



MCVSD 51



Brig Leane — Principal
Jackie Truckey — Assistant Principal
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NOVEMBER 2017



Si usted necesita una traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5339. Estamos para servirles.

A Message From the Principal – Mr. Leane

Parents,

It is hard for me to believe that November will soon be over, as each packed day seems to fly by. Every day counts at Fruita Middle School and it is so important for your child to be at school and be engaged in the learning.

At school, our teachers help students acquire information, make meaning of that information, and try to ensure that the students can transfer their learning to future situations. We do this work to continue to build a solid educational foundation for all of our students.

A few little things you can do to help are: 1) ensuring your child reads every night, and 2) asking your child how they are doing at school, especially with their essential skills. You can see what the essential skills are on our website on the parents tab.

As you may know, we have had some challenges with our gradebook. Middle schools district-wide have transformed to reporting grades in greater alignment with our elementary schools, and we know this has been stressful for you, as well as for our teachers. Our main goal in grading is communication. If you are not clear how your child is doing in any class, please email that teacher – they will help! Thank you for your patience as we are learning and growing with this new reporting structure.

I want to thank our PTA and other participating parents who donated food for our teachers during the parent teacher conferences. While the teachers worked to ensure that parents were well-informed of their child’s progress – food was one thing they didn’t have to worry about! I met so many of you at conferences – thank you for coming and meeting with teachers. It matters!

I read a quote from the Association for Middle Level Education (2011) stating, “The realization that the education young adolescents experience during this formative period of life will, in large measure, determine the future for all citizens.” Your participation and support in the schooling of your children matters to us all. Thank you for staying involved and for helping your child be lifelong learners both at school and at home.

If you have any questions, please ask!

Sincerely,
Brig

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November

**10 -
MS In-service
No School**

**20-24 -
Thanksgiving Break**

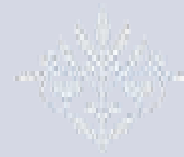
December Preview

**22 -
End of 2nd Quarter**

**25 -
Christmas Break
Begins
(Students back to
school on January
9th)**

FMS Mission

Fruita Middle School is excellence in action, where students maximize their academic potential in a safe, respectful learning environment.





Cafeteria News

Parents, if you are writing a check for your students meal account please write his/her ID on the check, if you do not know the ID number please write your students full name.

Thank you

If you have not filled a new

Meal Benefit

Application

for the 2017/2018 school year please do so ASAP. If your student is still free or reduced from last year they became full pay if a new application is not received!

You may apply online at www.applyforlunch.com or request a form from the office.

We serve
breakfast
everyday
beginning
@ 7:05 am.

Parents are always welcome to come and dine with us! The cost is just \$4.00, just send us an email if you want to RSVP. (debby.beasley@d51schools.org)

Reminder: Students must choose **at least 3 items** with their meal, which needs to include a **½ cup vegetable or ½ cup Fruit** (ex: entrée, fruit, milk), in order to be considered a reimbursable meal otherwise they may be paying A la Carte prices which could be more expensive.



APPLY FOR Lunch.com

Delicious news from your school:
Applying for meal benefits is fast, easy and free.

If you're tired of tediously filling out paper applications, ApplyForLunch is for you. Now you can apply for free or reduced-cost school meals the easy way—online.

- It's quicker, simpler and more convenient than paper applications
- You receive step-by-step help along the way
- Approvals are faster
- Best of all, the service is free of charge

Apply today at www.ApplyForLunch.com!



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

Page 3



Attendance

Each day a student is absent, parent(s) must notify the school.

Excused Absences

An in depth description is listed in the Student Planner. D51 policy states that the office must be notified of a student's absence **within two days** after the student's return to school.

Unexcused Absences

An absence is unexcused when a school official has not been contacted either by a written note or phone call from a parent/guardian (see above) or falls under the guidelines of Unexcused Absence.

Tardiness

Reasons for excusing or not excusing a tardy or late arrival are the same as the reasons as being Absent.

In the morning before school: please drop your students off near the gym.

All students will be in the gym in the mornings before school. This will be in effect for the entire year. The gym is located on the west side of the building.

HOMEWORK

REQUEST

Homework can be requested after the 2nd day of the absence. Allow 24 hours from the day of the homework request to be ready for pick-up at or after 3 pm.

