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Kelly Neill, Principal

Spring is on the horizon and in schools that means the beginning of assessment season. Our students in many different grades will be or have been exposed to a variety of national and state assessments. These assessments are only a small snap shot of a child's ability, but they do provide valuable information to our schools. They allow us to reflect on our teaching practices and re-evaluate curriculum. They also hold us accountable to the standards for specific subject areas set forth by the state. They also give parents and students a glimpse of the struggles and strengths their student displays in their academic work. Again...this is only a small snapshot of what your child can do. The best information of your child's performance comes from their teacher.

Here is a rundown of a few of the assessments given or to be given to students in the past few months:

- In January, senior students at Elkton School took the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate program (NCRC). The NCRC is an industry-recognized, portable credential that certifies essential skills needed for workplace success. To earn certification, students must attain at least the lowest certification level on three ACT® WorkKeys assessments: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. The NCRC demonstrates that students are ready for the workplace, as they enter the workforce immediately after graduation or pursue further postsecondary education.
- All South Dakota students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The Science Dakota STEP will be given in grades 5, 8, and 11. The window of testing for these assessments will begin in April and will conclude the beginning of May. The South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (Dakota STEP) and the Smart Balanced Assessment measures students' mastery of the South Dakota State Academic Standards.

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving information on how to help your child do their best on upcoming assessments. Please share these strategies with your child. Remember to communicate with your child's teacher about any concerns you have with their academic performance or test anxiety. They can offer you the best insight on struggles and what you can do as a parent to help. As always, if you have any questions on these assessments, please feel free to contact me.

We have a wonderful school. Dedicated staff and students who are willing to find success have made Elkton a school to be proud of. Our students have found success this year in the fields of academics, arts, and athletics. It is not an easy task to be a student or an educator these days. The demands on both are high. But we are fortunate in our school to have both students and teachers doing what is necessary to find success and make our school a great place to be.



Little Visitors Week at the Elkton Preschool

April 3,4,6 & 7

Who: We invite any child who will be four by September 1st, who is interested in coming to the Elkton Preschool next fall.

Why: Our Little Visitors get to see what Preschool will be like and parents may register their children for next fall's Preschool class.

When: April 3,4,6 & 7 8:30-10:30 or 1:00-3:00

Where: The Elkton Preschool classroom in the Elkton School

How: Call the school (542-2541) to sign-up for the day you want your child to visit.

Questions: call Mrs. Fargen, Preschool Teacher, at school (542-2541) or email Vickie.Fargen@k12.sd.us

Children do not need to attend Little Visitors Week in order to register for Preschool.

However, class sizes are limited and you do need to call the school to register your child for next Fall's Preschool class if your child is not attending Little Visitors Week.

Elkton Preschool

Our Preschool program is based on the philosophy that young children learn best through their play and activity based experiences. Through the planned activities and experiences in Preschool, children learn about the ABC's and 123's and even more importantly, they develop their social and emotional skills. Developing strong social/emotional skills will benefit children both academically and socially throughout their lives. Preschool is a wonderful place for children to develop many skills through playful activities. We have a lot of fun in Preschool!

Junior Kindergarten

Jr. Kindergarten provides a good transition between Preschool and Kindergarten for children who need an additional year to grow and mature before beginning the more formal side of school. Children need to be five years old by September 1st to be in Jr. Kindergarten.

Jr. Kindergarten students come five half days each week. If you would like more information about Jr. Kindergarten, please contact Mrs. Fargen at the school.

Mrs. Schaefer, Kindergarten

Authors and Illustrators in Kindergarten

Throughout the school year, the Kindergartners discover the writing process authors utilize to write stories. This part of our day is known as Writer's Workshop. At the start of the school year, we discuss that writers write stories that are important and real to them. We spend time thinking about what this means and how we can make our real stories come alive for readers.

Prior to writing their story, the Kindergartners take "think time" to reflect on stories that are real and important to them. After identifying an idea, the kindergartners engage in an oral language activity which involves sharing with a friend what they intend to write. The friend then asks questions about the story to help the writer think more deeply about the details that should be added to the story.

The creation of the story on paper then begins as the kindergartners choose the appropriate Author Paper to share their story with the world. As students work, they think about what details should be included in their illustrations to help the reader know more about their story (for example-talking or thinking bubbles, including illustration details so the reader knows where the setting of their story is, etc.).

When the illustrations are completed, the Kindergartners then focus on their text as they utilize decoding skills to break words apart so that they are able to hear sounds in words. As they engage in this process, they focus on spelling words phonetically (meaning that we write the sounds we hear versus spelling like a "dictionary"). They also integrate High Frequency Words into their writing (which are taught during Reader's Workshop). Upon completing stories, Kindergartners then meet with a partner and use a Publishing Checklist that they created to ensure that all parts of their story are completed (including: Name and Date, Illustration Details and Words-including Labels and Captions).

During this part of the year, we begin to look deeper at our writing and discover the importance of spaces between words, using a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and the use of punctuation. As these new expectations are integrated into their writing, a new Publishing Checklist will be created by the Kindergartners so that they are able to critique their writing and continue to grow as writers.

Writer's Workshop is a hands-on learning opportunity for the Kindergartners that allow them to go at their own pace and individually challenge themselves. One to two times a month I meet with each of the Kindergartners for a Writing Conference where we discuss how their writing has changed and next steps to take to help their writing become even stronger.

The pictures included with this article showcase the Kindergartners engaging in both the writing of their stories as well as the oral sharing of their stories.



Mrs. Delaney and Ms. Bye, 1st Grade

The third quarter has been busy and exciting for first graders. We celebrated the 100th day of school, Valentine's Day, FCCLA Red Ribbon week, FFA week, and Read Across America. A guest speaker came to share a book she wrote and discussed ways to be a caring friend. Each child received a copy of her book. We also completed a unit on exploring the tundra where the students enjoyed learning about the animals and their adaptations such as blubber.



As we have become more independent readers, our focus has been on reading strategies and fluency. The main phonics skills we have been working on team vowels and controlled r patterned words. This week while celebrating Dr. Seuss, we have also studied the rhyming patterns within his books.



In math, we continue to learn strategies for solving addition and subtraction word problems. As we progress through the unit, the students are now developing the strategies further to help identify the missing addend of an equation.

Mrs. Jensen, Second Grade

Every year the lower elementary celebrate Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss the first week in March. Second graders participated in many fun activities throughout the week that centered on Dr. Seuss' books. We began the celebration on Monday by wearing pajamas, along with bringing their pillow and favorite books. We joined the First Graders in the gym to buddy read. The students also were able to listen to Ms. Bye, Mrs. Delaney, and Mrs. Jensen read to the classes. We ended the hour listening to various high school students read to us.



On Tuesday, the second graders wore green. We had a special guest, Dennis Lundgren (Mrs. Jensen's Dad/ Madelyn's Grandpa) come in to help make green eggs and ham. The kids loved making and eating the green eggs and ham.



Wacky Wednesday was filled with mismatched, backward, inside out clothes and nest building. The students used various materials to build their own nest. The Second Graders expressed how talented birds were and how hard it was to create a nest. Their creativity showed through with all the different creations of nests.



