

April/May 2009

Superintendent's Office

As I look outside there are glimpses that spring is close to arriving, the calendar says that spring officially started on March 20th and hopefully that means warmer weather is near. We have begun the 4th quarter of the year and that is usually the busiest quarter of the year in terms of extra activities. Please remind your student that if they are going to be gone from class for activities or for any other reason, they need to check with their teacher(s) get their work and make sure that they do not fall behind. It is a lot harder to stay inside after school "catching" up when the sun is shining and the weather is nice.

2009/2010 School Calendar

We are currently working on the Calendar for the 2009-2010 School Year and our hopes are to present it to the Board of Education at their May 11th meeting. We are trying to coordinate the start of school to ensure that the construction at Hayward will be complete and we will have everything in place when students and teacher arrive for the start of school. When the final calendar has been approved, we will post that calendar on the district website, get information to the News-Press and KNCY for dissemination to families and use as many of our normal methods as possible to inform families of the new calendar .

Legislative Update

The session is currently just past the half way point of the session and discussion is centering on the Federal Stimulus monies and how that will impact State, County, City, and School District Budgets. State Aid to Education in a typical year is set to be certified to School Districts by February 1st. This year that date was moved to April 1st and has now been moved to June 1st as everyone tries to figure out and evaluate the Stimulus package. There are currently several plans being discussed in Lincoln. The Governor has his plan, the Appropriations Committee is developing their plan, and the Education Committee is providing their input into the discussion. The Appropriations committee is required to bring a proposed budget to the full body of the Legislature by the end of April, so we should be receiving more information in the upcoming weeks.

Dr. Edwards

High School

3rd Annual Registration Event

A big "Thank You" goes out to all of the High School Parents and Students who attended the 2nd Annual Registration Night on March 18-19, 2009. Attendance was over 94% and many positive comments were made about the process. Please look for this to become an annual event to register students for the following year and discuss academic progress. We did realize our goal of working to create better school to home communications. Great Job!

8th Grade Orientation

An orientation for 8th grade students that will be freshmen next year is set for April 20, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the High School Auditorium. All students moving into the 9th grade next year are encouraged to attend with their parents. Registration information will be provided at that time.

Senior Alert

Seniors should be reminded that graduation is just around the corner. Seniors should also be reminded that all community service, detention, and fees and fines need to be cleared up for a positive graduation status. If there are questions about this please contact Mr. Hoover.

Criterion & Norm Testing Events

Many students will participate in required testing during the months of March and April at Nebraska City High School. On April 1st Sophomore students will be taking CRT Tests. Other CRT Assessments in Science will be conducted during the months of April and May. On April 1st all students will be dismissed at 11:30 AM.

Early Dismissals & No School

Students will be dismissed on April 7th at 11:30 AM as we will be hosting the Nebraska City Track Invitational. Also, on April 24th & 25th Nebraska City High School will be hosting the District Music Contest. There will be no classes held for 9-12 grades on the 24th.

Semester Tests

Students will be taking semester tests on May 19 and 20, 2009. We will again operate the testing schedule with 75 minute testing blocks for each class period. Students are required to attend all tests or a zero will be recorded unless their absence is cleared through the office in advance. Students will have open campus during testing once again. The school administration is hopeful students will again approach this opportunity in a responsible manner so this can become a tradition. If inappropriate behavior is noted such as illegal parking and driving, tardiness to tests, or acting in a disorderly manner this privilege will not repeat itself. Please talk with your students about appropriate behavior during this time.

Testing Schedule

Monday, May 19, 2009
Periods 2, 4, 6, 8

Tuesday, May 20, 2009
Periods 1, 3, 5, 7

Seniors Last Day

The last day for Seniors will be May 6, 2009.

Graduation Practice

Seniors will be practicing for graduation and having the annual Senior Assembly on May 6, 2009 at 8:00 AM in the Auditorium. All Seniors with a positive graduation status will be required to attend. This includes mid term graduates.

Community Service

Students and parents should be reminded that students must complete 30 hours of community service to be eligible for a positive graduation status. Students needing community service hours should contact the school office to get a list of organizations that need help around our community. To gain credit to meet the 30 hours of community service students must complete the service in our community, it must be outside of school hours, and it must be an unpaid service. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in the necessary forms to get credit for the service rendered. Questions may be directed to Mr. Hoover at NCHS.

Detention Time

Students that have been assigned detention time since the beginning of the second semester need to make sure they are getting their time completed. Additional detention opportunities will not be produced for students that procrastinate this requirement. The time to act is now and not at the last minute in May!