Please request homework by emailing the Teacher through Parent Vue.

UPDATED STUDENT

INFORMATION

Please contact our office and notify us of changes in your work or home phone numbers, cell phone numbers and/or address throughout the year.

This information is critical in the event your child is sick, injured or if there is a building emergency.

It is also important for us to have a current list of emergency contact people on file in case we are unable to contact a parent.

Parents, as a school rule, we do not call students to the office to be picked up until the person picking them is in the office. This allows the student to have more instructional time in the classroom and less time waiting in the office. Please allow extra time to facilitate this.

If you need to get information to your student regarding bus/afterschool plans you must call by 2:15 pm to insure we have time to deliver the message.

For the safety of the students and staff of Fruita Middle School, every student who claims sickness must **visit the Health Assistant's office** before leaving the school. If you receive a text from your child, please instruct them to first visit the **Health Assistant's office before check-out.**



Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

It is our goal at Fruita Middle School for all students to achieve at high levels. We have intervention classes that assist students in making educational growth a reality.

Intervention classes at Fruita Middle School are determined every quarter by examining all students' STAR scores.

If students are having some struggles in Reading or Math, they may have an intervention class in place of an exploratory (Elective) class.

It is our hope that by the end of the year all students are learning at grade level and will have continued success at the next level.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact your student's counselor,

dean.bradshaw@d51schools.org or alethea.nelson@d51schools.org.

Reminder: Building Hours are 7:00 am to 3:15 pm

If your student is absent and you need to get make-up work, please do so during school hours or email Teachers through ParentVue.

Attendance Policy Reminder

Each day students are absent, parents must notify the school secretary between 7:20 and 8:30 am. **Parents will be contacted through FMS' Automated Dialer for unexcused absences at 9:00 am and 4:00 pm each day.**

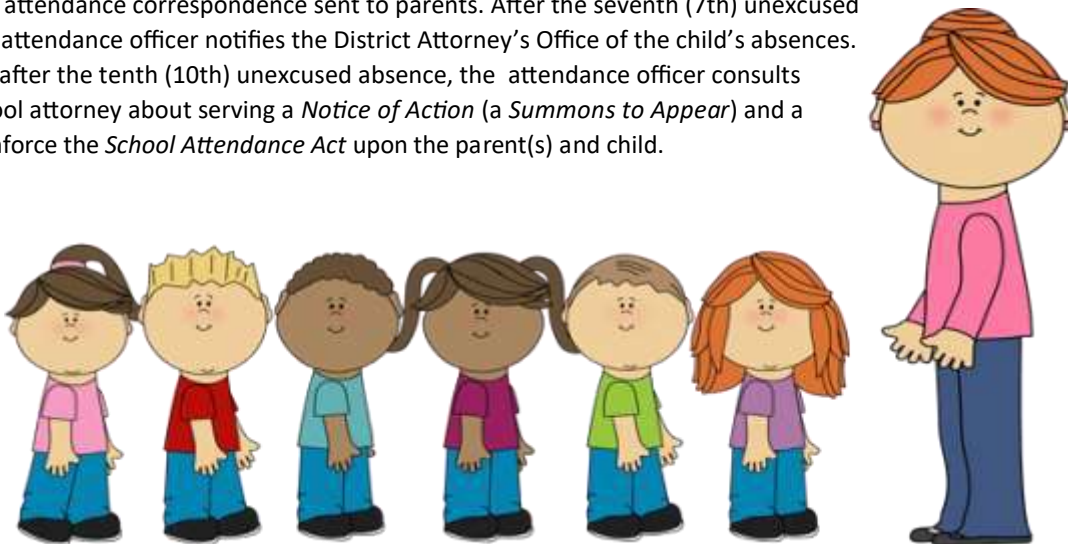
Excused absences include: illness, injury, or medical purposes; death in the family; extended physical, mental, family emergencies, or emotional disability, custody by court or law enforcement authorities, or required appearance in court. You will be excused for religious observance as per District guidelines. The District may require suitable proof regarding the above exceptions, including written statements from medical sources.

