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Johnson County Central Public Schools



Monthly Newsletter

December 2016

SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



SPORTSMANSHIP

The start of the winter sports season brings much hope and expectations for our basketball and wrestling teams. It also brings a time in which fans tend to be more noticeable. In light of some of the black eyes that sports have recently received on the professional and collegiate levels, I think we need to do a self-check on our demeanor as fans. Nebraska Cornhusker fans have the reputation of being the classiest fans in college sports. I would like Johnson County Central fans be considered the classiest fans in the area and in our conference. As fans, our job is simply to cheer for our kids, not to berate officials or to yell against the other team. I encourage all to attend the games and meets this year—they will be full of fun and excitement.

Over my years in education I have put together some “hints” on being a good fan. These are all listed as “don’ts”. When trying to get a point across I believe positive statements tend to have a more intended outcome, but once in a while it does not hurt to work through the “negative angle”. Let me preface these hints first by saying that I have found myself guilty of violating each of these at one time or another, albeit not always vocally or visibly. I often do some soul-searching after games and see that I need to change myself in being a fan. Try out the following to get the most out of being a fan:

- **Don’t be surprised or offended if an official “errs” in your eyes.** I almost find it humorous when some fans seem to notice every “missed” or “bad” call. They almost seem surprised that an official can make such an error. These fans often make this statement every game. My question is this: why are you surprised? You’ve seen these games for years and still have a hard time comprehending that an official cannot call a “perfect” (at least in your eyes) game. Parents: when you yell at officials during the contest your children are flat-out embarrassed. One of the things we should remember is that one of the roles of athletics is to teach kids to respect authority. When fans act out against officials they are, in essence by their actions, trying to teach our student-athletes that they do not need to respect authority. Another point to remember is that officials take a yearly test to be certified to officiate NSAA games. Hardly any of our fans have taken this test. Hardly any of our fans have seriously tried to officiate a basketball game or wrestling match and those few that have will have to admit that they probably “sucked on the whistle” way too many times. I have found that second-guessing officials tends to raise my stress level, thus eliminating some of the fun of watching kids play a game—a game that is supposed to be for fun. Let it be fun.