The famous Dr. Seuss book, The Cat in the Hat was the focus on Thursday when all the students wore their favorite hat to school. Last, we wrapped up the week by talking about what we know about Dr. Seuss and learned some new facts about him. The kids wore silly socks and read Fox in Socks.

Reading is important! Don't forget to read with your child every day!

Ms. Brown, 4th Grade

Fourth grade has been having a very busy and fun new year! We have been trying some new learning strategies and activities instead of boring old worksheets. In Math, during the month of February, we started speed-dating math. There were some giggles at first but students had fun with it. Students moved around their desks and, solve and talk about basic multiplication facts with their partner. Next, we're going to look at getting active with our math facts. We continue to look at different United States regions in Social Studies, currently learning about the Southeast. Reading lots of fun and interesting stories every week and practicing our language and writing skills with different styles. Students had a blast learning about the human body and its systems in Science. They got to put together a copy of the human body and did great with it! All pieces in the right places. A couple reminders to keep you up-to date. Please think about restocking your child's school supplies: pencils, erasers, glue sticks, markers, crayons, notebook, folder, and KLEENEXS! Students are running very low on supplies and Ms. Brown only has a limited amount in her stock pile. Thank you for all you do for our student and school, and fourth grade will continue having a fabulous year!

Mrs. Trygstad, 3rd Grade

It's hard to believe we are in March already! The weather is starting to warm up and we are enjoying our time outside watching the landscape change. We continue to have busy days as seen below in a breakdown of each subject.

Reading: We continue to read the big story and comparative text from our Journeys series. Also, we continue to AR test each week. In the middle of February, the class got to a total of 2,000 AR points! Remember, each student needs 11 points each month to get their pizza pass.

Math: For math, students have worked hard understanding multiplication and what it means to multiply. Students spent many math lessons working on their math facts. We continue to fact test each Tuesday. Just a reminder, students do not have homework every night so please check their assignment sheet and folder.

Spelling: For spelling, students continue to work with their spelling words. They got to complete a tic-tack-toe sheet where they got to pick three spelling activities to do. They really enjoyed this and love doing word searches and playing sparkle.

Writing: In the month of February, students rewrote a recipe in order to make a recipe book. The books were made and sent home with the students. They also wrote short writing papers about Valentine's Day.

Grammar: Students have reviewed nouns and pronouns. We complete the grammar worksheets together but sometimes they get to work with a partner. We continue to do a weekly language review sheet each day, except Friday. This sheet reviews all the grammar topics we will cover in the year.

Science: Students studied how forces relate to each other. They did a variety of activities to understand how forces work. They raced sail boats, played tug of war and use air pumps to experiment with ping pong balls. In addition, students built volcanoes out of cups and got to be scientists when their volcanoes erupted.

Social Studies: Students studied maps and map components. They completed worksheets on maps but also made maps of the third grade classroom. They did an excellent job!

Mrs. Short was the third grade student teacher from January 2nd until January 17th. She did many wonderful lessons with the students. The students wrote that some of their favorite memories with her are when she played kickball and when they raced sail boats.

We are all going to miss her!



If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at Kristin.Trygstad@k12.sd.us.

Mr. Erickson, 5th Grade

The fifth graders are continuing to have a good year. We have a student teacher, Ms. Kelly Thurow. Ms. Thurow is originally from Ramona, SD and is a student at SDSU. She has been with us for about a month now. She has taken over teaching the lessons to the fifth and sixth graders and has been doing a wonderful job. Her lessons, ideas, and activities that she has brought to the room for the students to do have been great and both fifth and sixth graders are enjoying her time here. She will be with us until the beginning of May.

In Reading, the fifth grade class has read then novel *HOMER PRICE*. They read as a class, did different activities and made a poster at the end of the book. They have now moved on to *Bridge to Terabithia*. They read in groups, individually, as a class, and also get read to. They work with character maps, plot, main idea, and looking at the meaning of parts of the book.

Sixth grade is finishing up the novel *Freak the Mighty*. Their final project for the book is to make a bullying poster that will be hung up around the school to show what they have learned from the book and how it impacted them.

Sixth computers have recently created their own blogs. We have done some different blog posts and writing prompts that the students have shared in their blogs. We will continue to work on different prompts and activities centered around our blog.

Fifth computers is learning how to operate and utilize their google drive account. This will serve them well into next year and the years beyond as they will have the same set up to access and use for other school projects involving technology.

Fifth Social Studies is continuing to learn about the American Revolution. Famous people of the war, battles that took place, reasons for the fighting and eventually the conclusion of the war and the founding of our Nation.

In fifth grade language arts, the students have finished up our grammar units and are now working on figurative language before finishing the year with our writing units. We will get into many different types of writing and work on the process of creating writing samples to show our grasp on the English language and ideas we have learned throughout the year.

Thank you for a great year so far! Let's finish strong and on a positive note.



5th Grade

Mr. Robey, Art

It's already the fourth quarter?!

The year is just flying by in the art room! The elementary students are continuing to work on projects all across art mediums. One of my personal favorite is our new fifth grade project. We are studying the work of Mr. Pablo Picasso, and have been making a masks to resemble his recognizable style. This Picasso project is a new project to the curriculum this year, but is already leaving a strong impact and may become a staple for many years to come. However, 5th grade is not the only ones trying out brand new projects. Currently, every elementary grade level is working a "new" project. Subjects include: cute little pigs, underwater living, astronaut's holding planets as if they were balloons, beach life, and even pirate ships in a coffee mug. Our creativity might be at an all-time high! Parents- be on the lookout for this wonderful projects on their way home soon, and be sure to be checking *Artsonia* for new updates.

There is no shortage of creativity at the Junior high level either. Out 7th graders have joined the fun this semester and have been working on some very unique projects. Drawings, paintings, and even some mixed media are all mediums used so far. One project in particular that will for sure leave an impression is our Louise Nevelson project. Students first studied the work of Louise Nevelson and took a look as to why her art made such an impact in art history record books. After solving this interesting case, students then built and painted a project similar to what Nevelson herself would have done. Parents, if you are still confused as your students bring them home, please make sure to ask questions, your kids will be able to tell you all about Nevelson and her influence. This is not the only art history the 7th graders are exposed too. As we finish up this quarter, we are taking a look at perhaps the 15 biggest names the art world as ever seen. Artists such as: Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Pollock, Warhol, Banksy, and Dali. This is only a small glimpse into the world of Art History, but should be something the students remember for a lifetime.

Switching to the second semester is an exciting time for our high school aged students, as a whole new batch of classes are being offered. Currently classes include Art 1, printmaking, and ceramics/pottery. Each one of these classes produce such beautiful pieces of work and it will be really fun and exciting to see where the creativity takes us. Ceramics is always a crowd favorite as everything being made is incredibly functional. For example, our ceramics class actually joined forces with one Mrs. Stuefen's FAC's classes, where we are creating soup bowls. Once fired, we will take our bowls over to the FACS room and help whip up some delicious soup. Once both the soup and bowls are done, then it's time for the good part: enjoy some nice hot soup out of some new shiny bowls. Should be a fun way for our kids to get through the last stretch of cold South Dakota weather! The end of the school year is coming fast, can't wait to see the last few projects. Usually are some of the best!