Pre-arranged absences are those in which a school principal and teachers are **notified in advance** that you will be absent. A **Pre-Arranged Absence Form** is available from the Main office and must be submitted as far in advance of the absence(s) as possible. Parents and students must realize that grades may be affected indirectly by such absences. **Unexcused absences** are those in which a school official has not been contacted either by a written note or phone call from a parent or guardian within 2 days of absence and/or the absence fails to meet the definition of an Excused Absence (see definition above). Although the school will make a reasonable effort to fulfill its obligation to communicate with the home when attendance problems arise, school attendance is the primary responsibility of the student and the parents or guardians. **District 51 reserves the right to determine whether an absence will be excused or unexcused.** Contact the school for more information.

Tardies are defined as a student who is late to school or class after the bell rings. Students will be considered absent from a class when they have been tardy, to a class, for more than 20 minutes. **The reasons for excusing or not excusing a tardy or late arrival are the same as the reason for excusing or not excusing an absence.** A parent notifying the school of unexcused absence or unexcused tardy will be listed as an UPC – Unexcused Phone Call/Contact from parent. Preapproved tardies or late arrivals due to appointments are listed as excused. Sleeping in or running late are two examples of unexcused tardies or late arrivals.

For all classes missed at school, students/parents should make arrangements with teachers and office staff in order to make-up missed work. This can be done through e-mailing teachers. Parents should contact the office before the end of the day to ensure homework is available to be picked up before coming to school. Fruita Middle School's policy for missed work is **students are given two (2) days for each day absent to turn in make-up work.** Exceptions to this policy include unexcused days and suspensions. During these times make-up work is due the day they return to school. Homework may be picked up in the main office after school on the day *following* the request.

In order to enforce the provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Law a school attendance officer investigates the causes of nonattendance. A student with four (4) unexcused absences a month or ten (10) unexcused absences during the school year is considered to be "Habitually Truant." After the fourth (4th) unexcused absence, the attendance officer receives a copy of the attendance correspondence sent to parents. After the seventh (7th) unexcused absence, the attendance officer notifies the District Attorney's Office of the child's absences. Immediately after the tenth (10th) unexcused absence, the attendance officer consults with the school attorney about serving a *Notice of Action* (a *Summons to Appear*) and a *Petition* to enforce the *School Attendance Act* upon the parent(s) and child.





Fruita Middle School
 239 N. Maple St.
 Fruita, CO 81521
 970-254-6570



Pre-Arranged Absence Form

Dear Parent:

School policy permits each student the privilege, within limits, to make arrangements **in advance** to be absent from school. However, certain criteria must exist prior to approval from the principal. Students must be in good academic standing and have good attendance including tardies. Students who are not meeting this criteria, may be denied a prearranged absence or absences because their grades may suffer from missing important academic studies. Fruita Middle School is committed to serving our students and ensuring they are receiving a quality education. We appreciate your support in understanding the purposes of these procedures.

I have reviewed the statement above and agree to maintain make-up work and alternative assignments to insure our child's continued academic progress.

Student: _____ Date of Absence: _____

Parent: _____ Reason for Absence: _____

This form needs to be taken to all your teachers so they know you have made arrangements with the attendance office. It is your responsibility to obtain all assignments from your teachers. They will give you instructions as to when you need to turn in your missing work.

Period	Teacher	Assignment	Principals Signature: _____
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			



