



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

December 2013

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

In This Issue:

From the Desk of Mr. Fritz	1
From the Desk of Crozier	2
From the Desk of Mr. Costello	3
Note from Mrs. Nagle	2
Counselor's Corner	4
Activities Director	6
Nurse's Corner	6
Secondary Art	7
Students of Character	8
Kindergarten News	8

PO BOX 289

1200 1st Ave N.

Northwood, IA 50459

Phone:

(641) 324-1127 (Elementary)

(641) 324-2021 (Superintendent)

(641) 324-2142 (High School)

Administration

Michael R. Crozier, Superintendent

Brian Costello, Elementary Principal

Keith Fritz, Secondary Principal

School Board Members

Larry Hovey

Susan Kliment

Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

John Anderson

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

"What do you mean, you can't cross the white line of a crosswalk at a stop sign?!"

I couldn't believe it. I'd waited for years (it seemed), taken boring driver's ed classes, crashed my way through the driving simulation videos, and finally the day of the test to earn my driver's license had arrived.

I paid my dues. I did my time. And then, sadly, during the driving portion of my test for my license I crossed the white crosswalk line as I pulled up to a stop at an intersection. That cost me three more points from my score, which dropped me below the "passing" mark by one point.

No license for me.

Yet, those of you who know me have seen me drive that ugly brown pickup of mine around town--how can this be? I failed my driver's test! Why am I driving today?

Because every day, in the real world, we have the opportunity to take tests over again until we get it right. I went back two weeks later, passed the test the second time around, and now have my driver's license.

A similar scenario could play out in the classroom: the chapter test is on Friday. I take the test, and when I get back to school on Monday I learn that I failed the test. I got an F. Traditionally, that is the grade that would be recorded in my teacher's grade book.

But, what if I told the teacher that I'd like a second crack at that test, and that this time I would prepare for it differently? If you were that teacher, what would you say?

Thankfully, modern educational thought supports my request to take the test again (a different version, of course), for a number of reasons:

- A) I want to improve my results, which means I'll need to do an even better job of learning the material. That's a good thing, right?
- B) It will take hard work on my part, since I'll be preparing for the test again AND keeping up on the work that's already occurring. Working hard is good, too, isn't it?
- C) I'm focused on what's most important: learning and improvement. That's much better than having to live with an F and trying to raise my grade with subsequent assignments.

Just like when I re-took my driving test to eventually earn my license, more and more teachers are providing the opportunity for re-dos and re-takes for their students. It only makes sense.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Happy Holidays from the Superintendent's office:

Just finishing up Thanksgiving we all have much to be thankful for in Northwood-Kensett. A great school system, excellent teachers and staff members, and the best students and parents. I would like to congratulate the fall sports programs on outstanding seasons. I was also impressed with our drama and music department with their production of The Wizard of Oz. I continue to be delighted with the talent of our students.

On November 7 the district held the first of two Advisory Committee meetings. A big thank you to everyone on the committee that were in attendance. We gained valuable information regarding communication with stakeholders of the district. We also updated the district on student achievement for the past year.

On November 18 the school board and the administration participated in a workshop put on by the Iowa School Board Association. The agenda included reviewing board members roles and responsibilities, looking at our mission statement and setting long-range goals. The discussion was enlightening and we will be posting our long-range goals in the near future.

Recently I received a call from the Iowa Department of Transportation regarding our students improperly using their Minor School License (MSL). The issue this person discussed with me and the concerns that were reported to her were students using the MSL outside the regulated hours and being off of their route. I have provided the guidance for these situations below.

When can the MSL be used?

During the hours of 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. There are no exceptions or waivers of the time period when driving on an MSL.

Where can the student drive?

Over the most direct and accessible route between the licensee's residence and school(s) of enrollment and between schools of enrollment for the purposes of attending duly scheduled courses of instruction, and to and from extracurricular activities within the school district. The student may also drive to a service station for the purpose of refueling so long as the service station is on the most direct and accessible route or is the closest service station to the most direct and accessible route.

Remember a MSL can be taken away and you can be ticketed for improper use.