Mrs. Weight, Band

5-8 Solo Contest in Flandreau Saturday, April 22nd

All band students in grades 5-8 have started preparing a solo for contest. Please mark your calendars for this important day and look for an informational letter to be coming home soon.

5th and 6th grade Band

The 5th and 6th graders spend a lot of their class time working out of books designed to teach them the fundamentals needed to play in band as junior high and high school students. 6th grade just finished book one as a class and has moved on to book two. Many of the 6th graders need to pay for this book yet-\$10.00

The 5th and 6th graders will have their final group performance at the Grandparents concert on April 6th.

Junior High Band

This group has started a unit on Jazz fundamentals. They will demonstrate what they have learned with one jazz song at their final concert on May 9th.

High School Band

High School Solo/Ensemble Contest was Wednesday, February 22nd in Watertown. Elkton had five students choose to participate and it was a very successful day for all.

- Joanna Boll and Alexis Christensen-flute duet Superior Rating/Perfect score
- Joanna Boll-Flute solo Superior Rating/Perfect score
- Joanna Boll-Piccolo solo Superior Rating/Perfect score
- Joanna Boll-Vocal solo Superior Rating
- Mckenzie Engwicht-Flute solo Superior Rating
- Alexis Christensen-Flute solo Superior Rating
- Emma Kampmann-Clarinet solo Above Average Rating
- David Garver-trombone solo Above Average Rating

The high school has started preparing to go to large group contest in Watertown on April 26th. They will finish the year with performances at the spring concert May 9th and graduation May 14th.



Mrs. Beckman, Language Arts

Hello Elkton-Lake Benton families!

It's hard to believe that we are almost to the end of 3rd quarter, and yet here we are. I enjoyed visiting with many of you during parent-teacher conferences in January. A lot has been happening in Language Arts since then, and I'm happy to fill you in.

The 7th grade students began the quarter by reading Ben Mikaelson's novel *Touching Spirit Bear*. The novel gave us a great opportunity to explore issues related to justice, troubled youth, and the power of nature to heal. The novel's focus on nature extended into our current unit, where students are learning about how different authors write about, and think about, nature. They are exploring the power of nature through poetry, memoir, and nonfiction while improving their own writing skills. They are also practicing critical reading and text analysis by studying the choices authors make – not just what they are saying, but how they are saying it.

In 8th grade, we've just finished a unit centered on Holocaust literature. The focus piece was the play based on Anne Frank's diary, but we also looked at other historical documents as well as the movie *Life is Beautiful*. Like Anne's diary, this wonderful film highlights the power of the human spirit in the darkest of times. Along with this unit, the students dove into the craft of research papers. The 8th graders took great strides in mastering this more formal type of writing. As we move into 4th quarter, we will be turning our attention to Lois Lowry's classic *The Giver*, and the popular dystopian-genre as a whole.

In English I, the freshmen have successfully survived their first foray into Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*. I'm so proud of this group of students for persevering through what is our most challenging reading assignment of the year. They have worked hard to understand Shakespeare's 400-year-old language, and some are even planning class performances of select scenes. Now that we have finished, we are turning our attention to *The Odyssey* and the "hero's journey" pattern that still continues in story-telling today.

All of my Language Arts students have also been working towards achieving their AR goals. As we near the end of the quarter, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the top AR-point earners in their grades so far this semester:

7th Grade: Brody Bales (264 points)

8th Grade: Brendan Bailey (37 points)

9th Grade: Ashleigh Rodriguez (44 points)

The second semester of Journalism is underway, and I've really enjoyed getting to know this new group of students. Early on, we worked to build media literacy skills so that we could avoid the trap of fake news and "alternative facts." These students have impressed me as thoughtful and well-informed students, and I've enjoyed helping them hone their writing skills by learning the conventions of news writing. As we head into the second half of the course, we are turning our attention to feature writing, and well as producing pieces for the Elkton Record and the school yearbook.

Language Arts



Mrs. Harming, Social Studies

US History: We have studied WWI, the Roaring 20's, and the Great Depression. Students reviewed the benefits and costs of the New Deal and created an opinion of whether or not they believe it was worth it. We have just talked about how the United States tried to stay out of the war in Europe and actions we took to keep our neutrality. Next week we will be working on understanding our role in WWII.

World Geography: We are also learning how to use our new online textbooks. We have been doing thematic mapping activities, which support the information we have been learning. We are studying human geography this year to add to the physical geography knowledge they learned in 7th grade. We have learned about migration, and population and health.

Reading Students have just finished the book, "Holes". They worked on various projects throughout the book to break down characters and understandings of setting and plot.

We are currently working on writing. Students are practicing using evidence from what they read and see to write responses. I am focusing on citing specific events or details to help prove their opinions.

We will finish the last nine weeks with our final novel called, "Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie."

American Government: We are just getting into the fine details of our Constitution. We are currently analyzing all the powers given to each branch of government and showing how those branches check each other.

We will be taking a trip to Pierre on March 6th to watch our South Dakota legislature at work! We will take a tour of the capital, sit in on committee and legislative sessions and meet our representatives.

Psychology: We are currently studying human development. We have been conducting experiments and learning about the physical and cognitive development of childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

Looking Ahead

US History: Cold War and Modern US history

World Geography: Culture, Language and Religion

Reading: Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie novel.

American Government: 3 Branches of government and state, local and tribal governments

Psychology: Stress, Psychological disorders, social interaction

Social Studies

Mrs. Yackley, Guidance Counselor

Events:

- March 23, 2017 - NHS Blood Drive (sign up for a time by calling Karla at the school or talking to a NHS member)
- April 2017 (Schedule posted on school website) – State Science Testing for grades 5, 8, and 11
- April 2017 (Schedule posted on school website) – Smarter Balanced ELA & Math Testing for grades 3-8 & 11
- April 20, 2017 – 8th Grade Parent & Student High School Orientation Night @ 7:00 PM in Elkton Telecom Room
- May 3, 2017 – Senior Luncheon
- May 14, 2017 – Graduation 2:00 PM

Attention 8th Grade Students and Parents!! – April 20th at 7:00 pm will be orientation/registration night for 8th graders and their parents. I will be going over the SD state & Elkton High School graduation requirements to prepare parents and students. We will also be reviewing the results of your 8th grader's interest inventory and his/her Personal Learning Plan for high school along with other relevant information to help your student get ready for high school. Students will then be able to request their courses for next year. Join me in the Telecom Room to gear up for high school!!

State Testing Time Rolls Around Again!

State Science testing for grades 5, 8, and 11 and Smarter Balanced testing for grades 3-8 and 11 will take place during the month of April. A copy of the planned schedule for testing is on the school website and makeups will be planned as needed. Please do your best to avoid student appointments/absences during the testing windows! A letter regarding these required state tests with more specifics will be sent out to students in the tested grades (3-8 & 11) in the coming weeks. Feel free to contact me or your child's teacher if you have questions about state testing.