Academic Awards Night

Academic awards night is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2009 at 7:30 PM. Please mark this on your calendar so we can honor our students in all academic areas as they deserve.

Driver Education

The classroom sessions will start on Monday, June 1st and go through Friday, June 5th from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM each of those days at Nebraska City High School. There is a limited number of students that can be enrolled so please sign up and pay the entry fee as soon as possible. To take the class students must be 14 years old by June 1st, 2009. To get credit for the class students may not miss any classroom sessions and must pass all course requirements. Registration information may be obtained by calling Nebraska City High School at 873-3360

Summer School

Nebraska City Public Schools will be offering for the 9th time a summer school opportunity for students that need and would like to recover credit that they may have lost. The summer school opportunity will be approximately 5-6 weeks for 3 HRS a day. Students will work with computerized instruction with several different core course opportunities. If you would like to participate in a credit recovery summer school opportunity, please obtain registration forms at the High School or Middle School. Students in Middle School and High School will be eligible.

Report Cards

Reports Cards may be picked up Wednesday, May 27, 2009. Report cards not picked up will be mailed home after that date.

Our Last Day of School

The last day for students will be May 20, 2009.

Saturday School

The Saturday School for April/May will be held on April 18 and May 2, 2009 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 NOON at Nebraska City High School.

COMMENCEMENT SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2009 1:00 PM

Fine Arts Awards/Art Show

The Annual Fine Arts Awards Night is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2009 in the high school auditorium. The program will begin at 7:30 PM. Please make sure you also stop into the gym and observe the Art Show that will also be in progress.

Spring Musical 2008

Please mark your calendars to attend the Spring Musical at Nebraska City High School. The musical will be performed on May 1st & 2nd in the High School Auditorium. For more information please contact Director Meri Meredith at 873-3360.

JR/SR Prom/After Prom

The Jr/Sr Prom is set for April 4, 2009 at Nebraska City High School. The 2009 After Prom Party is scheduled to be conducted from 12:30 AM to 4:30 AM. Jr/Sr students as well as Mid Term Graduates are invited. Students must sign up at NCHS prior to April 3rd. Students and parents are reminded that once students are at the after prom they will have to sign out to leave before 4:30 AM. No students will be allowed to return to the After Prom Party once they leave. Questions may be directed to the after prom sponsors.

HS Lunch Account Balances

Parents and students should be reminded that students are not allowed to charge lunches that make their accounts go to a negative status. If your lunch account is negative please make a point to get it into a positive status as soon as possible. Questions can be directed to the school at 873-3360.

This and That at High School

For the latest stats, pics, and highlights in High School sports
visit us on the web at:
www.nbcitysports.com

NCPS CENSUS

Forms for the 2008 Census will be handed out to your children at school in early April. Older children may fill them out at school as the younger ones may need help from their parents at home. Please assist your children with this information. The information collected during the annual census is used by the state to count the number of school aged children and to make projections of future class size. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Any questions may be directed to Dawn Kelley-Leu at 402-873-3360 or 402-874-9317

to leave a message.

Middle School

From Dr. Powell

We are winding down another terrific school year. I am so pleased with our accomplishments this year, and look forward to many more next year. We are very pleased to offer a summer school opportunity for selected students. Our after school club programs continue to grow. We are very thankful to all of the teachers, community members, and parents who support our programs. PUFF has been instrumental in the success of our after school clubs, and we thank them for all of their hard work. A special thank you to Mrs. Larson for all of her time and commitment to this important program.

We have many activities and meetings coming up in April and May. Please check the calendar in the third column for dates and times and remember to ask your child for the weekly bulletin. Each Friday you should receive a bulletin stating upcoming events and other information about the Middle School. If your child does not bring home a bulletin, you can also access this information on our website.

A special thank you to everyone who attended our pep rally in March. We honored each of the winter sports. Our spring sports are right around the corner. Track season will begin soon. If your son or daughter is interested in track he/she needs to contact Mrs. Angus. Mrs. Angus and Mr. Anderson will be coaching this year. Please call the school and ask for either teacher if you have any questions.

From Ms. Scott

Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who have helped all year long with PRIDE. We couldn't do it all without you!! Our final three PRiDE meetings for the year are on April 1st, April 15th, and April 29th. Please arrive at 7:35 AM. Ms. Scott is in the process of finishing up plans for the ice skating party on April 3rd. Students will need to bring money for concessions. They will also need to wear heavy socks and warm clothing. More information will be available soon. Sponsors are needed for the trip. Please contact Ms. Scott if you are interested in helping out. Again, thanks for all of your support throughout the year.

