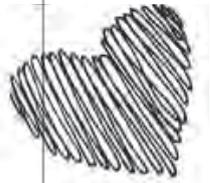


**Giving Edition nod!** After each edition, our Newspaper Clubbers read the edition front to back then vote on their favorite story. (Students can't pick their own work.) Keoni Aricayo's snowman story won Article of the Month.



# Chronicle

FEBRUARY 2016

Frontier Academy Newspaper Club | Edition 4

## This Valentine's edition ...

WE SHOW LOVE TO SOME OF FRONTIER'S EVERYDAY HEROES



AND THIS JUST IN...

### 4-day school week!

#### Hard-working school board weighs options, decides on 4-day schedule

BY KEONI ARICAYOS

The Frontier Academy Executive Committee weighs many facts to make some of the school's most important decisions. In fact, the school board recently voted for Frontier Academy to go to a four-day school week to match the secondary schedule, starting next school year.

No more school on Friday!

The new schedule allows for the same amount of instruction time as a five-day week, but students will return from summer break on Aug. 8

— earlier than the proposed five-day schedule. School days will also be 15 minutes longer.

The school board considered a lot of information on Jan. 28 before voting in the four-day schedule — a 5-3 decision. The board reviewed surveys completed by parents and teachers in January, and they also considered parent input during the meeting.

Heading into next year, school administration will continue to evaluate the daily schedule for

SEE BOARD, PAGE 3

### Frontier Academy's book hero

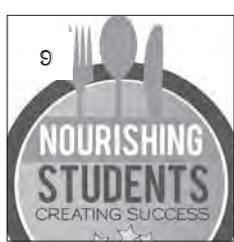
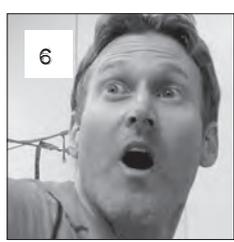
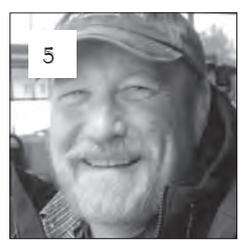
BY KALYNN JENNINGS

Inside Frontier Academy, the library is a busy place. With 700 kids bustling through the school doors every day, you would think this book-filled room would be a madhouse. But yet, this colorful library is a happy environment,

encouraging kids to achieve their dreams. Book covers plaster the ceiling, and fish swim in coral reef tanks. It's like a rainbow exploded inside the room. And who is the person behind it all? Mrs. Faulkner.

SEE BOOK HERO, PAGE 9

PAGE ...



#### Who's your school HERO?

Tell us who your hero is, plus how they've made a difference in your life. Email your nomination to [newspaperclub@frontieracademy.net](mailto:newspaperclub@frontieracademy.net).



Students ran for mayor!

PHOTOS BY ALIVEA LESCHINSKY

Frontier Academy teachers interview fourth-grade students for AmeriTowne jobs.

## Students run their own town

BY ALIVEA LESCHINSKY

The walls of Frontier Academy's 4-5 building were covered in signs — bright, personalized and in many different colors — all designed to grab the attention of students passing by before the holiday break.

Handwritten names of fourth graders covered the posters — students aspiring to become town officials during the fourth-grade AmeriTowne field trip at the Greeley Mall.

Before and during the trip, Frontier Academy's fourth-grade classes worked hard to prepare for and eventually run their own nine-business town. Students learned about banking, investing philanthropy and more. And in a way, they discovered that it takes all kinds of everyday heroes, like a mayor or a judge, to run a town.

Some of the students ran for those two positions — the reason for the many signs. The campaigning students gave informative speeches to attentive fourth

graders, who later voted on "Election Day" — just as a person would do in an actual election!

Students who didn't run for mayor or judge interviewed for other important town jobs.

Here's how it worked to fill the other positions in the nine-business town:

Students were given a list of available jobs at nine different businesses, which included a bank, newspaper, television station, radio station, medical center, container store and a sign and print shop. There was also an AmeriTowne Hall.

Each of these business had an opening for a president or manager and an accountant. There were then at least three related jobs to fill at each business. Some shops had a need for up to seven employees. Each student chose the job she or he really wanted, along with back-up choices.

Then, students prepared for their job interviews, both at school and at home.

On the big day, parents and teachers interviewed students.

