



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 once again announce the kick-off to our **"One School One Book"** Reading Campaign 2015!

Our building's adoption of this program began 4 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, realistic, thought-provoking novel called: **"Lunch Money"** by Andrew Clements. In a nutshell, here is how this works. In your child's Thursday folder



(February 19), you will receive an order form for the book.

The cost of the book is \$4.50. The PFE will donate \$1.50 to each book purchased, so the total cost per family will be **ONLY \$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 **"Greg's Piggy Bank"** in the **office at school**. This **certificate turn-in** (each week), will allow your child a chance at winning prizes 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 closely for upcoming "Lunch Money" events each week at Fort Calhoun Elementary School!



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REMINDERS:

- Book order forms will go home Thursday, February 19, 2015. Orders due by Monday, March 2, 2015.
- Reading begins "*Lunch Money*"—March 16th through April 17th, 2015.
- April 17, 2015 PFE "*Lunch Money*" Carnival and winners chosen!

For more information on "*Lunch Money*" and to meet the author visit:

<http://www.andrewclements.com/index.html>

<http://www.andrewclements.com/books-novels.html>

<http://content.moneyinstructor.com/656/ways-kids-make-money.html>

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



"Lunch Money"...by Andrew Clements

Greg Kenton has always had a natural talent for making money ---despite the annoying rivalry of his neighbor Maura Shaw. Then, just before sixth grade, Greg makes a discovery: Almost every kid at school has an extra quarter or two to spend almost every day.

Multiply a few quarters by a few hundred kids, and for Greg, school suddenly looks like a giant piggy bank. All he needs is the right hammer to crack it open. Candy and gum? Little toys? Sure, kids would love to buy stuff like that at school. But would teachers and the principal permit it? Not likely.

But how about comic books? Comic books might work. Especially the chunky little ones that Greg writes and illustrates himself. Because everybody knows that school always encourages reading and writing and creativity and individual initiative, right?

Related Topics: Responsibility, Understanding Differences, Problem Solving, Coping with Change, Teacher/Student Relationships, Conflict Resolution and Entrepreneurship