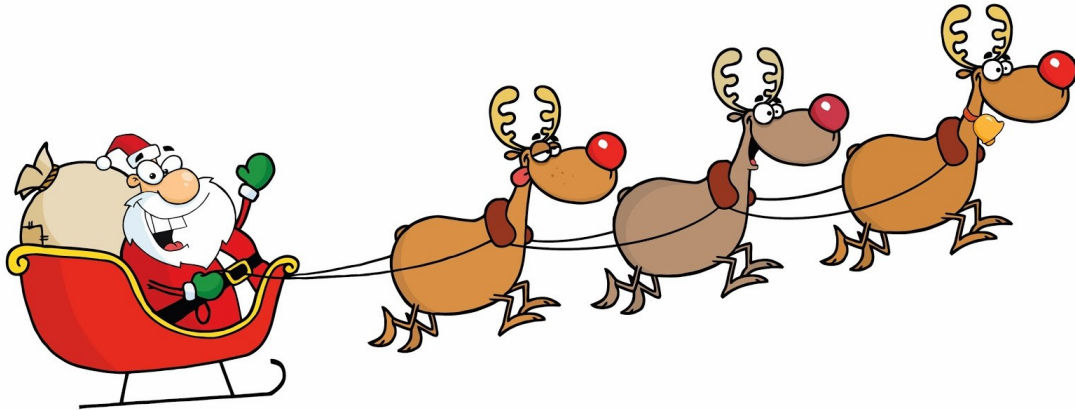
- **As a parent, don't second guess the coaches.** Even after years of being a coach I used to still find myself guilty of this, especially when my own kids were involved. We all want what is best for our kids, but we don't see the kids every day in practice, while the coaches have been working with them on a daily basis. One of my most memorable moments in coaching was when I got lambasted by an irate father over the playing time his daughter was getting in Volleyball, especially when compared to a girl who was admittedly an inferior athlete. The father didn't realize that his daughter only gave half efforts at the practices she managed to make. She missed several practices for a variety of reasons. He only saw the results when she played. The other girl in the story was one of the more coachable kids I had and worked harder than most. She knew what she was supposed to be doing at all times. I was greeted after a game by a particularly unkind title. His wife was very embarrassed, as was dad after I explained the efforts that his daughter was giving and how much practice time she had missed. I am certain that coaches don't always play the combination of kids that I would if I were coaching the team. But that is the key—I am not coaching that team, so I don't have the right to say that the coach is wrong as to whom he/she is playing. Coaches are highly competitive and want to win, usually more so than the kids themselves. What coach who wants to win would consciously play someone with inferior ability if they didn't think it would enable them to progress as a team or a program? I also caution you against trying to coach your child against the philosophies or techniques employed by our coaches. Nothing breaks down a system or a program quicker than when everyone goes off on their own. This is what we help create when we encourage our own kids to “do it their way”. On the contrary, I would expect you as a parent to support the coaches by encouraging your child to do it the coach's way. Let the coaches coach.
- **As a parent, know the proper time and mind set to contact coaches.** When their teams play well coaches are appreciative of receiving a pat on the back at any time, even after games. I highly encourage this. It is also nice to receive a boost after a hard loss. However, when their teams play poorly and/or lose games it is not likely the proper time to approach a coach with complaints or negative comments. If you as a parent are upset with something you saw please realize you are not in the most positive frame of mind to confront a coach. In that setting, the coach likely is not in the best frame of mind either. In this setting it is highly likely a “cooling off” period needs to take place. I will always support the right of parents to contact a coach about concerns. I will even offer to line up a meeting with a coach. I will likely suggest that your son/daughter go directly to the coach first if he/she has concerns, but I do realize that there are times that parents feel a need to visit with coaches about concerns. One thing to keep in mind when contacting coaches about a concern: try to make sure you have all of the details first. What you are hearing may not be the total story. If you are going to be critical of the coach it is likely not the best idea to include your child in the conversation.
- **As a fan, don't second guess the coaches.** Again, you don't see the kids every day in practice. The coaches are going to do what they believe will best help their team to be successful. You might have your own theories on what will be successful, but you aren't in that position. Every coach in our system is working for his/her team to be successful. Again, I would not do everything exactly the same as any of our coaches, but that is based on my own theories. Theories on coaching are just like opinions on taxes: no two are exactly the same and all of them have their strengths and flaws. None are one hundred percent correct, either. Please recognize this.
- **Don't denigrate kids for their performances.** Kids are human, thus they will all exhibit that one human flaw in all of us: they will make mistakes. Our kids tend to put in good efforts and want to succeed. Does that mean they will always put in the same effort every night? No! They are just like us in our jobs. Some days we do our jobs better than other days. What kids need is our support for their efforts. Applaud the positive things they do. Along with this is the idea that we should never say things against the other team. Our sole purpose in being a fan is to support our kids.
- **Don't ruin the fun for the fans around you.** If you are guilty of second-guessing officials or coaches you are interfering with the chance for those around you to have a positive experience at the games or matches. They are entitled to have an enjoyable contest without being subjected to outbursts from those around them. If you go to the extreme of denigrating kids, especially specific kids, for their performances, then you are talking about someone else's son or daughter. I don't know of any parent that gets enjoyment out of hearing negative things being said about their child. They definitely should not be subjected to this by our own fans.

These are a few of my own hints. If everyone followed every one of these I sincerely believe we would have the reputation of having the classiest fans around. These hints don't mean that you shouldn't be loud and “into the game”. I highly encourage you to do this. I have told cheerleaders and our student body repeatedly: no negative cheers, only positive cheers for our teams. Fans need to follow the same guideline. Again, have fun during the basketball and wrestling seasons. They are some of our great American institutions, ones that should be enjoyed, not agonized over.

ELECTION RESULTS

I recently wrote a guest editorial piece for the Tecumseh Chieftain about kids' reaction to the Presidential election. What I wrote about were real reactions to the election that our kids could experience. My purpose was to provide ways for adults to help kids look at the election in an objective manner. In case you missed the editorial in the paper please contact me and I will email you a copy. I received some very much appreciated "thank you" and "well done" comments. I also received a few who more or less encouraged me to stay out of the political arena. Please know that is exactly what my goal was. I wanted to address very real issues for some of our student body while at the same time pushing my political beliefs aside.