Outside of the fourth-grade rooms, nervous air filled the halls as anxious students, each dressed up and with primed hair, waited to interviewed for jobs they really wanted.

"I was a little nervous," Parker Gregg admitted, "but the interview was easier than I thought."

She liked how the interviewers gave her a little time to think when she was asked a question.

Students were jealous of Mayor Milyana Garcia because she did not have to do an interview, but of course, she had a different kind of interview — one to a bigger crowd. "I already did my scary part," she said on Interview Day. Let's just say giving a speech in front of a lot of kids is no easy task.

Then, after the interviews were done, it was finally time to get down to work ...

Students had a town to run.

# Board puts in extra hours to make Frontier tick



BOARD  
FROM A1

specials and look at alternative Friday programming for families.

Most school board meetings run several hours long, and the board is made up of members who volunteer their time. A typical meeting consists of many things, like District 6 news, test score reviews and a school show-and-tell. The school board meets every Thursday once a month — sometimes more.

The longest meeting went from 6 p.m. to midnight!

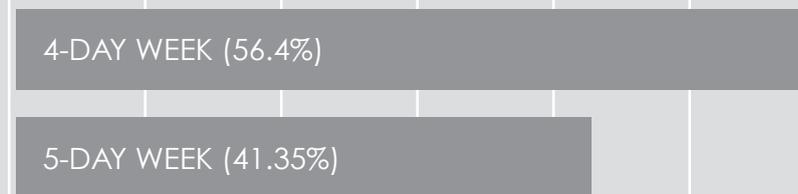
“Sometimes, it’s hard to stay awake during meetings that run that long,” says Board Member Isaia Aricayos. But, Aricayos says, it’s worth it! “We work to make Frontier Academy a better place.”

Dr. Every, the Frontier Academy principal, answers parents' questions about the four-day schedule during one of two January information sessions.

## 4-DAY / 5-DAY PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

During January, 585 parents submitted survey responses regarding the 2016-2017 calendar. Frontier Academy “scrubbed” the results for duplicate surveys, illogical responses and other factors. Of those surveys, 370 surveys were considered to be viable. Below are partial results from those surveys:

### WHICH CALENDAR OPTIONS BEST SUITS YOUR FAMILY’S NEEDS

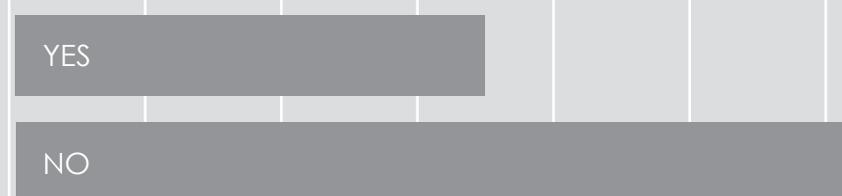


### IF FRONTIER ADOPTED A 4-DAY CALENDAR...

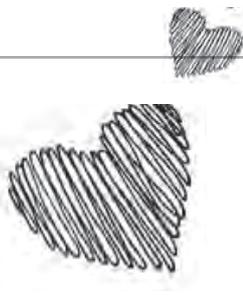
### HOW MUCH FINANCIAL IMPACT WOULD YOUR FAMILY EXPERIENCE?



### WOULD YOUR FAMILY REQUIRE FRIDAY DAYCARE SUPPORT?



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



EVERYDAY

# Heroes



PHOTO BY GUS BROOKS-JOHNSON

Mrs. Baxley, the school nurse, takes the temperature of a Frontier Academy student.

## ‘I can’t walk away ...’

### Helping others grounds school nurse

BY GUS BROOKS-JOHNSON

Mrs. Baxley is someone at Frontier Academy who most students don’t want to see because it probably means they’re at their snotty-nose worst. But that’s exactly why Mrs. Baxley is a hero. She’s there for students no matter what.

As the Frontier Academy school nurse, Mrs. Baxley cares for 35-90 students in any given day. Her job requires lots of patience and a good sense of humor. She has both, and she needs it for the times when students might cough, sneeze or even puke on her. (Yes, the last has happened!) She’s nursed broken bones, too.

As a former emergency room nurse, married to a firefighter, you might think clipping hangnails and bandaging scrapes would bore her to tears, but it

doesn’t. Caring for others has always been her top priority, no matter the severity. And even though she wants to make sure she has time to see the sickest kids, she knows every student who comes to see her — sick or not — needs something.