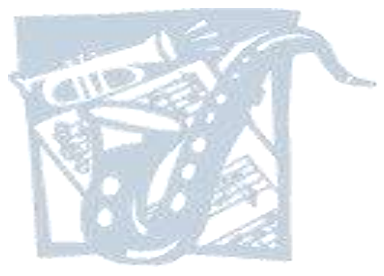
Music News



Band

Choir

Orchestra



November 17 - 18

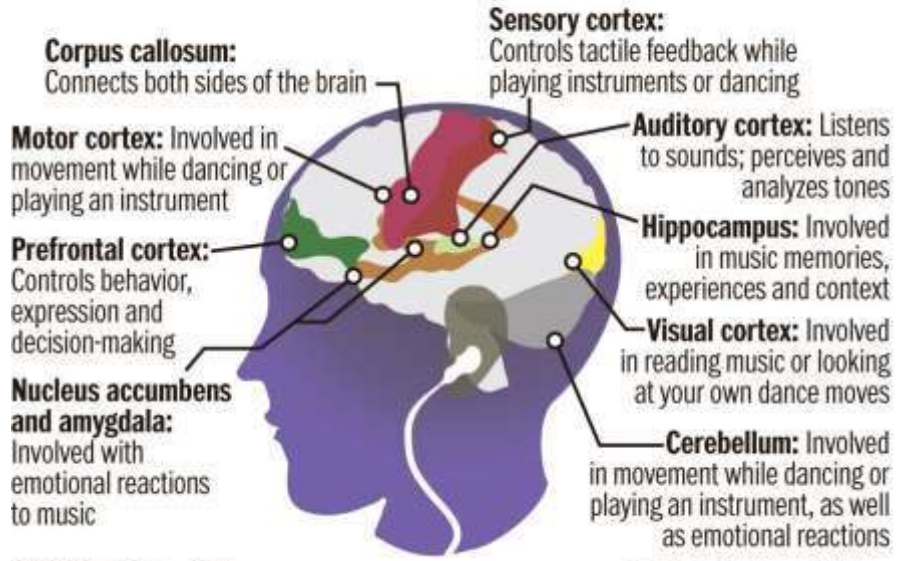
Honor Band

GJHS



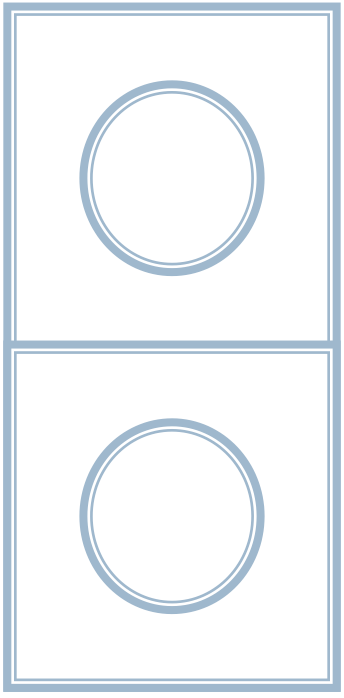
Music and the brain

Playing and listening to music works several areas of the brain



SOURCE: Music for Young Children

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC



Need extra support?

- ◆ Every Thursday, the counseling office has **food bags available** for students who need a little extra food for the weekend. Students may come by any time Thursday or Friday and grab one.
- ◆ **Are you in a temporary or transitional housing situation? Examples include:**
 - ⇒ Sharing a house with another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
 - ⇒ Living in a motel, hotel, or campground due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
 - ⇒ Living in emergency or transitional shelter
 - ⇒ Living in a car, park, public place, etc.
 - ⇒ Unaccompanied youth living with someone who does not have custody of them

If any of these apply to you, the district has many services available to support your student.

Please contact Belinda Howery at 270-6234 for more information.



**Fresh-Cut
HOLIDAY GREENERY**

Season's Greetings

Order Online at
www.helpsupportmygroup.com

Profit Potentials

Please support your Fruita Middle School
FIRST Lego League!



Get a fresh cut wreath for your door
through the holidays!

Go online to <https://helpsupportmygroup.com/group/C181997> and they will drop ship to your house any in the country.

All fundraising proceeds go directly to kids utilizing a STEM approach to robots and technology.

Thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions please forward those to Jackie Williams at:

jackie.williams@d51schools.org

School is Cool!

What an exciting time of year with fall right around the corner, cooler evenings starting to take hold, and of course, students returning to the halls of learning!

We thought it would be helpful to give parents some tips to get students back in the swing of school routines. We humans are creatures of habit, and it can be difficult to reestablish habits we haven't used for the past several months. Remember, stick with it, ease into the changes and before long it will be time for the Holiday Break!

Smooth Transitions

Regardless of your child's age, talk about back to school and all that it involves. Discuss the new things they are encountering by asking what their favorite and least favorite parts of the day were. If kids are reluctant to share this with you, begin the conversation by telling them about your day.

If children express fears or experience conflicts at school, don't rush in to fix their problems. Instead, foster their problem-solving skills by asking questions like, 'What do you think you can do about that?' Then list a few ideas with your child, and have him or her try one. Help your child assess the results and try another solution if need be. These problem-solving skills will last your child a lifetime.

Time management skills come easier when practiced. Make a habit of getting clothes and lunches ready the night before. This saves time in the morning when everyone is tired and pressed for time.