We have a diversity in our student body that I not only welcome, I cherish. Our students get exposures and opportunities as a result of this diversity of which students in other schools are deprived. Each year I take groups of seniors out to lunch and we have discussions about them and their experiences. I always ask each group what they like best about our school. Almost always someone in the group will say that they like how much everyone accepts each other. When they ask me what I like most about our school it is always in that same vein: our students and staff really are accepting of others and that fills me with a great deal of pride. In being so accepting of others our students obviously show concern for each other. That is why many of our students did voice questions and concerns in some classes after the election. I asked our staff to send the message to our students that we love and value each of them and will always serve to protect them. We will continue to have that as our one of our core beliefs in this school.



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break and ate just enough turkey and stuffing. The weather has turned cold and that means the beginning of our winter sports – basketball and wrestling. The student athletes have been practicing hard and are ready to compete. We're also getting close to the end of first semester and Christmas break, which brings up the topic of semester exams. Semester exams are given in the core curriculum classes and count as 5% of the student's final grade. Once your student knows their exam schedule, I encourage you as parents to assist them in their preparation for these exams. Urge your student to study ahead of time instead of cramming their studying into the night before each exam. Help them by providing a quiet environment in which to study and encourage them to get plenty of rest and to eat good meals as they prepare to take their semester exams.

Another topic we need to discuss is about students changing classes for second semester. Mrs. Reuter (Counselor) will place in the daily bulletin a notice for students to change classes during the week of December 5. Students will also have the first week we return to class in January (January 4-10) to also make changes to their class schedules if they choose.

Our first semester will be drawing to a close, let's keep up the hard work and finish the semester strong!

News from Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal and Athletic Director

With the month of December upon us thoughts often turn to the holidays and spending time with family. But, the month of December also brings with it the rapidly approaching end of the first semester and a month full of games, matches, and holiday concerts. In addition to all these extracurricular activities, the normal everyday work in the classroom continues as well. Students who are able to participate in activities and keep up with their class work need to be commended.

Johnson County Central participated in the inaugural NSAA Unified Bowling season this year. Unified sports is an inclusive activities program that combines an approximately equal number of individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals without intellectual disabilities on teams for competition and inclusive activities fostering an environment of social inclusion. This has been a very rewarding experience for all involved. This year's team members are Matthew Flewelling, Zulema Borboa, Emalee North, Juan Gonzalez, Logan Ascherman, Haley Beethe, Garret Cropp, Simon Rother, Nathen Neukirch, and Cassidy Parks and coaches Marcus Scheer and Lisa Schuster. A Special Thank You to Ron Lade and everybody at the Harvest Bowl for their support and cooperation!

On Monday, November 7th several Johnson County Central Chorus students performed at the ECNC Honor Choir hosted by Yutan. The choir practiced all afternoon and, along with the high school Honor Choir, put on an outstanding concert for the public that evening. Johnson County Central middle school students who participated in this Honor Choir include: Edwin Aguirre, Roberto Borboa, Chloe Curry, Jonathon Duncan, Treyton Holthus, Vanessa Jimenez, Phillip Kauffman, Kylie Kleespies, Morgan Moran, Lane Othmer, Zadie Plager, Saylor Rother & Isabella Wolter. To be selected to the ECNC Honor Choir all students had to go through an audition process. Congratulations to these outstanding performers.

On November 11, an assembly was held at the middle school honoring local veterans for their service to our great country. The Talmage American Legion Post presented the colors. Mr. Bret Wellensiek did an outstanding job as the main speaker for the program. The 4th and 5th grade classes performed patriotic musical numbers and Jason Kettelhake performed Taps. At the conclusion of the program, the veterans and the spouses were treated to dinner in the school cafeteria. Thank you to all veterans for their service to our country.

Each quarter, I recognize one student in each grade level for doing things the right way and consistently modeling the Thunderbird Way at a high level. The Thunderbird Award Winners for the first quarter were: 6th grade – Katelyn Beethe; 7th grade – Emma Straka; & 8th grade – Miguel Orozco. Each of these students was given a certificate for a free pizza, compliments of the Tecumseh Pizza Hut. Congratulations to these students and all students who practice the Thunderbird Way.



Sportsmanship

The beginning of the winter sports season is a good time to review the fundamentals of sportsmanship. Johnson County Central is required by the NSAA to maintain proper crowd control and enforce the principles of good sportsmanship and ethics during all interscholastic contests. The East Central Nebraska Conference also encourages schools to promote good sportsmanship. During each game against a conference school our players, coaches, fans and administration are being judged by our opponent for our behavior exhibited during the game. Points are given for positive examples of sportsmanship or deducted for instances of poor sportsmanship. At the conclusion of each season schools are given the results, along with comments detailing what each school did well and what it may need to work on.