Summer School

We will offer summer school this summer. However, students will be selected based on grades, and other measures of academic progress. Students and parents will receive information about this opportunity in April. Please call the school if you want more details.

Reading Test

In April we will conduct a field test of the Nebraska State Accountability Reading test or NeSA-R. This test will take place at each grade level at the middle school. This time, it will be a paper/pencil assessment. We are excited about the opportunity to field test this assessment at NCMS. Next year, this assessment will become part of our regular testing schedule. The assessment will help us measure student progress in the area of Reading comprehension and vocabulary. If you have any questions about the test contact Dr. Powell.

Calendar

April

4/3 Late Start
4/7 11:15 8th gr. orientation
4/10 & 4/13 No school
4/16 6:30 PM.--7th vocal concert, 7:30 PM--8th vocal concert
4/17 Late Start
4/17 7th and 8th grade track meet
@ Platteview @ 4:00
4/20 8th Grade orientation at the High school @ 7:00 PM.
4/23 7th & 8th grade track meet
@ NCHS @ 4:00
4/25 Arbor Day Parade @ 1:00
4/28 6th grade Band/Vocal Concert @ 7:00 PM.
4/30 7th & 8th grade track meet @ 4:00 PM @ NCHS

MAY

5/1 Late Start
5/7 11:30 Dismissal @NCMS
5th grade orientation
5/8 7th & 8th grade track meet
@ Plattsmouth @ 3:00
5/11 7th & 8th grade track meet
@ NCHS @ 4:00
5/12 5th-12th grade Band Festival
@ 7:00 PM. @ NCHS
5/13 8th grade play @ 7:00 PM.
5/14 Honors Night @ 7:00 PM.
5/15 Barbecue for lunch
5/20 Last Day of School

“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.”
---William Arthur Ward

Have a wonderful summer!!!

Hayward Elementary

Principal's Report

If you have had the chance to drive by Hayward lately you've seen the progress in the construction of the new addition. As I write this article the shell is up and they are just about to lay the floor of the building. It's exciting to see how this is all coming together and knowing how good for our students and community this is going to be.

With the early switch to daylight savings time this year, my yearly reminder will come

early. With soccer, baseball, and softball practices starting, and the evenings growing warmer our students are going to have a tendency to stay up later and push the homework off. Please keep your routine up and remind your children that their number one job is still to get their homework finished and then they can play.

The Nebraska Department of Education is in the process of changing our state testing system and in April Hayward students are going to get the opportunity to take the online version of the state Reading test. It will not only be a test of our student's reading ability, but it will also be a test of Nebraska's technology systems. At Hayward, we have an updated lab as well as our mobile lab, but not all elementary schools are that lucky.

3rd Grade

It's starting to look and feel like spring! And with spring, the third graders have changes in their daily routine. All third graders will be going on a field trip. We will be going to Morrill Hall in Lincoln to look at the exhibits in the museum and then viewing a solar system movie in the planetarium after lunch. Watching a movie on the ceiling is a lot of fun!

Also, we will be finishing our district assessments. Third graders will have end-of-the-year tests in science, math, language, and social studies. These tests will take several days to complete and cover many of the topics we learned during the entire school year. We will be completing these special tests in late April, so please make sure that your child is well rested and has eaten breakfast so that they can perform to the best of their ability.

Please check with your child every night to see if they have completed their Saxon math assignment and have read some of their AR book before going to bed. If you have extra time in the evening to work with your child, please practice their multiplication and division facts with them.

4th Grade

Spring is here and so are our field trips. We are looking forward to visiting the capitol and the Nebraska Historical Museum. Please remind your child on the day of their field trip that they need to put their best foot forward. They are representing Hayward School and the community of Nebraska City.

Lack of memorization of multiplication facts is now taking a major toll on math grades. The students are now into long division with and without reminders. If your child does not know their multiplication facts, please keep working at home on these important skills.

We are finishing up our state assessments this coming month. Please make sure your child is eating breakfast and having a good night's rest. We want them to do the best they can on these important tests.

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders began DARE in March. The students were excited to receive their DARE shirts. Officer Nate Wigington meets weekly with each class. Much of the focus is on making good decisions. Take time to discuss with your child the information he is receiving. Communication is important to help kids make proper choices.

The last quarter is packed with completing curriculum objectives. The students will take CRT's(criterion reference test) at the end of April. These test are comprehensive and assess what the students have learned all year. It is important that your child continues to get enough rest and has a good breakfast.