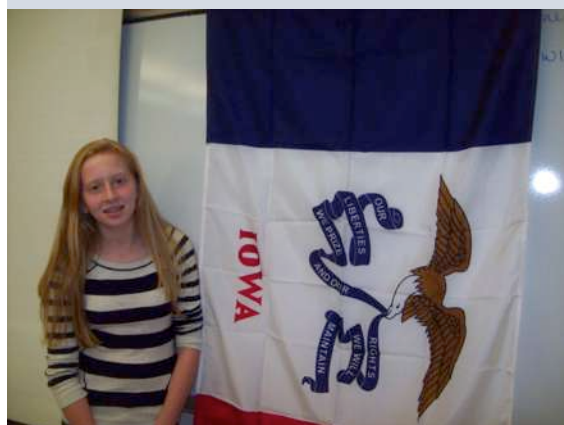
Note From Mrs. Nagle, Curriculum Director and Talented and Gifted

Future Problem Solving International

First time, Junior Division Individual Scenario participant from Northwood-Kensett Elementary was thrilled when asked to be Iowa's flag bearer in the Opening Ceremony at the International Conference which was held in Indianapolis last June.

When Emily chose her costume, she decided to go with the colors and symbols of the three regent Universities in Iowa, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa and Iowa State University. She wore an Iowa t-shirt and accented with ISU and UNI colors with a necklace and hair bow.

Emily was honored to carry Iowa's flag at the opening ceremonies. Emily Follmuth, the 2013 IC flag bearer from the Iowa FPSP. Her mother, Kari Seger, submitted the description of Emily's costume.



FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Welcome to the holiday season! During the month of December we will have several events taking place within our school to help celebrate this time of year. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- K-2nd winter concert--December 12 starting at 6:00 pm
- 3rd-4th winter concert--December 12 starting at 7:00 pm
- 5th-6th Chorus Trip--December 13 starting at 2:00 at the Lutheran Retirement Home then off to Music Man Square for an evening performance.
- Jr./Sr. High concert--December 19 starting at 7:00 pm

I hope you'll be able to attend one of these performances

Once again we are going to provide our students with a community service project for the holidays. Instead of the students exchanging gifts, we will collect cans of food for the local food pantry of Worth county. To participate in this voluntary project simply purchase nonperishable food items and send them with your student to school. The fifth grade math students will collect the items from classrooms each week. Mr. Severson has his students graph class totals and post these throughout the school. The class with the most items collected have the privilege of delivering our supply to the food pantry. This is a wonderful project to support our Character Counts Pillars.

Children need breaks from demanding school work, therefore, we plan an outdoor recess or break for all grades K-6; except on the most extreme cold and windy days. Winter coats, boots, snow pants, mittens/gloves, and head protection will be expected. We do have a small supply of these items in the nurse's office, which are used in case a student misplaces or forgets an item. Please do not rely on this supply for on-going daily use. If you need support in providing these items for your children, contact our counselor, Russ Knudson.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CHARACTER



Left to right: Andrew Breitsprecher, Audrey Carrison, Taylor Rodemeyer, and Jaydn Beland



Left to right: Olivia Stilley, Madelyn Berge, Ty Creger, Ross DeArmoun



Go to www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us for the most up-to-date happenings at Northwood-Kensett Community Schools.

COUNSELORS CORNER BY RUSS KNUDSON AND AMY RENWICK

By Russ Knudson

Greetings! By the time you read this article we will be to the half way point of the 13-14 school year. That means that seniors will be speeding toward the finish with the force of a run-away bullet train. It is important to remember that the Financial Training night is January 2, 2014. This is the night school resumes from winter break. The time is 7:00 P.M. and parents are definitely invited and encouraged to attend. However, portfolio points are based upon student attendance. Both Juniors and Seniors are invited to attend. The most important topic will be discussion about the recent changes in the FAFSA or Federal Financial Aid Application. We have already begun our accumulation of senior post-high school plans. Many students have already been accepted into colleges and other training institutions.

K-3

We are watching a series of short presentations that align with our Character Counts Pillars. The series is titled "Auto B Good" The presentations demonstrate what the behaviors "look like" that are defined under the pillars in Character Counts. Each short presentation is accompanied by a series of activity pages. Students work on the pages in class as time allows after a classroom discussion. I encourage parents to review several important character building skills. I have realized that we as a community need to revisit citizenship and patriotism. Many of the students had limited knowledge of these terms when the topic was addressed. We took a week break from our usual topic and concentrated on this topic around Veteran's Day.