“Generally speaking,” Mrs. Baxley explained, “every kid needs something, whether it is a hug or encouragement to get back to class.”

And while those small acts of kindness make Mrs. Baxley a hero at Frontier Academy, she can tell you all about being a hero outside of school.

Once, when she worked in the ER, a patient came in with a collapsed lung, and she had to stick her finger inside his rib cage for 45 minutes, making her late for a date with her then-boyfriend and now-husband.

“As a nurse, I can’t walk away from taking care of a person,” she said.

No matter how inconvenient.

Often, Mrs. Baxley and her husband worked long shifts, and sometimes on holidays, the two didn’t see their kids. Eventually, Mrs. Baxley left the ER to spend more time with them, and when the Frontier Academy nursing position opened up, it was the perfect fit — a job at her children’s school.

Mrs. Baxley has passed on her caring mentality to her son and daughter. “What my husband and I do has rubbed off on them,” she says, recalling a time when her oldest helped a man who was having a seizure.

And there was another time when the Baxleys saw a vehicle on fire, and the family was able to rescue a person from the burning car.

“No matter the size of the problem, I always feel great when I can help somebody,” Mrs. Baxley said.

# Braving the cold in the name of student safety

BY OWEN HAGEMEISTER  
+ NOAH HERNANDEZ

Frontier Academy's crossing guards can tell you all about the Colorado cold — the way they can see their breath in the morning and how water drips from melting icicles in the afternoon.

Mr. Crittenden, who has been the school janitor for six years, has been one of Frontier Academy's most faithful crossing guards, working his stop sign the last five years. He's always ready with a high five for students in the K-3 parking lot.

Mr. Crittenden moved from Cincinnati, leaving his corporate job behind. When he began working at Frontier Academy, he started helping out with playground duty, but Mrs. Dougherty, the former principal, asked him to help as crossing guard. Despite the cold (he's not a fan of snow, rain or hail), Mr. Crittenden says he has another six or seven years left in him before he plans on retiring.

Mr. C isn't the only cross guard hard at work. Parents, like Mrs. Hagemeister, help keep Frontier Academy's parking lots safe as students make their way from building to car.

Mrs. Hagemeister has been helping with crossing guard duty for three years because she says she loves making new



friends.

"I love hanging out with you guys," she said. "And I love my job because it fits my schedule."

Like Mr. Crittenden, she does not like Colorado's long winters. "But once I get used to the cold weather, I can handle the winter."

Perhaps, it's their big hearts that keep them warm.



Pictured above: Mr. Crittenden gives a student a morning high five as students cross the Frontier Academy parking lot.

Mrs. Hagemeister helps with the busy afternoon crossing duty.

## Dean of Students gives 100 percent

BY SARAH HETTINGER

Even Mrs. Thompson, the Frontier Academy Dean of Students, uses the Eight Keys in her busy life. Most specifically, she follows "This Is It," always giving 100 percent.

Many students may not know that Mrs. Thompson was once a fourth-grade teacher at Frontier Academy before she became the Dean of Students. It took a lot of hard work to earn this role, and while she misses being a fourth-grade teacher, she still makes a big difference in students' lives.

Mrs. Thompson has been the Dean of Students for two years, spending nine hours a day at school. That's two more hours than students!



Mrs. Thompson

During the day, she sees anywhere from one to 10 students. She helps kids with friendship problems, homework questions and more. She's there for kids!

Remember, though, after a long day of work, she has to balance school with family, giving 100 percent to them as

well.

She has two children and one on the way. Here's a fun scoop — she and her husband plan on naming their baby girl Taya Joy!

At Link Crew, Mrs. Thompson says she gets to pass everything she has learned about giving 100 percent to this group of students, who help with school assemblies, Grandparent's Day and much more.

"My favorite part about Link Crew," she says, "is getting to see students grow and become great leaders." The kind who give their all in every moment.

# Turning kids into warriors

BY QUIN BARTON

Mr. Boettcher, the Frontier Academy gymnasium teacher, knows all about creating heroes. He helps mold the American Ninja Warrior kind. Through his after-school program, Fast First Step (FFS), he combines fun and fitness together to make hard-working athletes.

Mr. Boettcher's popular "American Ninja Warrior" course, an aerial course of sorts, takes three solid hours to build — evidence that this Frontier Academy teacher is one of the school's many everyday heroes.

