Be aware of when your attention is wandering, and take action to refocus.
- ✓ Ask questions when you don't understand.
- ✓ Give your best effort to the work you do.
- ✓ Use your planner to keep yourself organized around your school assignments.
- ✓ Make your work neat and understandable.
- ✓ Turn in all assignments on time.
- ✓ Treat others with respect and kindness.

More Parent Involvement Opportunities

SMT/SSC

The **School Management Team (SMT)** is Freese's governance team. Its mission is to oversee all resources and services at Freese in order to maximize student achievement and establish a powerful learning environment for all students. It is composed of school staff and parents and many decisions are made on school issues. Members are elected and serve two year terms. There are five parent positions presently open for elections.

The **School Site Council (SSC)** oversees policies and budgets for our school's Title 1 funds. It is composed of school staff and parents and many decisions are made on school issues. Members are elected and serve two year terms. There are five positions presently open for elections.

Typically at Freese, a parent who serves on one group also serves on the other since the meetings are usually held on the same day, back to back. See page 2 of this newsletter to see dates and times of SMT and SSC meetings for the 2010-11 school year.

If you would like to serve on SMT and/or SSC, please indicate so by completing and returning the form attached to this edition of Freese Focus, or call the school office and ask that your name be given to Mrs. Hills, the principal to be placed on the SMT/SSC ballot. You may nominate yourself and/or someone else for the vacant position(s). All nominations should be in by Friday, October 1st. An election ballot will go out to parents after that date.

Freese Foundation

The Freese Foundation is created to support the education of children at Freese Elementary School by fostering relationships among the school, parents, teachers, and community members. Freese Foundation is a non-profit Public Benefit Corporation that raises funds to support teaching and learning at Freese. For the last two years, the Freese Foundation has purchased trophies, medals and ribbons to be given to Freese students during the end-of-the-year reading celebration. To get more information about the Freese Foundation contact President Marco Ortiz or Board Chairperson, Annette Grimes. You may leave a note for either of them in the school office. Just ask the office staff to place your note in the Freese Foundation box.

Area 1 Superintendent's Parent Committee

Dr. Brenda Campbell is the Area Superintendent for the Morse/Lincoln cluster and Ms. Shirley Wilson is the Assistant Area Superintendent. Dr. Campbell is very determined to strengthen parent involvement in the Morse/Lincoln cluster and enhance the college going culture among the children in Area 1. Dr. Campbell is looking for parents from each of the schools in the Morse/Lincoln cluster to serve on a cluster-wide parent group around these issues. If you are interested in serving with Dr. Campbell, please contact Principal Hills to let her know.

GATE Parent Representative

GATE stands for Gifted and Talented Education. All students are tested for GATE in the 2nd grade and parents are notified whether or not the student qualifies for the program. When a student qualifies for the GATE program at Freese, he/she is placed in a class where the teacher has been trained and GATE certified. The teacher then uses that training to address the learning styles of GATE students.

Every school should have a GATE parent representative for the GATE District Advisory Committee. This committee meets once a month. If you are a Freese parent of a GATE student, and you would like to serve as Freese's GATE parent representative, please contact Principal Hills to let her know.

ELAC

The English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) advises the school principal and staff on the school's program for English Learners. Look for future announcements about ELAC meeting times coming soon. Contact Debbie Smith, English Learner Support Teacher, for more information. (619) 479-2727 ext 2121.

Principal's Chats

Principal's Chats are opportunities for parents to have conversations with the principal around issues and concerns of their choosing. Principal's Chats are held monthly. To see dates and times of Principal's Chats for the 2010-11 school year, please see page 2 of this newsletter.

Parents, please check all that apply and return this page to your child's teacher. Thank you!

Email Freese Focus to me each week.

Check the box below if you want Freese Focus emailed to you each week	Write your email address in the box below if you want Freese Focus emailed to you each week.
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Parent Involvement Opportunities

Check all boxes next to Parent Involvement opportunities in which you would like to participate. See page 13 for more information on each of these opportunities

<input type="checkbox"/>	SMT
<input type="checkbox"/>	SSC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Freese Foundation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Area 1 Superintendent's Parent Involvement Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	GATE Parent Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	ELAC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Principal's Chats
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Friday (see page 2)

Parents,

Please sign below, indicating that you have reviewed this issue of Freese Focus, which also serves as Freese's Parent Handbook. Thank you!

I have reviewed the September 7, 2010 edition of Freese Focus.

Parent Signature

Your child's name:

Your child's teacher:

_____ Room # _____

Thank you for your support!