It is important to remember that the game is played for the enjoyment of the athletes. Spectators should be there to support their team and enjoy the contest.

The greatest challenge to good sportsmanship is adversity. When things are not going well the easy response is to look for someone to blame or shift the blame—in particular to the opponents, the officials or the coaches. When this is done, the focus is moved away from the positive, such as recognizing our athletes' effort and hard work, to the negative, "how can we possibly overcome all these bad calls." Johnson County Central Schools feels it is essential that our athletes maintain a positive approach to handling adversity. We need the support of our parents and fans, as role models, if we are to accomplish this.

It is not uncommon for fans to become quite vocal at games and loudly criticize opposing players, the officials, or even our own athletes and coaches. This type of abusive behavior is counterproductive to the purpose of high school athletics and what we are trying to teach. In addition, it creates a very uncomfortable environment for the fans who come out to support their team and wish to enjoy the game. Finally, it can be embarrassing to our school and to the young people who are competing in the contest. We are asking all our fans to keep comments positive and upbeat and recognize our team's, along with our opponent's, outstanding play and effort.

As a school, we hire the game officials for our home contests and approve the officials for our away contests. All the officials that officiate varsity contests are registered with the NSAA and have been deemed competent. They are not perfect, and their interpretation of the action may be different than yours. However, they are an essential part of the game and they are doing the best they can. Let's strive to pay less attention to their performance and more to the skills and hard work of our young athletes. Let's come out this winter and cheer on our teams to success throughout the season. GO THUNDERBIRDS!

What is Sportsmanship?

- ...playing fair
- ...following the rules of the game
- ...respecting the judgment of referees and officials
- ...treating opponents with respect

Elementary News

J O N R O T H E R
 E M A I L : J O N . R O T H E R @ J C C E N T R A L . O R G
 T W I T T E R : @ J O N R O T H E R



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Friday, December 9—4-8 Christmas Program @ Cook Site New Gym, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 14—Tecumseh Site PK Christmas Program @ Tecumseh Site Elem. Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 14—School Board Meeting @ Tecumseh, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 19—Cook Site PK Christmas Program @ Cook Site New Gym, 10:45 a.m.
- Monday, December 19—Tecumseh Site Grades K-3 Christmas Program @ Tecumseh Site Elem. Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 21—End 1st Semester, 1:00 p.m. Dismissal.
- Thursday, December 22—Begin winter break.

Grit (What It Is, and How to Get It)

grit
 - courage and resolve; strength of character.

courage
 - the ability to do something that frightens one.
 - strength in the face of pain or grief.

resolve
 - firm determination to do something.

char-ac-ter
 - the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.

Just a few definitions to get us started. And here are a few questions:

Do we want our children to have grit?
 Do we want our children to have courage?
 Do we want our children to have resolve?
 Do we want our children to have character?

All of these help our children to have grit; the ability to strive on towards a goal until the goal is achieved. The ability to withstand criticism and failure until the goal is achieved. The ability to overcome fear to reach a goal.

How do we build grit?

We have to let our children fail. Teach them, and let them fail. Encourage them. Teach them again, and let them fail. Encourage them to take chances, even though failure is a possibility. Developing grit takes HARD WORK and failure. It takes a growth mindset. One that says, "I can't YET, but I will".

Watching our children fail or struggle is hard as a caregiver. We need to change the way we view these events. We need to start seeing them as growing and strengthening our children. They can do it. They can do it with our support and our encouragement. But, NOT with our intervention.

For more information on grit, check out:

Angela Duckworth's book [Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance](#).

www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance

<http://99u.com/articles/7094/the-future-of-self-improvement-part-i-grit-is-more-important-than-talent>

Thank You!

A special thanks to all those who helped make the JCC's Tecumseh Site Elementary Open House a success!!