FFS is so popular, Mr. Boettcher is looking at building a new gym in the empty lot behind the current gymnasium. (Watch the Academy Chronicle for more information to come!) Meanwhile, here is a little fact that might surprise you about Mr. B... he didn't always teach gym. Once upon a time, he was a science teacher!



Mr. Boettcher

PHOTOS BY QUIN BARTON

A Frontier Academy student puts a little extra muscle into Fast First Step during one of Mr. Boettcher's aerial courses, a student favorite.



# Principal Dr. Every 'works hard to play hard'

BY NATALIE FURISTER

Believe it or not, Dr. Every could not read by the end of first grade, but hard work and his love for education changed all of that. Now, he's Frontier Academy's principal. This is his second year as principal and his 10th year in the profession. Being principal can be demanding, (he puts in 60 hours a week), but Dr. Every says it's worth it.

Even though he works hard, he still has fun! Every day, he wears bright-colored clothes, like flamingo shoes and a bow tie! Dr. Every said he dresses this way to inspire creativity. He also camps, plays video games and does community service.

But how did he become so fun?

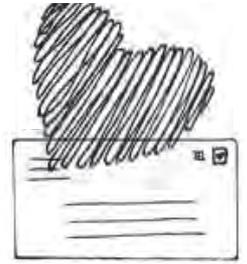
"You have to work hard to play hard," Dr. Every explains.

Even at home, he mixes the two, working hard and playing hard to take care of his family, including his one dog and two cats. His dog's name is Vernie, and his cats are Ruby and Jack.



PHOTO BY NATALIE FURISTER

Dr. Every sports his usual bow tie and Converse shoes as he talks with Mrs. Faulkner.



Mrs. Dolifka is always full of smiles while working in Frontier's 4-5 front office.

PHOTO BY  
ISAIAH BROCE

## Mrs. Dolifka's everyday office heroics

BY ISAIAH BROCE

The phone rings. Mrs. Dolifka, the Administrative Assistant in the Frontier Academy 4-5 building, pauses from her typing to answer the phone in a soft voice.

Working in the office is a busy job. She's constantly scooting around in her chair, left to right all day. Mrs. Dolifka answers the phone when it rings, types

quickly on the computer and helps visitors as they come in.

For 10 years, she's worked in the noisy, loud office, and she says she loves it. She starts her day at 7:30 a.m. and leaves at 3:45 p.m.

Outside of school, she works at a real estate company during the weekends. She also has two "graceful and peaceful" boys. You might be surprised to learn that she once lived in a bright red barn

with all of the objects of a house in eastern Colorado.

Frontier students appreciate all that Mrs. Dolifka does.

"Mrs. Dolifka is the nicest person in the office," Leah Hernandez says.

Jordan Blum agrees. "She's a hard-working, trustworthy person."

And Sarah Luark appreciates Mrs. Dolifka's tardy slips. "She gives them out so I'm not late to class!"



## One of Frontier's helpful heroes ... meet Mrs. Maxey

BY ALIVEA LESCHINSKY

Mrs. Maxey is a fourth-grade hero! She may look like an ordinary teacher, but students say she has extraordinary powers.

First of all, she helps make sure the fourth-grade teachers have everything they need to teach, and if they don't, Mrs. Maxey is there to help fill the void. Just ask her about making copies!

But out of all her helpful powers, teaching is where she shines the most. She's always there to answer students' questions, and she says she loves her job because she gets to spend her time around kids.

PHOTO BY ALIVEA LESCHINSKY

Miss Maxey poses with her children, Frontier Academy students, for her hero portrait.

# Monet's Garden inspired the start of newspaper club

BY KYLIE SPEER

"Alright, newspaper clubbers stories are due today," says Mrs. Speer as she returns edited stories back to the Academy Chronicle students.

The articles, turned in early, are marked up with ink along with Mrs. Speer's words of encouragement to become better writers.

After handing out the papers, she spends a few minutes with each student, helping them decipher her notes. Then, everyone is busy typing away, usually up to the last minute of newspaper club.

Mrs. Speer, a parent volunteer, started Frontier Academy's newspaper club this year. Her daughter, Kylie, is a first-year student at Frontier. She's in Miss Churchill's third-grade class. When Mrs. Speer went to orientation with her daughter, she saw Monet's Garden, and Mrs. Speer knew that "anyone can make anything happen at this school." She decided she wanted to use her volunteer hours to inspire young writers.