Establish good sleep routines. Insufficient sleep is associated with lower academic achievement in middle school, high school and college, as well as higher rates of absenteeism and tardiness. The optimal amount of sleep for middle school children is between 8 and 10 hours per night. If kids aren't ready for sleep when you are, allowing them to have quiet time in their rooms (without electronics) is recommended.

Stress-Free Homework Time

One way to create more order and harmony in your home is by helping your child develop good homework and study habits.

While challenging, it will be worth it in the long run when your child doesn't ask you at the last minute to help him or her finish a project! Here are some tips for homework and study time:

Make a rule in your home that the television and other 'leisure-time' electronics stay off during homework time. (This includes your own devices!)

Create a space for children to do their homework that is quiet and without distractions.

Build time for homework into your child's schedule, especially when choosing after-school activities for him or her.

Some children may need help remembering their assignments. Work with your child and his or her teacher to develop a system to keep track of assignments--such as an assignment notebook.

Remember that you are your child's first and most important role model. As you establish healthy habits, your child will generally follow suit, leading to a calmer, more relaxed home atmosphere.

As always, our Counselors and Behavior Therapist are available to help should you need further assistance with any challenges associated with getting children back in the swing of school.

For more information:

<http://www.sparkpe.org/blog/8-essential-back-to-school-tips-for-parents/>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/news/Pages/Back-to-School-Tips.aspx>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/back-to-school/dealing-back-to-school-jitters>

Submitted by: Maribeth Flanagan, LPC

Behavior Therapist

Mesa County Valley School District 51



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

fms.mesa.k12.co.us

Fruita Middle School

239 North Maple

Phone: 970-254-6570

Fax: 970-858-0486

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Frequently asked questions for parents:

Where can I get my child immunized?

Your child's primary care physician

The Mesa County Health Department, 248-6900, by appointment

The Community Services Building (29 ½ Rd. and North Avenue)

510 29 ½ Rd. Grand Junction

OR

Fruita clinic location, 248-6900

What if the first available appointment at my child's doctor's office is after school starts?

You need to give the name of the doctor and the date of the appointment to your school's health assistant or school nurse. This information will ensure that you have a plan in place to get your child the required immunization. With a plan in place, your child will be allowed to attend school.

What if we just moved and I don't have my child's immunization records?

You can call your child's previous school and ask them to fax the immunization record directly to the new school.

You can call your child's previous medical provider and ask them to fax the immunization record directly to the new school.

You can sign a plan stating that you will provide the needed record within 14 days of the start of school.

If there is no way to obtain an immunization record, you will have to talk with your child's current

medical provider or a public health nurse from the Mesa County Health Department regarding whether the immunizations will need to be given again. Then provide the plan for getting the immunizations to the school.

What is the Tdap?

This is an additional requirement, even if your child was up-to-date with all vaccinations when he/she entered kindergarten. Tdap is a Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis booster. It provides the added protection of pertussis (whooping cough) to the standard Tetanus booster. Colorado state law now requires one Tdap shot for students entering 6th grade and higher. Tdap is given only once in a lifetime.

What if our religion states that we should not immunize?

Colorado state law says that an exemption from immunizations is acceptable if parents or guardians practice a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations.

What if I personally don't believe in immunizations for my child?

Colorado state law says that an exemption from immunizations is acceptable if parents or guardians have a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations.

What if my child cannot get an immunization due to a health problem?

Colorado state law says that an exemption from an immunization or immunizations is acceptable if a licensed physician has signed a statement indicating that the immunization(s) is medically contraindicated.

Funnies



Please remind
your children
to check our
lost and found
for missing
items!





Art Club

Art club has begun! Everyone is welcome and there is no charge, up to 35 people, come and sign in. We start after school and end at 5:00 pm. All materials provided - just bring a positive attitude and your creativity.

NEW: Outside the Art room is a notice board for upcoming art exhibits, classes and contests. Check it out for the latest information.

What — Art Club where we make art for fun and learn about new materials and techniques from books, each other, visiting artists and Mrs. Baker.

When — Monday's 3:00— 5:00 pm

Cell phones are allowed at Art Club, or I have a phone in my office students can call home on. Students do not have to stay the whole time they may leave earlier or even come later after sports practice or another club meeting.