Rocio & Jesse Reyes **Dana & Andre Rautenbach** **Elise & Moaner du Preez**
Sengphet & Samlane Thipphavong **Glenn Plager** **JCC's FCA Huddle**

October Thunderbirds of the Month

Kindergarten—Lucy Hippen, Danica Russell, Henry Lueders, Hadley Hartman, Diego Martinez, Kenna Thomas

1st Grade—Anthony Orozco, Bodhi Klein, Reese Carter, Nayeli Bobadilla, Alex Thipphavong, Meghan Kilmer

2nd Grade—Trevor Bohling, Bryce Beckman, Erik Prado, Monica Jimenez, Lane Robeson, Mario Lara Jr., Zoey Bryant, Leonel Cruz, Andrea Rojas

3rd Grade—Saige Rother, Gabe Bernadt, Catherine Wendt, Ashley Beethe, Owen Weber, Trevor Pietzyk

4th Grade—David Campos, Alex Cruz, Maecee Neemann, Juanita Grobler, Hailey Stafford-Thompson, Kali Drake

5th Grade—Michael Bernadt, Ava Klein, Keven Silos, Kaityn Schuster, Maya Straka, Ruby Duarte



4th & 5th Grade October Thunderbirds of the Month (not pictured: Keven Silos, Ava Klein)

K-3 October Thunderbirds enjoying a sunny day snowball fight!



NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

College Access Grant College Visits

As a part of the EducationQuest College Access grant that Johnson County Central received at the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year, high school students have had the opportunity to visit several college campuses. So far this fall, students have had the opportunity to visit Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Lincoln, and Milford, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Peru State College. Students have participated in career exploration events or admissions visit days on these campuses. There will be more opportunities this spring for Johnson County Central students to visit additional college campuses in the state of Nebraska. They will have the opportunity to see the similarities and differences between community colleges, state colleges, private colleges, and state universities to help them make an informed decision on the best place to continue their education after high school.



Understanding the Financial Aid Process

- The FAFSA is your application for federal, state and college-based financial aid. Complete the form at fafsa.gov. The colleges you list on the application will receive the results and will use that information to award financial aid.
- Apply after October 1, but before the colleges' priority dates to get the best financial aid package.
- Use IRS Data Retrieval to add your income tax information to the FAFSA.
- Renew the FAFSA every year you're in college
- Colleges use this standard formula to calculate your financial need: Cost of Education (determined by the college) – Expected Family Contribution (based on FAFSA results) = Financial Need
- Your "financial need" determines the type and amount of financial aid you will receive.
- **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR).** You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received, and if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.
- The college(s) might request **verification** of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the college financial aid office.

- **Expect a financial aid award notification** from the colleges that accepted you for admission. It will detail the assistance they're offering based on your financial need. Respond to all award notifications by the deadlines.
- **Compare financial aid awards** to determine what you would need to spend out-of-pocket or borrow in student and/or parent loans at each school to cover the full cost of your education.
- Once you select a college, notify the other schools of your decision.
If you need student loans, your college will direct you to StudentLoans.gov to complete the necessary forms. Allow several weeks for processing time.

Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship

The Susan T. Buffett Foundation has offered scholarships to Nebraska students for more than fifty years. Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to first-time college freshmen who are residents of Nebraska and graduates of Nebraska high schools. High school seniors who qualify may apply for a Buffett scholarship at <http://buffettscholarships.org/college-scholarships>

To be eligible for a scholarship from The Susan T. Buffett Foundation, a student must:

- Be a resident of Nebraska
 - o Residency is determined by the institution where you enroll
- For questions about your residency status, here is a **list of contact numbers**
- Graduate from a Nebraska high school or earn a Nebraska GED
 - Achieve at least a 2.5 cumulative unweighted GPA in high school
 - o 2.5 on a 4 point scale
 - o 80 on a 100 point scale
 - Be a first-time freshman when entering college
 - o Students obtaining dual enrollment credits in high school are still eligible to apply
 - Plan to attend any of the following Nebraska public institutions:
 - o **Nebraska Community Colleges** - Central, Metropolitan, Mid-Plains, Northeast, Southeast, or Western Nebraska;
 - o **Nebraska State College System** - Chadron State, Peru State, Wayne State; or
 - o **University of Nebraska** - NCTA, UNK, UNL, UNMC, or UNO
 - Be in need of financial assistance in order to attend school
 - o **Note:** Students do not need to be Pell Grant eligible to qualify
- Students must have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) below \$10,000 in order to apply

February ACT Registration Deadline

Students who want to take the ACT on February 11th need to register online at www.act.org by January 13th in order to not pay a late fee. Students can choose their location for testing as a part of the registration process.