To start the club, she had to get approval from Dr. Every, the school principal. Then, she got a background check, just like a substitute teacher would. Mrs. Speer used to dream of being a teacher when she was a kid, but she became a writer instead, which she also loves.

Mrs. Speer now works at an advertising agency, but before that she worked at the Greeley Tribune for five years and then the Rocky Mountain News for three years. She was even a sports editor!

Mrs. Speer says her favorite article was about the homeless. (She spent two nights and three days living with them.) She also got to interview actor Tim Allen for a magazine story! He was in *The Santa Clause* movie, and he was also was the voice of Buzz Lightyear from *Toy Story*!

In newspaper club, students learn how to write. But that's only just the start. They learn responsibility (showing up for an interview), typing (Mrs. Jones lets reporters use her tech room) and how to interview (asking



The Frontier Academy newspaper club toured the Greeley Tribune before the holiday break. The 17 newspaper club students rode in a limousine!

questions can be hard!).

She loves all of the students because they work so hard, and Mrs. Speer feels inspired because she sees how they've grown as writers.

"There are days when I feel like a real teacher, instead of a parent volunteer," Mrs. Speer said. "I especially felt that way when students gave me a gift card to Starbucks at Christmas, thanking me for teaching them. It meant a lot."

Around Christmas time, Mrs. Speer and Mrs. Faulkner, the school librarian who also helps with club, took the entire newspaper crew (17 students!) to

tour the Greeley Tribune. They rode in a sparkling, white limo, which the Speer family paid for as a special treat. The ride was fun with music booming and the radio station changing every five seconds. Mrs. Speer wanted the clubbers to see the Greeley Tribune, hoping to inspire future writing careers.

As a parent volunteer, Mrs. Speer has to leave her work at 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday to drive from Fort Collins to teach newspaper. Every month, an edition comes out, and it takes almost an entire weekend each month to lay out the paper. It's a lot of work, but she says her reporters are worth every second.



## Want to be a reporter?

Interested in joining newspaper club?  
Email Mrs. Speer to learn more at  
[newspaperclub@frontieracademy.net](mailto:newspaperclub@frontieracademy.net).



PHOTO BY KALYNN JENNINGS

Mrs. Faulkner poses with a book in the Frontier Academy library.

## ‘She simply likes helping kids’

BOOK HERO  
FROM A1

Seeing her work is like watching a bumble bee collect pollen from flowers. She is an energetic, enthusiastic, creative teacher who has one main goal — to develop kids’ love for books and their enjoyment of reading, which will carry on with them for a lifetime.

From old dusty books to shiny new ones, Mrs. Faulkner is the person who passes books from the library shelf into students’ hands.

But checking out books is not all that she does. She helps out with Reading Counts, Battle of the Books, CABA (Carry a Book Always), book fairs, book swaps and pretty much everything involved with reading.

She sacrifices her time in other ways, helping patrol driveline and organizing special school festivities, like the annual hot chocolate event. And she arrives to school — at 6 a.m.!

— and is one of the last ones to leave.

During the summer, she opens up the library to let students check out books to read, and she makes summer reading fun by giving popcorn and popsicles to students.

Long before Mrs. Faulkner became the librarian, she was a stay-at-home mom and eventually her three children attended the school. During that time, she had a grand attitude for volunteering, helping run book fairs and read-a-thons.

Then, Frontier Academy bought the old carpet store building, today’s 4-5 building, and the front area became the school library. In 2003, Mrs. Faulkner was offered a position as the school librarian, and she has been working hard ever since.

Mrs. Gesick, a specials para, calls Mrs. Faulkner an everyday hero. “She makes reading a fun environment for kids to be in,” she says. “And she does it because she simply likes to help kids.”

## Meet our tech hero — Mrs. Jones



Mrs. Jones

BY HAVEN SUNVISON

Mrs. Jones’ heart has always belonged to teaching. Her career started a long time ago ...

Before she was ever Mrs. Jones, she was a Miss and she spent five years teaching first graders. Then, she got married and had children — a son and a daughter. She home schooled them for many years until they decided to go to Frontier, where the school was hiring a tech teacher. She took the job and began teaching in the morning. Now, she teaches all day.

Mrs. Jones has been her two years, and she wants to stay here as long as she can.



