

## **Fort Barton News – Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, September 6-Friday, September 15:** *Beginning of Year Reading (STAR and DIBELS) and Math (STAR) assessments for all students, gr. K-4.* On average, each assessment takes approximately 20-30 minutes per student (some students take less time, some students take longer). In Gr. K, Reading and Math Assessment is combined, so they will be assessed only once. Parent results will be sent home at with Term 1 Report Cards.

**Thursday, September 14:** *School Pictures by Lifetouch Photography; 6-7 pm Open House at Fort Barton*

**Friday, September 15:** *Fort Barton PTO Family Picnic – at the Fort Barton School Playground!!! 5-7:30 pm!!* Come one, come all, and meet other Fort Barton families!! We also will be collecting items for Hurricane Harvey!! More details to follow!!

**Thursday, September 21:** *6:30 pm PTO Meeting in Music/Art Room (please enter in the doors at the back of the building near the library)*

### **General Information:**

*Welcome to Fort Barton School! Please check our website for any new information. I will be sending out a weekly newsletter, called *The Fort Barton News*, on either Mondays or Tuesdays every week with general information. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at [swordell@tivertonschools.org](mailto:swordell@tivertonschools.org).*

- 1. Open House:** Our annual Open House will take place on Thursday, September 14, from 6-7 pm. Please come and meet your child's teacher for this year. Our Open House is very informal – it is a time to visit our school, tour the building, and meet your child's teacher. If you would like to ask questions about your child's progress, we invite you to either email us or call, and we'll be happy to set up an appointment with you, so we won't violate your child's privacy (being that there are so many people in attendance). Also, to help families, we will be providing a BCI service that night, in case you would like to volunteer in our classes and need a BCI check. This costs \$5. We look forward to seeing you!
- 2. School Pictures:** We will have our school pictures on Thursday, September 14. Our picture company is Lifetouch. Packages start at \$14.00 and go up. Picture information is being sent home with students today. You can pay in advance by credit card at [www.mylifetouch.com](http://www.mylifetouch.com) if you'd like. There is a special family plan: 2 children in 1 family are full price, but additional child after that is ½ price. You can select your child's

pose, put your child's name on each photo, select a background color, and select retouching if you'd like. You need to either pre-pay or pay the day of the school pictures for fall pictures.

3. **PTO:** Our PTO holds monthly meetings, some of which are scheduled at night. All Fort Barton families are automatically members (we do not have a separate membership fee to join PTO). Our PTO hosts fundraisers during year to raise money for buses for student field trips and in-school assemblies. Our first PTO meeting this year will be held on Thursday, September 21, from 6:30-7:30 pm, in our school Music/Art Room. Please park in the back of the building, and enter in the back white door near the library facing Summit Avenue. Hope to see you there!
4. **Student Biographical Updates:** Please return your child's Updated Student Biographical Informational form. We use this information for your child's school dismissal. Thank you!
5. **Updated Student Elementary Handbook:** Attached is the updated Elementary Student Handbook. Please sign and return the last page, which is also our student photo release page. Thank you! As a reminder, this handbook is also on our website.
6. **PARCC 2017:** Our students have completed the Spring 2017 PARCC assessments. I'm excited to share that Fort Barton students have again done well. In ELA (reading & writing) our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students received 67.3%, and in Math our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students received also received 67.3%. The big question is: what next? Well, here at Fort Barton, we will do with these scores the exact same thing we have done every year with all our assessment scores. We look at our student strengths, and see where in our curriculum we need to improve or move curriculum around, so we can better address any student weaknesses. We will look at new and different ways to teach, so we can reach each student and help close any academic gaps. Finally, we will look for ways to continue to challenge our highest achieving students. While this is only a small snapshot of our school, it is a glimpse into our daily workings and into what is truly important here at Fort Barton – your children, teaching, and learning. It is our pleasure and our honor. Superintendent Rearick will share more detailed results about the entire district at the next School Committee meeting, on Tuesday, September 12, at 7 pm, at THS.

I look forward to a very successful year working with you at Fort Barton School!!

Suzette Wordell, Principal     [swordell@tivertonschools.org](mailto:swordell@tivertonschools.org)