Course Requests for 2016-2017:

We're already starting to think about next year! March is when students start making requests for the courses they would like to take for next school year. Students consult their Personal Learning Plans when making these requests, but I also encourage them to share their requests at home. If you wish to see what your child is requesting for next year's classes, please have them show you by logging into their Infinite Campus student portal account during the request window. Information about state and Elkton High School requirements for graduation, along with course descriptions, can be found on my website (<http://elktonschoolcounseling.weebly.com/high-school.html> - Click "Elkton High School Course Registration & High School Planning Manual"). If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Juniors:

Don't forget to sign up for the ACT for this spring or summer! See the sign across from the counseling office for sign up info and deadlines, or check it out at www.actstudent.org!!

3rd Quarter Happenings.....

- **Junior High—I work with 8th grade students during the 3rd and 4th quarters. The first group of 8th graders is just finishing a quarter focused on career exploration, understanding the demands/requirements of high school, and creating a personal learning plan for high school that they will share with their parents at Parent Night on April 20th. Over the last couple weeks of the quarter, we reviewed skills for communicating and showing empathy to others, ways to handle conflicts/grievances with others, recognizing and handling bullying in friendships, and safe relationships.**
 - **Elementary students continue to learn about different personal/social topics:**
 - **Kindergarten-The third quarter has focused on learning to work with others. We made giant valentine’s in groups to practice our cooperation skills and have recently learned about the difference between “tattling” and “asking for help” with a problem. Ask your child to tell you about the difference at home!**
 - **1st Grade-We finished talking about handling hard feelings and students took their feelings books home. We are beginning to learn about being responsible for what we say and do and using our I-Care Rules to solve conflicts.**
 - **2nd Grade-Students continue to learn from our Free the Horses adventure by collecting knowledge about Belonging, Learning, and Contributing to our group. Check out their friendship bridge in the hallway near the weight room!**
 - **3rd Grade-We have recently learned about friendships and how to make and keep friends, as well as what a stereotype is and how it can get in the way of friendships and making people feel welcome.**
 - **4th Grade-We have been learning and practicing the skills needed to be peaceful problem solvers, such as listening to each other, avoiding fouls in a conflict, and looking at things from the other person’s perspective.**
 - **5th Grade-We have discussed behavior and what can influence our behavior choices, such as the people and things around us, our needs, and so forth.**
 - **6th Grade-Sixth grade has been finishing a unit on alcohol and other drugs. Most recently, students have been studying the facts surrounding marijuana and how to determine if a source of information is reliable or unreliable to make the most healthy choices for ourselves.**
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Extended Learning room: Mrs. Williams and Ms. McHugh

On the Math side we have been working hard on double digit multiplication. We also have been working on the Hy-Vee receipt project. We are \$80,000 away from receiving a \$1,000. While we have a basketful of receipts to complete, we will need more to reach our goal. So, if you shop for groceries at Hy-Vee in Brookings, please consider sending the receipts in with your children so we can reach that goal.

On the language arts side, we are blending and segmenting words and reading paragraphs to work on comprehension. We have been doing a lot of hands-on activities and practicing our sounds on the computer to help us put the things we learn to use. We also have been aiding in AR test taking to help those students gain AR points for their classroom.

Mrs. Stuefen, FACS

Nutrition and Wellness

In our nutrition and wellness class we have learned so much new information. One important thing I learned was substituting ingredients. You can substitute ingredients if you want to make it a little healthier or if you don't have that ingredient with you. Some people think substitutions can destroy the original recipe. However, if you take your time and choose your ingredients wisely you will not notice a difference.

The most beneficial I have learned so far in CTE- Nutrition and Wellness is learning to classify and cook vegetables I thought that it was important because it was a great way to know what kind of vegetables there are, what parts of the vegetables to eat and what not to eat and to know how to cook vegetables, it was important to learn because I never knew that veggies could be classified into 8 different categories until I learned it in class I'm glad I learned this information it is a good way to know what type of veggies you're eating how they were grown and where they were grown. Another thing that was important to me was making vegetable pizza I think that it was healthier because you can put any type of veggie on it and it is really easy if you have the ingredients on hand, I would recommend not using a lot of veggies just like three or four or the flavors will be over the top.

The most interesting and important thing I learned about this quarter was the 6 Essential Nutrients. The 6 Essential Nutrients are the nutrients that our body needs to function. They are Carbohydrates, Proteins, Water, Fats, Minerals, and Vitamins. We learned about what each nutrient does to keep your body going properly. We also learned about the different types that each nutrient has, like Simple or Complex Carbohydrates.

The most beneficial or important piece of information I learned this quarter is from the Supersize Me video. America is one of the fattest countries in the World, and 60% of Americans are obese. Restaurants and companies like McDonald's and Kellogg's spend billions of dollars on advertisements and billboards to get people to want to buy more products, but it's still within the consumer's power to avoid bad habits such as eating all that junk food. It also had shown the risks that obesity can cause such as: liver dysfunction, all muscle turned into fat, and 2x the risk of heart disease. And the video pointed out that obesity is a rapidly growing cause of death, next to smoking. The video was important to me because it showed me that obesity can lead to death, depression, and exhaustion, so that made me realize that eating healthier can lead you to a healthy life and we can do so by making healthy choices.

The most important thing I've learned in Nutrition and Wellness is different ways of cooking things. Most food can be cooked in many ways, and the flavors vary a lot between them. Each cooking method has its advantages and works best with a different style.

The most beneficial, important thing, or most fun thing I completed I have learned so far in CTE is substitutions of ingredients to eat healthier and I substituted bananas for eggs. Another important thing I learned was the six essential nutrients and that is important because we need to know what we need in our body and how it works.

I learned the most during the vegetable unit, I learned a lot about the types and ways to cook the vegetables. When we did our presentations I learned about Blanching which was weird to me. I loved the vegetable unit because I learned things I didn't know. When we learned about blanching, I loved it because it was weird. During the presentations I learned more information about the types of vegetables.

Since the third quarter, we have learned about a lot of things, but my favorite thing we learned about was food substitutions. We started the week with a worksheet where we had to find 15 different food substitutions. After we did that, we got into our cooking groups to find a recipe to that we could use one of our substitutions to switch out one of our ingredients for. Even though our recipe maybe didn't taste the best, it was still very fun to make our own recipes and it has taught me that just because you don't have the ingredient doesn't mean you can't use it. Just use a substitution!

What we did this semester was learn about vegetables and fruit. We made vegetable pizza. With the leftover vegetables, we made a roost dish. We also learn different types of cooking. The funniest thing I got to say it's Labs because your hands on and not working out of a book or watch a presentation.

In my nutrition class, we have learned many things. Cooking, correct measuring, and healthy substitutes. But my favorite thing that we learned was the healthy substitutions. I think it was very good that we learned that just in case we ever run out of a certain ingredient and have to find something else. The lab that went along with it was also very good, we had to find a recipe in which we had to substitute something. That was very informational and helpful.