New Process For Registering For Peru State Early Entry Courses

Peru State College's new online Early Entry application is up and running, so students can begin applying for spring enrollment at any time! Students should fill out the new online application to enroll in Spring 2017 courses. ***Peru State College will no longer be able to accept the paper applications for enrollment.***

Early entry courses taught at Johnson County Central High School in the Spring of 2017 include:

BIOL 210 076L	Human Anatomy	4 credits
ENG 101 076L	English Composition	3 credits
HIST 114 076L	American History After 1865	3 credits
MATH 112 076L	College Algebra	3 credits
MATH 225 076L	Calculus with Analytic Geometry	5 credits
PHYS 202 076L	General Physics II	4 credits
PSCI 201 076L	American National Government	3 credits
SOC 201 076L	Principles of Sociology	3 credits

Students can access the online application by visiting Peru State's Early Entry website at www.peru.edu/earlyentry/ and clicking on "Application" on the left hand side of the page.

Students will need the following information available when filling out their online application:

- NUID (if a returning student)
- Counselor name and email address
- Parent Authorization Form (Found on our website www.peru.edu/earlyentry/)

Johnson County Central Backpack Program

There is still time to contribute to the JCC Backpack Program! It will run through the end of the school year! It provides families a meal supplement for the weekends when needed. We are providing 58 Backpacks this school year for students in grades K-12. We are providing one Backpack per family.

There has been a change and that is why we are in touch.

Please make your checks payable to: JCC Backpack Program.

Please send your donation to:

Sally Hutt, Box 274, Tecumseh NE 68450

There are changes throughout the year that makes it important that we send checks to different places and this is one of those times. Thank you for your past and continued support.

Backpack Program Chairperson,
Sally A. Hutt



Reading with Mrs. Doeden

It is so hard to believe that Thanksgiving is past. I hope you had a wonderful time filled with food, family, and friends. The past month we have had a lot of fun reading a variety of fall and Thanksgiving books. We read nonfiction books about the fall season, leaves, turkeys, and animals preparing for the winter. We also read fictional selections about having turkeys as guests for Thanksgiving, turkeys who escaped becoming dinner, animals celebrating together, and scarecrows. We really enjoy sharing great books!

The second and third grade students also enjoy sharing their love of books with the residents of Belle Terrace and Ridgeview Towers. Each week a small group of second or third grade students choose their books and load the van to read with our elders. The students cannot wait to go, and the residents show such joy as the children enter the room. It is difficult to determine who likes this activity more - the residents or the students. I guess we'll just say it is thoroughly enjoyed by all!

The kindergarten students have really shown great strides in reading throughout the year. They know almost all of their letters and the sounds they make. We are beginning to learn how to put all of the sounds together to make words. Each day we practice some words that we see often in books and so we can begin to recognize when we see them. It is exciting to see the spark in their eyes when they read something on their own. I am very proud of them!

The first grade students are rolling right along with their alphabet sounds. Now they are learning sounds of combinations of letters such as multi-letter phonograms, blends (such as br or cl), and diphthongs (such as sh or th). Learning these new combinations enables us to decode and read so many more words. This enables them to read more independently, which they are now doing using our Accelerated Reading program. They are so excited!

I am really enjoying getting to work with children from a variety of grade levels this year. I love getting to read numerous stories that were once unfamiliar to me. But most of all, I love the joy the children show in reading, whether it be with one another or having the teacher share great literature with them. By sharing wonderful literature, we are taking fantastic adventures together!