## See that lunch tray ...



## ‘Lunch Ladies’ work long hours to fill trays and kids’ tummies

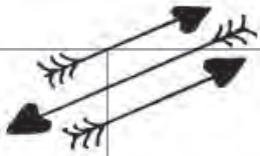
BY COLLIN CODDING

The Frontier Academy cafeteria is filled with all sorts of wondrous smells — breakfast in the morning and the last hints of lunch in the early afternoon and all thanks to a few hard-working women.

The “Frontier Lunch Ladies” start cooking at 5:30 a.m.! Some food takes 15-20 minutes to cook, while other meals require more than an hour of preparation.

Sometimes, they admit, they get tired after cooking for more than 700 hungry students, but they love providing healthy meals, which is why they don’t like when students throw away food. In fact, they’re especially happy when someone appreciates the food they spent hours cooking.

The Lunch Ladies, each who have been here several years, also serve the food, and when breakfast and lunch are over, they make sure the cafeteria is clean for the next day. Their days usually end a few hours after lunch. So next time, students, if you eat school lunch, think of how much time and effort went into your food.



Valentine's Day craft ideas

# Academy

INSPIRATION

A10 Academy Chronicle

February 2016



SWEET STAINED GLASS

## Handcrafted with love ...

Get crafty and give someone  
in YOUR life a sweet treat

BY KALYNN JENNINGS

It's that time of year to start thinking about the people you love. Here at the Academy Chronicle, we thought we would share some Valentine's Day craft ideas that are inexpensive, environmentally friendly and the perfect gift to give! One craft is for the person who makes your life sparkle, and the other gift will make someone's life extra sweet.

*"It's not how much we  
give but how much love  
we put into giving."*

— Mother Teresa

*This gift requires adult supervision!*

#### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- A package of hard candies (Jolly Ranchers work nice)
- Metal cookie cutters
- Non-stick cooking spray
- Wax paper
- String

**STEP 1:** Preheat your oven to 350 degrees F. Put wax paper on a baking sheet, then lay the cookie cutters on the paper and spray the inside of the cutters with non-stick cooking spray.

**STEP 2:** Place the desired color candies in a plastic bag and smash the candies into small pieces. Place a layer into the bottom of the cookie cutter. If you are using different colors, crush them separately so that the colors don't mix.

**STEP 3:** Bake for 7-9 minutes. Keep an eye on the candy as it melts, removing it from the oven when the colors have melted together.

**STEP 4:** Spray a toothpick with cooking spray and use it to make a hole in the melted candy to add a string (Step 5). Let the candy sit inside the cookie cutter until it hardens.

**STEP 5:** Once it's hard, carefully stretch out the cookie cutter, pulling it away from the candy to pop it out. (Don't be rough, or it will break). Insert a piece of string through the hole and tie it to make a loop. Now, you're finished! Your loved one has a sweet, edible suncatcher.

# GLITTERY FLOWERS



**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:**

- Toilet paper rolls (2)
- Elmer's glue
- Scissors
- Paint, glitter and decorating supplies

**STEP 1:** To make this gift, start by cutting the toilet paper rolls into three pieces per roll.

**STEP 2:** Then press down on the individual rolls so that they lay flat.

**STEP 3:** Put all the six pieces together in a star shape, then glue their corners together.

**STEP 4:** Let the glue dry, then decorate the star. To make it extra special, add a little paint and some glitter.

**STEP 5:** Once you're done decorating your flower, tie a string through one of the loops, and *voila* (wa-lah), you're done!



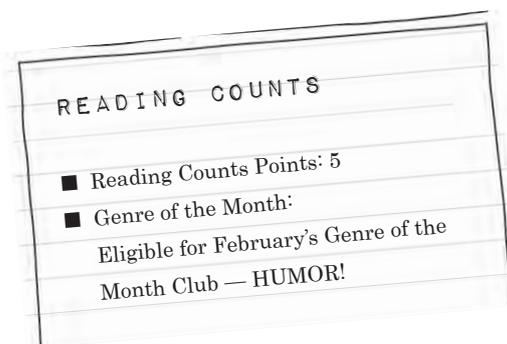
## BOOK review

*Big Nate: From the Top,*  
by Lincoln Peirce

BY KATE MYERS

It's no wonder Nate Wright is a hero to underdogs everywhere. This 11-year-old character has a lot up his sleeve! From bothersome pals to uncooperative dogs, Nate has a trick for every problem — well, almost every problem.