I think the most fun thing we have done in our Nutrition and Wellness class is the lab we did for healthy substitutions in recipes. I enjoyed seeing how some substitutions in recipes work. The group I was in put in applesauce for eggs in a cake recipe. We had another group try black bean brownies, turns out there not bad at all. The last group in the kitchen tried bananas for eggs in cookies. I think over all the healthy substitutions worked out pretty well.

In CTE foundations, I learned how to properly cut wash and cook vegetables. I especially liked the vegetable pizza with the cream cheese and the spices. (but the stir-fry was also good). I now know a lot more about kitchen safety and how to cook foods.

Housing and Interior Design

The most beneficial, important, and fun thing I have learned so far in interior design is when we planned out kitchen floor plans and then made them. I think it is the most beneficial and important because it teaches how to plan out things and actually see how it will look when you lay it out. I can use these skills and what we have learned in the future if I ever want to build something like that. It was the most fun thing because I liked being able to work on my own and create my own thing the way I wanted.

The most beneficial I learned so far in Interior Design was drawing our kitchen plans. I really like drawing out my dream house so I will have an idea of what I want when I am older. Also when we laid out our floor plans with toilet paper it help get understand about the size and spacing of my kitchen. It made me realize that two by two feet is not very big to have as a pantry. Doing this activity helped me get an understanding on how planning things for a kitchen is a lot harder than expected.

The most fun thing I have done so far this quarter is make my dream kitchen floor plan out of toilet paper. First we had to create our kitchen floor plan on graph paper. Then we went to the gym, took toilet paper and measured out the dimensions for our kitchens. After we completed the layout we looked at each other's and explained our designs. I learned that on the paper your design is either a lot bigger or a lot smaller than it is actually measured out. I had to change somethings make the bigger and move the around so my kitchen was better proportioned.

The most fun thing I completed this 3rd quarter was drawing out our kitchen floor plan and then laying it out in the gym. I liked how we got to draw it out because we got to put anything in our kitchen. Laying out our kitchen helped me see how big we had drawn it out and see the difference from the paper and when it was actually laid out. It was a pretty easy activity the only thing that was hard were the measurements. If I could redo it, I would make my whole kitchen bigger. I think I did a good job on the measurement of my appliances just not my kitchen room, it came out too small. But in all the kitchen floor plan activity was fun to draw out and actually put it out so we could see the results from our paper.

The most beneficial thing I have learned so far in Housing and Interior Design is the different lines and dimensions some things can or may have. There is different interruptions of these lines and or dimensions such as vertical, horizontal, and diagonal just to name a few. I am enjoying this quarter very much as well.

8th Grade

One thing fun in FACS class I did was cooking labs. My favorite one was when we made mini pizzas because they tasted good. What we learn from labs can be beneficial such as kitchen safety and how to use appliances. They were fun because they gave us a break from regular class.

The most fun thing that we did in F.A.C.S. was going to the gym for a day and playing games that tested our ability to work together as a group. Some of the thing that we did was having to fit everybody in a rope. And every time that we would fit in the rope the circle would get smaller. Another game that we played is that we had to pick 3 random items that we did not know what we were using them for. And throw them in a basket about 15-20 feet away.

The most fun thing I completed so far in FACS is when we cooked pizza and breadsticks. We would split up in three different groups and get our assignment. First we would have to make sure to wash our hands and put aprons on. Then we would go get the ingredients we needed to make our recipe. Two groups made the mini pizzas and one group made the breadsticks. It's a very fun way to learn how to cook instead of sitting through a slideshow. The very best part is, when we're done, we get to eat the food we made. I do have to say that it tasted very good and we did a great job.

The most fun thing I completed in facs class so far this year was doing the Fudge Lab. I thought that it was fun because it was pretty easy and simple. Another reason it was fun was that we all accidently put in mint extract instead of vanilla extract so that just made it a little bit more interesting. It also was fun to just talk to friends while we were waiting for them to freeze. My group also made the best fudge so that is probably why I like this particular lab more than the other labs that we did.

The most beneficial, important thing, or most fun thing I completed/have learned so far in Facs is the Pizza lab. This was my favorite lab because we got to experience how to make mini pizza out of English muffins, and learned how to make bread sticks as well. I also liked at the same time were cooking we were also learning more about kitchen safety too. It also was kind of nice learning how to cook and how to properly use utensils. The best part of the labs was probably the

cooking part because we get to work together and communicate to complete the task. Last but not least the last reason like labs is cause after we are done cooking we can eat what we made.

The most fun thing I completed so far in FACS is when I went into the lab and we cooked pizza and breadsticks. It was so fun to make and actually see what ingredients were in the recipes. I was also fun measuring out the ingredients and working with my group. I couldn't wait to eat them. When they came out of the oven they were hot so we had to use a pot holder so it didn't burn our hands. We ate them right up. They were yummy. I hope to be able to cook them at my house with my family. I will enjoy that lab we had for a long time. I would also recommend the recipe to anyone.

One the most funniest thing we have done here in this classroom this year is when we made pizza. When we made this pizza it was easy all we did was put pizza sauce and toppings on an English muffin and broiled it in the oven. It was important because we learned how to measure things correctly. And we learned how to use the right ingredients and how to cook food. This was fun because we got to cook in school and learn how to cook food.

The most fun things in FACS is the labs we did. We made pizza and breadsticks during class I thought this was the most important lab because we learned how to use the ovens and had to get are ingredients right. We also had to make sure was used are time wisely so the breadsticks and pizza could bake at the right temperature and time it needed to with enough for it to cool and eat. We also had to make sure everything was washed and put away in the 50 minutes.

The most beneficial, important thing, or most fun thing I completed/ have learned so far in FACS is reading the book about preparing for the real world and learning about all of these different things I can do to become successful. In this book we learned about a million different things that "Chad Foster" did to become rich and retire at the age he did (33). We learned about the rubber playground floors that are soft and helps kids not get hurt all the time. He taught us to chase are dreams because it could bite you in the butt if you do not for example the golf clubs with bigger ends chad had the idea to make them bigger but he did not follow it. He also taught us what success really meant and what people do not realize about the success.

The most beneficial thing I have done so far in 8th grade Facs is read, "Teenagers Preparing for the Real World," by Chad Foster. This was beneficial because it helped me to put my future into perspective. Also helped me to learn that I can start my journey to success now. By meeting people and making relationships with them, never stop asking questions, try as many jobs as I can, and to never stop dreaming no matter how strange a dream or how many people saw I can't do it. Those were just a few thing from this book, but there is much more that I will take from this book.

My favorite thing we did in FACS that I thought was most beneficial was reading the book "Teenagers Preparing for the Real World". It sure wouldn't be something I would have picked up off a shelf in the library, but I'm glad we had to read it. Chad Foster who is the author, told a lot of stories about how he pursued his dream and became an owner of a multi-million dollar company, became one of America's top-ranked tennis players, traveled the world, and more. He tells us how he never thought he would be as successful as he is now, he was a college drop out and still made millions. He's not saying dropout of school but he is telling us to follow our dreams because if we really try we might get somewhere. He also gave us a lot of tips on how to make it easier to talk to people and get to know people. Important values such as listening and communication and how they are important. It was a very good and easy read.