Where — Art Room students must stay in the room. Bathrooms next door but no wandering the halls, playing outside and coming in and out. Once you leave you can't come back unless it is for another school activity like tutoring, sports practice, drama practice etc.

How — No cost, no sign up needed, just show up. 35 kids maximum (no other chairs sorry) first come first serve.

Any other questions or concerns please contact Lauri Baker at lauri.baker@d51schools.org or call 970-254-6570 extension 35159.

Students have been learning the importance of having a Growth Mindset which emphasizes that dedication and hard work can change their performance which helps them to be resilient, successful students. In each newsletter, we would like to give you some suggestions for implementing a Growth Mindset environment at home. Here are some ideas for using Growth Mindset Praise and Feedback:

- ⇒ Praise what your child does, not what he or she is. **Instead of saying, "You are so smart/ clever/brilliant," say "I can see you really worked hard/ put forth effort/ tried hard."**
- ⇒ **Adopt the word "yet" into your vocabulary. If your child says they can't do something, remind him that he can't "yet" but with hard work he will have success.**
- ⇒ **Avoid comparing your child's success with siblings or friends-** achievement is not a competition. There is enough success for everyone.

Submitted by Thea Nelson, School Counselor

Attention Bicycle Riders: Please bring a lock to secure your bike during the school day to prevent theft!

Art & Writing Contests!

Doodle for Google Year Round Art Contest

How to Enter

We're excited to see some amazing doodles this year. Students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. Parents and teachers can mail us the completed entry form or submit it online as a .png, or .jpg. The contest is open for entries until December 1, 2017 at 8:00 pm Pacific Time.

Here's some information to help you get started:

1. **Download or print the entry form.**
2. **Doodle:** Have artists create their Doodles using any materials they want.
3. **Write:** Have artists write a 50-word statement describing their doodle, their message behind the artwork, or their artistic process.
4. **Fill out the rest of the required information and sign the entry form.**
5. **Combine:** If the doodle wasn't created directly on the entry form, take a digital photo or scan of the doodle and combine it with the entry form.

If you're submitting a digital entry, save the completed entry form as a .png, or .jpg.

Enter the Contest:

<https://doodles.google.com/d4g/how-it-works.html>



Download an entry form at mesacountylibraries.org

Boys Basketball Schedule

Boys Basketball has begun!

Go to the athletic tab link to see the game schedule -

<http://fms.mesa.k12.co.us/athletics/index.htm>



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 1 or 100 - No Order Minimums!



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 Choose color

DESIGN NOW ▶
MY LOCKER

Click on the link on the FMS Homepage to order today!



Mesa County
LIBRARIES

**Call or visit your public library
 to see what fun events
 they have for your Middle Schooler!**

8TH ANNUAL

CAITLYN'S CARING & SHARING

WARM HEARTS PROJECT

Caitlyn True attended Shelledy Elementary, Fruita Middle School & Fruita Monument High School. **Her nickname was always "Smiles" for the huge smile she had every day.**

She was set to graduate with the class of 2011 and her dream was to become a professional dancer. Caitlyn was killed in a tragic car accident in October of 2010.

An assignment for her high school class was to research a community cause that she felt passionately about, then create and implement an action plan community service project that raises awareness about her cause.

Caitlyn was very concerned about the students and people in the community that she saw with no warm winter clothing. Her project became known as the **"Warm Hearts Project"**. **Unfortunately Caitlyn's accident happened before the assignment was completed. Her parents** decided to finish her dream of helping others and with the help of our schools and community contacts we collected over 5,000 articles of warm clothing items for all sizes the **first year. Each year we have continued with almost this same number of donations. Caity's** dream of helping others has lived on each year as we continue to support this cause in our community and in other areas of the state and country.

The month of October and November we are continuing our collection of coats, blankets, gloves, scarves and any other winter type items that you would like to donate to this incredible project. We have placed collection boxes by the main entrance of our office so you may donate to this project. The donated items will be returned back to school children in need, teen shelter house, and various community outreach programs.

Please join us by continuing this incredible project started by a very special Fruita girl who wanted to make a difference in our community. Help us share the big smile that Caitlyn was known for by donating new or gently used warm clothes to a person in need.





**Please save and
send in your box
tops and Campbells Soup
labels throughout
the year!**