4-6

Students in Guidance classes will be working in conjunction with County Health to continue their personal development work through the Life Skills Series. The topics may vary but most likely focus on personal safety, substance abuse prevention and skill training in the area of social competencies. This month we will be working on compassion, and conflict resolution skills.

Grade 5 will continue working to develop skills to deal with conflict also. Conflict is a necessary part of life. It can be a super motivator or it can be a major social block if not dealt with appropriately. Students need to learn how to deal with conflict in a positive way. Conflict is necessary in our lives and how we deal with it determines our success or failure.

Freshman, Sophomore, Junior Senior

The major development at the high school this month is a joint venture between the Viking Way group at the high school and the fifth and sixth grade peer representatives. They met jointly twice in November and are developing strategies to make N-K a better place to live and work. The main focus targeted by this group is to develop strategies to make N-K a more inviting and acceptable place to learn. One of the strategies will be to bring students who skirt the outer circles of social interaction, more into the main social circle of our school. The hope is to increase personal self-confidence and create acceptance of social, racial and cultural differences. There will also be a stronger attempt to recognize elementary students who are making a positive difference in the above-mentioned area.

By: Amy Renwick

As a part of our Character Counts program, we highlight the pillar of Responsibility for both November AND December. I like to think that the reason Responsibility gets two months is because it's such an important pillar to cultivate among all students, staff, and the community.

In a lot of ways, Responsibility is both the easiest and the most difficult pillar to teach, because there is very little in our daily lives that is not affected by responsibility. To be successful in school, sports, music or even a job, a person must maintain a certain level of responsibility. (Continued on Page 5)

COUNSELORS CORNER (CONTINUED)

On the flip side of that coin, it is hard to separate out and highlight responsibility because it is so engrained into daily life. It is hard to brainstorm activities that highlight responsibility over other skills and traits. Instead, responsibility is something that is modeled and learned over time-- at school, at home, and everywhere else. Often, adults teach responsibility by setting an example. We also teach our students responsibility by acknowledging when they make responsible choices, and giving them guidance when they make irresponsible ones.

When students move from the elementary school to the middle school, they take the next step in taking personal responsibility. Middle school students are expected to move throughout the school to different classes and are responsible for getting to those classes on time. They are expected to be responsible for the class work they have to do, including when they were sick or gone from school, or have a missing assignment. Students also have more school supplies that they are responsible for, from their gym clothes to their school-issued laptop, to materials for class projects.

With this added responsibility in middle school, some students invariably handle the challenge better than others. For all students, whether they are showing signs of struggle or not, the adults in their lives can act as a support in this time. It is helpful when parents, teachers, and other adults step in to help guide students during this time. How can we do that? By helping them remember their supplies, by listening to issues and brainstorming solutions, by offering organizational strategies, and by refusing to give up until the student has had a chance to get comfortable with the changes that have occurred. Compassion is the key. If you have questions or would like some help in any of these areas, please contact me, preferably via email, at arenwick@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us



7th grade students participating in a responsibility-themed activity during guidance time.

FROM THE PILE ON THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR DESK BY MR. HARTMAN

With the conclusion of the fall seasons, let's reflect back on a couple of outstanding seasons by two of our varsity sports.

Our volleyball team under the direction of first-year Coach Heather Rheingans concluded their season with a 16-9 record and were eliminated by a tough Rockford team in the second round of the tournament. Not only did the varsity end the season with a winning record but the JV went 7-5 and the JJV went 8-8 this season. Congratulations to Coach Rheingans, Coach Ehlke and the volleyball girls.

Earning All Corn Bowl Conference honors this year:

1st Team - Hattie Davidson (Unanimous Choice)

2nd Team - Taryn VanRyswyk and Katelyn Jaspers

Honorable Mention - Chandler Capitani

The varsity football team ended their season with a 7-3 record. The Vikings finished third in the district and qualified for the state playoffs where they were beaten out in the second round by Don Bosco. In its second year of eight-man football the Vikings showed considerable improvement and with the JV team finishing with a 5-1-1, the future looks bright.

The following student athletes received All-District honors:

First Team Offense - Coleby Bratrud and Gabe Kramer

First Team Defense -
Logan Nielsen, Brandon

Brockman, and Mitchell Athey

Second Team Offense - Tom Yezek

Second Team Defense - Josh Einertson

Honorable Mention - Casey Dahlby

Congratulations to all the football boys, Coach Capitani, Coach Cotter, Coach Love, Coach Parker and Coach Reindl on an outstanding season.