Our field trip is planned for the end of April. We will tour the Strategic Air and Space Museum and participate in the BRAIN exhibit. It should be a fun day!!

In May we will spend an afternoon at the Middle School. The students will meet the sixth grade staff and get a feel for the building and changing classes. Hopefully, this will make the adjustment easier next fall.

Northside Elementary

From the Principal

We are winding down another year at Northside Elementary. The last couple of months will go by in a hurry. Lots of activities start during Spring time, people are on the go more as winter slides by, sporting activities resume, things can come and go before you know it. Be sure to continue spending time on the importance of academics and education with your child(ren). Being successful involves more than one may realize. Following are a few tips on how to assist your child in their academic endeavors.

- Be a good role model. Children learn as much from how you act as they do from what you say. Be careful of the pitfall, "Do as I say, not as I do."
- Treat children with respect, and they will take your words and example to heart. Our children look to us for guidance. Words can be very powerful, both HELPFUL and HURTFUL. Even when you think they aren't listening, they are.
- Celebrate your child's successes and efforts. Be generous with your words of praise.
- Have patience, patience, patience. Accept that children make mistakes, are inconsistent, and act thoughtlessly at times - this is part of being kid. Help them make these moments learning opportunities.
- Share your enthusiasm for the value of education and the fun of learning.
- Set high, but realistic expectations for your child's work and behavior.

Kindergarten

Our Lil' Pioneers are growing up! Can you believe that they have almost finished their first year of school?

Our first three quarters, have gone by so quickly. It is amazing to see how much the children have changed since their first day.

We are very busy during our reading time. Keep looking for those decodable books that are coming home. They are a great way to build their own little library.

During math time we are copying designs with tangrams, counting by 5's and working with pennies, nickels and dimes.

Some fun science activities coming up will involve the weather, lifecycle of a butterfly, and objects that sink and float.

Our end of the year field trip will be on Friday, May 8th. We will go to The Children's Museum in Lincoln and have a picnic lunch at Antelope Park. What a fun day that will be.

First Grade

The first graders have been busy with a new reading and language program. Nebraska City has adopted "Reading Mastery." Our new series has really given the first grade teachers a chance to group kids together who are at the same instructional level. During our Whole Faculty Study Group meetings we have been able to collaborate with one another to discuss what's best for kids. Doing walk-to-read has given us the opportunities to keep kids in the correct group. They are with their peers who are at the same reading level. We are impressed with the results so far!

We've been learning about money, graphs, fractions, and other important concepts in math. This math series does an excellent job teaching the children fact strategies to help them memorize facts. No more counting fingers or manipulatives! There are strategies like the doubles facts, doubles plus one facts, adding ten facts, adding nine facts, a number minus itself, a number minus zero, and many more. Strategies are learned and practiced several times throughout the week. There is nightly homework with our math series to give children extra practice at home.

Second Grade

The end of the year is fast approaching! The second graders are working hard! We have learned lots of new concepts in math. The kids have been learning multiplication, area, perimeter, geometric shapes, triple number addition and subtraction, reading bar graphs, and counting quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies.

In science the second graders have been learning about plants. They got to plant a seed and watch it grow! They know that plants need sunlight, water, and air to grow. They can also identify the parts of a seed!

In social studies they have been learning about famous people, places, and holidays. They have learned about the Grand Canyon, the Mississippi River, and the Florida Everglades! They also learned fun facts about the Statue of Liberty.

The second graders got to go on a field trip to the Rose Theater. They loved it! We got to see the play *Charlotte's Web*. The end of the year is almost here and the kids are ready for summer vacation! It's been a great year!

Mrs. Smith - Title I Reading

Our new reading series is called Reading Mastery. What a great name! Mastering the skills

for reading is exactly what we want our students to do! This reading series uses procedures that build listening skills. The listening skills enable the students to learn phonics skills to sound out words. Sounding out words enables the students to read sentences. Reading sentences enables students to read stories! Students feel success as they progress from story to story. Each child's reading fluency is constantly being assessed. Reading fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, effortlessly, and with appropriate expression and meaning. Reading fluency enables students to enjoy reading!

There are some important things that parents can do at home to help their child become a great reader. First, be a role model. Let your child see you reading. Talk about good things that are happening in the world and that you read the newspaper, etc. so that you can be well informed. Also, read a book together. Take turns reading the pages. Show how you can use your voice to make the characters come to life! These moments spent reading together can open up the lines of communication with your child that can last a life time. Enjoy the moments!