Human Development

The most fun thing I have done this quarter is going to the daycare every Thursday. The daycare environment is way different than what the school environment is and it is a lot of fun. I help out with a little bit of everything there and really enjoy playing with all the children. They really keep me on my toes and there is never a dull moment with them. I have also been visiting the Kindergarten and 1st grade room to see what teaching those would be like. All of it has been a great experience so far and I have learned a lot about younger children.

Culinary Arts

The most fun thing I completed so far in Culinary Arts is the chocolate competition. I made chocolate-covered cookie dough truffles. They were very tasty and looked elegant. I thought the competitive part of this was fun because I like competitions. Plus, making anything with food is always fun. Although I didn't win, I still had fun making the truffles and competing.

The most beneficial, important thing, or most fun thing I completed/have learned so far in Culinary Arts is making our own chocolate from scratch. I am still a little upset because I think that I won overall and that mine tasted the best. Also I like doing labs by myself and being judged because I am so competitive. And I really like chocolate so it was fun making our own chocolate and putting different things with it.

The most fun thing I completed so far in Culinary Arts is our chocolate lab. Everyone made very cool dishes while mine was a little more on the simple side. I made dark chocolate strawberries with a white and milk chocolate drizzle. I do have to admit it could have gone better. I froze the strawberries to keep them fresh over the weekend but it made them really soggy in their chocolate shell. But I think they were good so that is all that matters.

My favorite thing we did in Culinary arts would be the labs. More specifically, the candy competition. I thought it was fun because we were able to make whatever kind of chocolate candy we wanted. I decided to make chocolate covered caramels. This was awesome because now I have a recipe for homemade caramel, which is the best caramel ever. Also this lab was fun because it was a competition against all of our classmates. Finally, it was my favorite because I got to try other people's candy as well as my own.



Mr. Farnham, Industrial Technology

Intro to Technology we have been working house plans this nine weeks. Students research houses and floor plans of interest. We toured, designed kitchens, & garages. We laid out a floor plan in the gym so we could measure; read plans, discuss and critique problems when planning a house layout.

Communication Class had 16 projects to do the third nine weeks. These include more desktop publishing projects. Some projects were resume writing, cover letters, birthday cards, posters, brochures, and business cards, invitations and used the scanner.

The 7th grade Technology Class started by discussing the importance of technology and how we use it. We learned about problem solving skills, design process and measuring. They built, paper bridges, paper towers, straw towers, and used the building big site on the Internet to explore the building process. Currently they are on a noodle bridges and will test and evaluate. We will finish by designing domes.

Manufacturing students designed, created and built and tested a prototype. They designed and advertisement for their product and took orders. They are presently filling their orders or designing and building their own product.

PE Health students explored health and wellness by defining health and wellness, learning personal skills for health and wellness, learning health care objectives. They did this through discussion, questions, presentations, power points and Internet research. Presently learning about the human body and its systems, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, skeletal, muscular, digestive, urinary, endocrine, lymphatic and reproductive system. Student will also be taking the CPR portion of class and have the option to get a CPR certification.

Digital Media students explored careers in media, differences in media. Media bias, the role of the FCC, and consequences of media misuse



Illustration by Chris Gash

Mr. Gebhart, Science

In Biology the students have been studying Human genetics, inheritance of traits, crossing over of genes, chromosome maps (Karyotyping), mutations of chromosomes and genes, disorders of chromosomes and Human evolution. In labs the students have done labs over Sickle cell anemia, DNA, Half-Life of radioactive isotopes, Amino Acid sequence and a Hominid lab comparing different species.

Students in Life science have finished up the Animal Unit and are now studying Genetics and the cell. Some of the things they have been studying are birds and mammals, structure and function of Eukaryotic cells both plant and animals, cell energy, diffusion and osmosis, cell cycle, heredity, mitosis and meiosis. In labs the students have made both plant and animal cells, worked on Punnett squares, and made bugs from traits they were given.



One of our Bugs the students made from Life Science class.

Mrs. Hemmen, Math

7th Grade Math: Wow! Can you believe it? We are nearing the end of the year. This means that standardized testing is fast approaching. Seventh graders have had opportunities to take practice tests in the computer lab to “get the hang” of the smarter balanced assessment. The assessment usually takes place around April. Please encourage your child to do his/her best.

Since December, students have completed the unit on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing rational numbers. We moved on to work with ratios and proportions. Students are now able to use tables, graphs, and equations to compare proportional relationships and determine if they are linear.

Up next: simplifying algebraic expressions and solving linear equations.

Algebra I: There is never a dull moment in Algebra I class. With 25 students, we keep each other on our toes. We are nearing the end of quarter three and students have been working on linear equations, absolute-value functions, systems of equations, and linear inequalities. They show progress every day and work hard to make sense of all these numbers and letters.

Up next: exponents which will lead us into exponential functions (graphs, equations, and tables)

Pre-Algebra: Here we are...only one quarter left. Where does the time go? Every year, my goal for the students is to have them prepared for the content covered in Algebra I. This means that many times we are working on the same concepts as Algebra I, but at a level that is easier to manage. I feel like this group is working hard to grasp these (often times) difficult concepts. Since December, we have worked on linear equations in two variables, slope, graphing, scatter plots, function notation, and systems of linear equations.

Up next: linear inequalities

Geometry: The end is in sight! Only one quarter left, and students are starting to get anxious for the year to be done. However, a whole quarter is a whole lot of learning that still needs to take place. We keep very busy in Geometry. Since December, we have worked with polygons specifically parallelograms, trapezoids, and kites along with all the properties and rules for each shape. We have even done some review from algebra...simplifying radicals, distance formula and solving quadratic equations. Students have also been exposed to triangle similarity.

Up next: the Pythagorean theorem, special right triangles, and trigonometry (my favorite!)

As always, grades are updated daily and assignments are usually entered for the next day. If you ever have any questions, feel free to contact me at the school. Here's to the last quarter! May our pencils stay sharp, our paper plentiful, and our minds open to new information.

Mr. Leuning, Social Studies

8th Grade History:

The Revolutionary war is over and Washington has become our first President followed by Adams and that leaves us with Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson leadership became a new era in the American Government. Under his leadership he doubled the size of America with the Louisiana Territory and he supported men to find path ways to the West for the future of this country. We also got into a conflict with the British again over land in the Northwest Territories and then comes the war of 1812. America is going through some rough growing pains at this time. United States finally did peacefully settled disputes with foreign powers and a sense of national unity spread among the different sections of the country and the United States is starting to grow and becoming more independent of other Nations and is starting to gain its own American identity. We are up to the early 1800's and the country is becoming larger in size but it also is creating new problems to meet by our fore fathers. We are at the point of Sectionalism between the North and South. Stay tune for Quarter 4 to find out what happens. (Civil War is a good guess)

7th Grade Geography:

We have been in Europe during the 3rd quarter. We have covered Southern, Northern and Eastern Europe this quarter. We have gone over the physical landforms, the major climate zones, resources, population and finally its culture of this many different countries. We also have talked about the many different famous people throughout the beginning of history to present time. We also have talked about how Europe has played a big part of expansion to the rest of the world. Next quarter we will be talking about Asia and Africa and Australia. Until next time.