NURSE'S CORNER , BY HEATHER RHEINGANS

Do you have old clothes lying around that no longer fit your child or items hanging in their closet that they just refuse to wear? The nurse's office houses a closet and cupboard that could put those items to good use. Often times children in the elementary need a change of clothes at some point during the school year. Whether it is a milk spill, wet slide at recess, or bathroom accident I try to have clothes available so as not to disrupt your busy day. I am always in need of gently used pants, socks, and clean undies and am more than happy to reuse these items.

Also during the winter months zippers break and gloves get wet.....or a child simply forgets to bring their winter wear. Coats, hats, gloves, snowpants, and boots are in high demand during the winter and used sometimes multiple times throughout the school day.

Items can be dropped off at either the High School office or my office at the Elementary at any time during the day. Your donations are greatly appreciated, and rest assured, will be put to good use!

It is the policy of the Northwood-Kensett Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the Superintendent of Schools, 1200 First Avenue North, Northwood, IA 50459, Phone 641-324-2021, who has been designated as the district's Equity Coordinator and to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504, and Iowa Code Section 280.3.

N-K High School Art: Personal Logos in Handmade Paper

By Bruce Tuthill

Half way through the school year in high school art and the show case and walls are already covered in great art. One of our best art projects was designing a personal logo. The art project was created from a week long National Endowment For The Humanities Workshop on Frank Lloyd Wright, that I attended at the Historic Park Inn. The high school students looked at professional artists and architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, who developed more than just an autograph to denote their art work. The student's personal logo could be a stylized version of their name or just a design that represented who they are. First, the students designed their personal logo on paper. Next, they made a relief mold out of cardboard, and the last step was to cast it in handmade paper. Students then had the option of painting their cast handmade paper logo. The art turned out great and is on display with many other great works of art.



Students of Character -- The Viking Way

by Brian Campbell, Culture/Climate Chair

The Viking Way's 1st Annual Delete Day

"My life is my message." - Gandhi

This year, we were fortunate to send student representatives from the Viking Way to the Governor's 2nd Annual Bullying Prevention Summit. Students heard ideas from adult experts, as well as from students. One expert told the story of a school in New York City who organized a Delete Day. The Viking Way members in attendance were interested in the concept and brought it back to the rest of the group. Students are planning a N-K Delete Day event that will occur 9th hour on Wednesday, December 4th.

Delete Day will give students in grades 7-12 an opportunity to go through the information they've posted online, including Facebook, Twitter, and other social media accounts, and "clean up" their profiles. They will be encouraged to remove any inappropriate posts, tweets, pictures, groups, comments, or "likes"-- anything that doesn't reflect their true image -- and thus erasing any traces of risky, hurtful and inappropriate personal online content. They will also be encouraged to unfriend people they do not know, and generally put a more responsible, professional face forward online. Privacy considerations will also be taken into account.

Delete Day will give students a chance to come together as a school community with the purpose to eradicate hurtful and dangerous messages from their social media presence. In this technological age, we know that the effects of cyberbullying and other inappropriate online behaviors can follow students for a long time after the content was posted. Students who are looking at college, scholarship, and job applications should find this to be an incredibly important activity, and it is good policy for all students to practice.



News From the Kindergarten Rooms

Christmas greetings form Kindergarten! We are continuing our belief in Santa with our "Elf on the Shelf." This magical elf watches us to see if we are naughty or nice and then reports to Santa each night. Mrs. Schaub and Mrs. Hanson are hoping for "nice" children. The fun part is finding the hiding place of the elf each morning when we get to school.

We will be writing letters to Santa in hopes that those toys will be made at Santa's workshop. We will then walk to Santa's mailbox to mail them. Our Christmas songs are perfected (or almost) for our concert on Dec. 12. You will be impressed with our angelic voices and behavior. Our reading is getting better and better all the time. We are learning letter names, sounds, high-frequency words, and how to decode. Reading is such an exciting adventure!

We love when our parents visit us at school to eat lunch. If you are ready for this QUIET time, please join us any day at 10:55. We are hoping that all of the children will be dressed for winter cold. That means boots, snow pants, hats, and waterproof gloves/mittens.

We are reminding all parents that the greatest gift you can give your children is your time. Our love should not be just words and talk-it must be action. The best way to spell love is T-I-M-E.