



one school
one book



March is Reading Month in Fort Calhoun!

Dear Families,

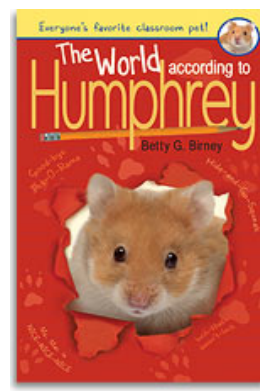
It's time for March Reading Month! Actually here at Fort Calhoun Elementary School, every month is reading month! However, March is VERY Special!!!!

In cooperation with our PFE officers, parent members and the entire Fort Calhoun Elementary Staff, we are thrilled to announce the kick-off to our **"One School One Book"** Reading Campaign 2014!

Our building's adoption of this program began 3 years ago, as a way of continuing our school's vision in helping students to build rich literacy skills at home as well as school. Every family is encouraged to purchase and read the same book, at the same time. Engaging families in the joy of reading quality literature with each other and completing fun, challenging and enriching activities for one calendar month.

Research has repeatedly shown *"The benefits of reading aloud are remarkable! Reading to children helps them to listen eagerly and longer, builds bigger vocabularies, helps them to understand concepts better and to develop positive feelings about both books, learning and more! When an entire school community reads the same book, the buzz and excitement around the book being read, increases these benefits and there is the added joy of building community in the school family."*

This year the PFE and elementary teachers selected a fun, playful, enjoyable story called: ***The World According To Humphrey***, by Betty Birney. (See above).



"The World According to Humphrey"
by Betty G. Birney.

In a nutshell, here is how this works. In your child's Thursday folder (Feb. 20), you will receive an order form for the book. **The cost of the book is \$4.80. The PFE will donate \$1.80 to each book purchased, so the total cost per family will be \$3.00 per book!** PFE has scholarship money available, so if your family is interested in participating in this **One School One Book** Campaign, but need monetary assistance in purchasing the book, please contact Mrs. Hansen at: ahansen@ftcpioneers.org so we can help!

Each evening (Monday through Thursday) you are invited to read aloud a designated chapter(s) from the book to/with your child/ren and complete any optional activities, which will be included in your initial packet. Upon completion of each week's chapters/activities **Parents sign** that week's **certificate** and **send back the completed certificate** with your child.

Your child will place the weekly proof of completion certificate in “**Humphrey’s cage**” in the **office at school**. This **certificate turn- in** (each week), will allow your child a chance at winning a “Humphrey” at our PFE Carnival in April!!!!

Also, many additional culminating activities will be suggested for your child/ren to complete as well!

*Please send any/all of those “extra” activities your family completes weekly to school with your child’s Name, Grade, and Teacher’s name on them, to Mrs. Angela Hansen, Reading Specialist/Title Reading Teacher. All “extra activities and projects” will be displayed in our school for everyone to enjoy!!!

*In addition, each morning on announcements the students will be asked to answer a trivia question about the previous night’s reading. Homeroom teachers will submit the class’s answer and homerooms will have the opportunity to earn an extra recess for the most correct answers during the month.

*A calendar of assigned reading chapters and activities will be sent home in a baggie with your family’s ordered copy of the book.

Please watch for the upcoming “Hints” of Humphrey’s arrival at Fort Calhoun Elementary School!

Reminders:

- Book order forms will go home Thursday, February 20, 2014. Orders due by Feb. 28.
- Reading begins *The World According to Humphrey*—March 10th through April 7th, 2014.
- April 11, 2014 PFE Humphrey the Hamster Carnival and lucky hamster winners chosen!

For more information on the Humphrey Series and to meet the author visit:

<http://www.bettybirney.com/humphreyville.html>

<http://www.bettybirney.com/>

<http://www.funwithhumphrey.com/>

Happy Reading!!

Sincerely,

The Fort Calhoun Elementary School PFE Committee, Cheryl Miller, Julie Pohlad and Angela Hansen, Reading Specialist, at the Fort Calhoun Elementary School



“Humphrey’s views underscore the importance of knowing the full story before making judgments, and his presence makes a positive difference in the lives of the people he meets.”

—School Library Journal (about *The World According to Humphrey*)

“Humphrey, a delightful, irresistible character, is big hearted, observant, and creative, and his experiences... range from comedic to touching.” —Booklist (about *The World According to Humphrey*)

#1: The World According to Humphrey...

In the first book of the series, Humphrey learns to read, write, shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course), turn off TV’s, teach English as a second language and more. With a lock that doesn’t lock and an adventurous spirit, what more could a mischievous hamster want?

Related Topics: Responsibility, Understanding Differences, Language, International Studies, Coping with Change, Teacher/Student Relationships and Family.