10th Grade World History:

The World History class has been busy studying the first Industrial age explosion in Europe that expanded throughout North America. We also have cover the Renaissance and Reformation era, along with the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment years. We are presently studying the similarities between the American Revolution and French Revolution. We have talked about the causes of revolution and we are presently on the reformation of the French Government. The next two steps will be the Region of Terror, and the Napoleon Era. The next quarter we will be covering the upcoming World Wars and the Cold war, along with global problems and challenges of today. Remember you too can make History every day.

Mrs. Livermont and Mrs. Timm, 7-12 Resource Room

With 3rd quarter coming to a close, it means Spring is around the corner. The year has certainly gone fast and lets hope the weather continues to cooperate, as we have only one day to make up. Yeah!!!

English 1 and 2 students have worked hard on writing skills this quarter. They have written reaction papers to several debate topics which has generated good discussion. Their writing skills have improved a great deal, and I hope they will continue to use what they have learned in future writing tasks. These students have been reading short stories as well, with having to determine key ideas and details, and also integrating their knowledge and skills. This means that students will analyze and evaluate if the author was successful in sharing experiences with the reader and if the information presented is the same as or different from other information presented in fiction, social media, or textbooks. It does make students think and teaches them to be able to explain themselves.

English 4 students are reading a novel called Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes. This novel is quite powerful in opening eyes about child abuse and neglect. It is set in modern times and high school students can relate to the various situations presented in the text. It is really an excellent read. Students want to continue reading even when the bell rings. I encourage parents to read it as well. It is sad and about true friendship.

Geometry students have been working on quadrilaterals and polygons, perimeter of polygons, area of parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, and similar polygons. Along with all of that, this includes students doing proofs of proving a quadrilateral is a parallelogram, equal parts, and angle-angle similarity postulates.

Pre-Algebra students have been working on factors and multiples, fractions and mixed numbers, and adding and subtracting fractions. These chapters consisted of learning about common factors, prime factorization, and multiples. Also, learning about fractions, equivalent fractions, finding lowest terms, comparing and converting decimals to fractions. Presently, students are working on adding and subtracting fractions with like, unlike denominators, and solving and evaluating equations with variable expressions.

Applied Math students have learned about percent, rate, proportions, discounts, and commission. This chapter was an excellent introduction to how interest and rates are calculated, along with learning how to change percents to decimals. The next chapter involved an introduction to geometry. Students learned geometric terms such as points, lines, rays, planes and angles. They were also introduced to various names of polygons and solid figures. Presently, students are working on metric and customary units of measurement. Students have been working hard using their critical thinking skills in choosing the best unit of measurement.

It has been a busy quarter. With all the things needing to be done by the end of the year, 4th quarter can be just as busy. Everyone is looking forward to Spring and green grass. Even us two!!!!

Mrs. Lundgren, Title Math

It is never too early for parents to start helping their young children develop math proficiency by introducing informal math concepts and skills before the children even begin school. There are many opportunities to count, to sort objects, to match collections of objects, and to identify shapes while taking part in daily activities.

Often children's math achievement can be shaped and/or limited by what is expected of them. Avoid conveying negative attitudes toward math. Show an interest in what they are doing in school. Ask your children what they did in math class today. Have them give details and explain. Go over homework with them. Don't use math as a punishment. Model persistence and pleasure with mathematics. Introduce math ideas with a light touch at the dinner table, while traveling, or even in the grocery store.

Mathematics is fascinating, exciting and meant to be enjoyed. When children have explored geometry, probability, statistics, measurement and logic, and learned to estimate, see patterns, and recognize relationships, they will be able to see difficult problems as a challenge rather than a drudgery.

Practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts with your child. The quicker kids can recall basic math facts, the easier it is for them to solve more complicated math problems. Play math games that reinforce math concepts. Encourage your child to see that math is fun.



Mrs. Erickson, Math and Science

Earth Science

In the third quarter, we covered information on weathering and soil formation along with agents of erosion and deposition. We learned the types of weathering, how weathering rates can be affected, the formation of soil, ways to conserve soil along with the erosion and deposition from wind, the shoreline, ice and gravity. We started a new unit called Inside the Restless Earth. We have covered minerals and rocks so far. We learned what a mineral is, how to identify minerals, the formation and mining of minerals as well as the rock cycle and the different types of rocks.

Physical Science

In this third quarter, students were introduced to the physics portion of physical science. Students learned how to calculate velocity and acceleration. Students learned the fundamental forces along with determining balanced and unbalanced forces. We also learned about the force of friction and how friction can be helpful. We learned Newton's first, second, and third laws of motion and the law of universal gravitation and the law of conservation of energy. Students learned how to calculate the work, power, mechanical advantage, gravitational potential energy, kinetic energy, and efficiency. We discussed the different simple machines, compound machines, forms of energy, and energy transformation.

Human Anatomy and Physiology

In Human Anatomy and Physiology, we covered the endocrine system and cardiovascular system. In the endocrine system we learned its function, how the hypothalamus, pituitary gland, thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal glands, pancreas and other endocrine glands play roles in maintaining homeostasis and what happens to the endocrine system as an individual ages. The cardiovascular system has two main components (1) heart (2) the blood vessels. We learned the anatomy and physiology of the heart, blood vessels, and the circulatory routes. We also learned how the cardiovascular system is effected by the aging process and how it helps maintain homeostasis.

8th Grade Math

The third quarter in 8th grade math was spent learning about increasing and decreasing exponential functions. We learned the rules of exponents and scientific notation. We are able to determine and write an exponential function in a variety of ways (algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables, or by verbal descriptions). We continued to review material from our first and second quarter such as linear and inverse functions.



Mrs. Brown, School Nurse

Our students and staff have been struggling to stay well this winter. Over the last few weeks, there have been numerous missed student days due to strep throats and the influenza virus. As a reminder, please follow the sick day guidelines and do not send students back to school too soon. If getting behind in school work is a concern, home work can be sent home by your student's teachers or maybe consider half days for your student until they regain their energy. There are some tough viruses this year that need to run their course and for students to get better they need to rest at home.

A child should stay home from school if he/she has:

*A fever of 100 degrees or higher

*Vomiting-may return to school 24 hours after last episode

*Diarrhea is 3 or more loose watery stools in 24 hours or a sudden onset of loose stools, may return to school 24 hours after last episode

*Symptoms that keep him or her from participating in school, such as:

+Extreme fatigue or lack of appetite

+A cough that cannot be controlled by cough syrup or cough drops; could be bronchitis.

Bronchitis may require a physician's visit to help with recovery.