Nate tells his story from the top of the troublemakers' list, where he is proud of his school record for holding the most detentions in a day. If you want a great laugh, enjoy the view from the top with Big Nate and his book of comic strips about the many aspects of school life.



Speaking of inspiration ...  
our two Christmas Jars  
stories tugged at hearts.



**YOU VOTED!**  
Last edition's best charity!



FRONTIER

# Spirit

A12 Academy Chronicle

January 2016



Frontier's special guests

PHOTOS BY ALIVEA LESCHINSKY

## An extra dash of assembly spirit

BY ALIVEA LESCHINSKY

The Frontier Academy spirit was kicked into high gear during December's assembly thanks to holiday spirit, exciting news and special guests. The Link Crew rushed around the gym like scattering mice, trying to contain the spirited students.

When the assembly started, Dr. Every, Mr. Long and Mr. Schlender each played a guitar as students and teachers sang *Rudolph the Red-Nosed*

*Reindeer.*

The festive spirit was sprinkled throughout the classes. Miss McBrien's class came to the assembly wearing Christmas headbands — Santa hats, reindeer antlers, Christmas trees and colorful presents.

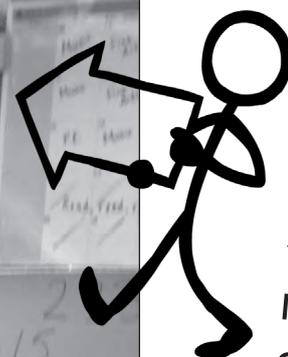
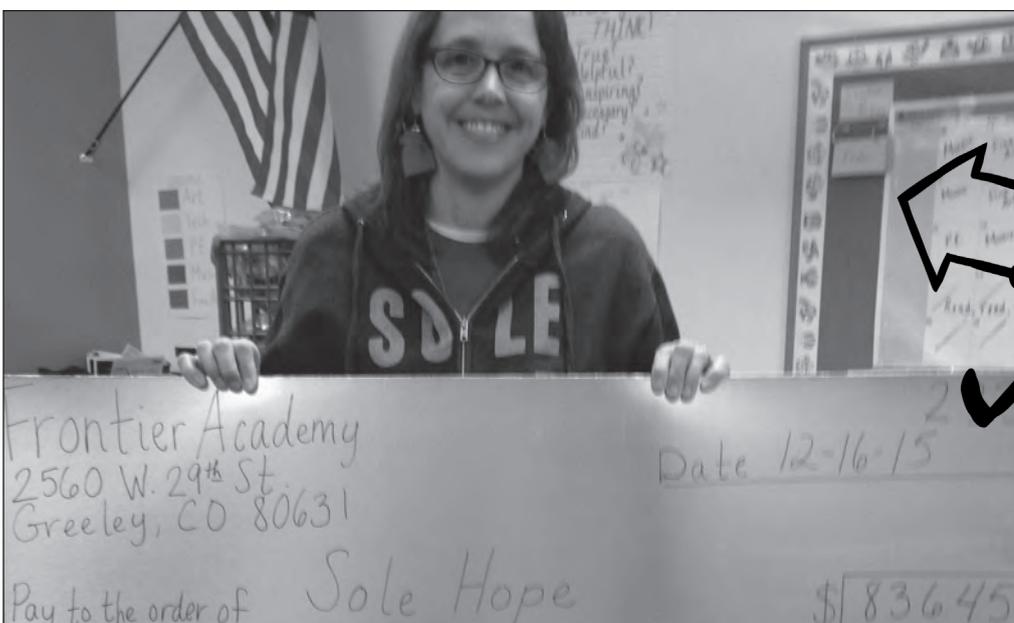
After the holiday excitement, Mrs. Thompson gave out awards. There was so much cheering it seemed the gym would explode!

After a few minutes, the crowd settled down to welcome Frontier

Academy's special guests, the Greeley Police Department. Officers came onto stage and told students about their jobs and how to be safe this holiday season and into the next.

The assembly ended on Frontier Academy's most spirited news — students helped Mrs. Fanning raise \$836.45 to take with her to Uganda during her Sole Hope trip on Jan. 22.

Then, all the classes left the gym, and everything was silent again. Even the Linked Crew scattered away.



Frontier raised \$836.45! The money will help Sole Hope make 83 shoes ...