+**Severe**- headache, body aches or earache

+**Severe**-Sore throat; could be strep throat, even if there is no fever

Symptoms that can also be seen with strep throat in children are headaches, stomach upset and/or a skin rash. Strep throat is diagnosed by your child having a throat swab in your health care provider's office. A diagnosis of strep means a child should be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

You should keep your child home until his/her fever has been gone for 24 hours without the use of medications. A child who returns to school too soon may slow his/her recovery and expose other students unnecessarily to illness.

You should keep your child home until 24 hours after the last vomiting or diarrhea episode to give your child time to recover completely and to not expose other children to illness.

In the school setting, illness can be spread easily and quickly. Please help others from becoming ill by keeping your child home during the worst of his/her illness.

If you have any questions about your child's health, please contact me at the school.



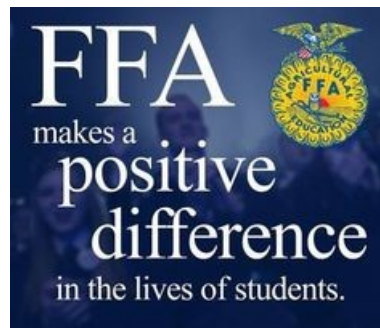
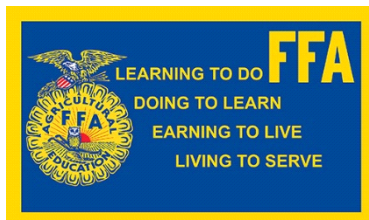
Ag Ed News & Notes Here Comes Spring!

The spring semester is upon us and many opportunities continue! On deck are the Career Development Events (CDE's). Proficiency applications highlighting student work outside of the classroom have been completed and entered for competition. FFA members have just finished celebrating FFA Week. FFA Week has many strange activities but the focus is remembering the importance of personal and leadership development. Students have to plan, sort out and conduct their activities, which in themselves are learning opportunities.



CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

The month of February also celebrates Career & Technical Education (CTE) month! The importance of CTE programs is at an all-time high. Student job placement is nearly a guarantee. We have many CTE courses students participate in which are elective courses. Our courses introduce students to career options and provide links to student leadership organizations. As students learn in the classroom and take that knowledge beyond the classroom, they position themselves for a successful future. Our CTE courses prepare all students at all future post-secondary educational levels to develop career success. As we hear more about these changes and the demands business places on education for the workforce instructors in CTE are trying to keep up and meet those needs. As students look at registering for next year's course work please feel free to visit with us to see how they can be ready for the best opportunities.



Strengthening career success in the FFA centers a lot on Career Development Events (CDE's). March is the time of many spring CDE events begin. Students can participate in the following events that test knowledge, skill, problem solving, and communication ability for relevant workplace situations. Those events include: Agronomy, Ag Mechanics, Ag Business Management, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Floriculture, Food Science, Horse Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Meats Evaluation, Dairy Foods, Natural Resources, Nursery/Landscape, and Veterinary Science. Any student enrolled in an agri-science class has the opportunity to participate. The level of success they achieve relates directly to their own desire to take learning beyond the classroom. Our school has numerous opportunities for students! The success they can attain depends upon taking advantage of them, putting in extra time, and support of parents and teachers.

Exciting News: Watch our Facebook page "Elkton Area FFA" for exciting news on the SD FFA Convention and a nationally known featured keynote speaker!

Mrs. Gunderson, Title Reading

I am on maternity leave through the end of spring break. I plan to be back on April 19. Ms. Kim Eichler is the long-term substitute teacher. Ms. Eichler is a recent SDSU graduate who has expertise in early literacy.

Have you checked in with your child's teacher lately about his/her progressing literacy skills? At this point in the year, classroom teachers have much data regarding the progress of each student. If you are not sure what books your child should be reading at home, the teachers can let you know. (Students at this school have access to books that correspond directly with their current reading levels!)

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that the five components of literacy are phonemic awareness, phonics (the alphabetic principle), fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Last newsletter, I wrote about phonological awareness, and this time I am focusing on the **alphabetic principle/phonics**. Here are some helpful definitions (Honig et. al., pp. 170 & 183): *alphabetic principle*=the understanding that written letters represent spoken sounds and that these sounds go together to make words; *phonics*=instruction in the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent; *decoding*=the ability to convert a word from print to speech; *decodable text*=reading material in which the majority of words are linked to phonics instruction using sound/spelling relationships and spelling patterns students have been taught (We use decodable texts with students as we are teaching each phonics skill so that they can master that skill before moving on to the next skill in our phonics progression.)

Much research has confirmed that understanding the alphabetic principle is an essential literacy skill and that systemic phonics instruction is the best way to teach the alphabetic principle. This instruction can help students become fluent readers and writers; they can focus on the meaning of texts because less mental energy is needed to decode the words.

At this school, we have a K-5 phonics progression. It is based on the state's standards for foundational literacy skills but is more detailed. It starts with students learning the basic sounds for each letter and how to read CVC words (consonant, short vowel, consonant), and it ends with students being able to read very long words due to knowledge of syllables types, spelling patterns, word parts, and word origins.

As with any skill, the best way to master the alphabetic principle is through PRACTICE. Students should put the knowledge they gain in the classroom into practice by reading on their own and with others.

Reference: Honig, B., Diamond, L., & Gutlohn, L. (2013). Teaching reading sourcebook: For kindergarten through eighth grade (2nd ed.). Novato, CA: Arena Press.



Mrs. Sudtelgte, Vocal Music

The 3rd nine weeks was a busy quarter for the music department. February 9th, several ladies participated in the Festival for Female Voices. Representing Elkton/Lake Benton were Joanna Boll, Alexis Christensen, McKenzie Engwicht and Emma Kampmann. They rehearsed during the day with the SDSU Women's Choir and some of the best female high school singers from across the state. Also noteworthy, is that Joanna Boll was able to accompany the Festival Choir on her flute for one of the festival songs. This is a job usually reserved for an SDSU faculty member or SDSU student.

The High School Boys performed the National Anthem at the Deubrook Girl's Basketball game on February 3rd. This is nothing new because the boys do this every year. However, this year they performed a cappella. I have always rolled the piano to the gym and accompanied the boys but this year the boys told me they could perform a cappella. They did a great job! It was fun to see them receive compliments from the fans.

Congratulations to Joanna Boll for receiving a Superior rating on her Soprano solo at the Region Music Contest.

March 6th our Junior High students participated in the 38th annual Festival for Young Voices at SDSU. Representing Elkton/Lake Benton were Brendon Bailey, Madeline Bressler, Julia Drietz, David Cacho, Megan Grimsrud, Abigail Hach, Trinity Hagen, Miles Harming, Jack Hemmen, Riley Hunter, Isaac Jaacks, Bobbie Jo Johnson, Hannah Krog, Donovan Mertens, William Neill, Karissa Olsen, Jasmine Rouge, Jasper Rybinski, and Ryan Smallfield. This year's choir was one of the best in festival history.

Grades K-6 are busy preparing for their Spring Program on April 6. Each class is showcased through a presentation and singing. The 6th grade are working hard to be prepared to play their guitars at the concert. Mr. Robey will have artwork on display and the 5th and 6th grade bands will also perform. There will be a burger feed before the program. Please watch for details.