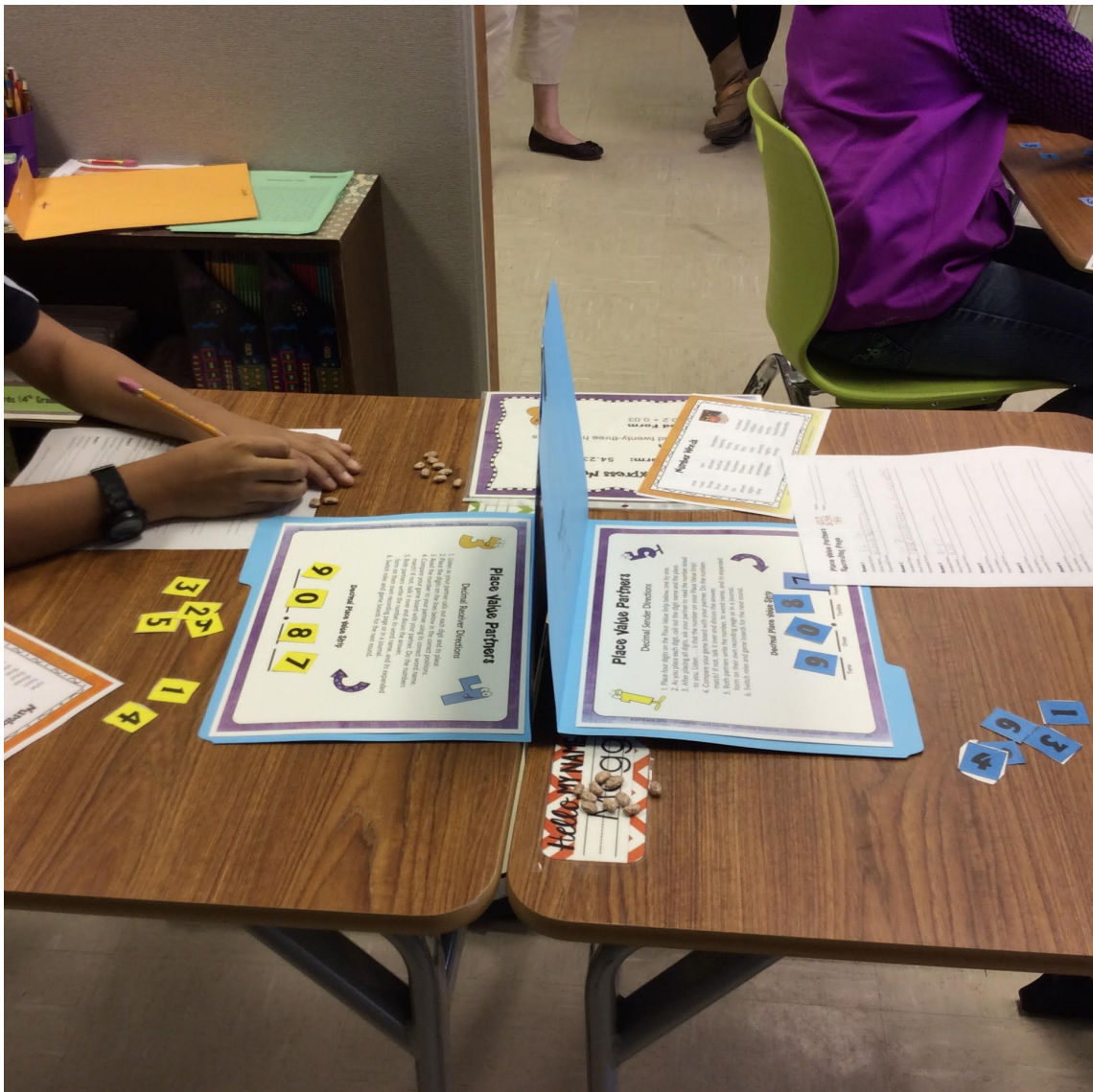
Learning Can Be Fun!

Mandy Goodrich

4th—8th Special Education Teacher

In 4th grade resource math, our small group tends to not get too excited about regular daily Saxon Math lessons. We incorporate learning games at least once per week. Recently, the fourth graders were learning how to read a ruler to the nearest fourth of an inch. To start the lesson, each student made his or her own ruler on tag board by marking off the inches, then the half inches, and finally the quarter inches. The students did an activity that we call "Scoot" in which cards were placed around the room and students rotated to 24 different cards to measure the lengths of pencils to the nearest fourth of an inch. They had 30 seconds at each card, and they enjoyed this much

The math group also played a game called "Place Value Partners" last week when we were learning about decimal place values through the hundredths. We had a two day investigation on this concept, but extended it over three days so that we could spend plenty of time on this game, and another "Scoot" activity with place value question cards to answer with a partner. In "Place Value Partners", students worked with partners in a battle ship type game in which students set up file folders to block their partners' view, as the "sender" told the "receiver" which digit to put in each place (tens, ones, tenths and hundredths). Students then had to write the number in standard form as well as in words. The students enjoyed working with partners for this activity!



To: Elementary Parents of K-3rd grade students
 From: Mr. Doran
 Re: Christmas Program, December 19, 2016 – 6:30 PM
 Date: 11/21/2016

This year's K-3rd grade Christmas Program is "How to Train Your Reindeer (to fly)". All Kindergarten, First, Second, & Third grade students will be reindeer enrolled in "The School of Reindeer" at the North Pole. They can simply use antlers they make or purchased in the dollar bin at discount stores or they can be a little more elaborate (see back of this sheet for suggestions).
 If you have any questions please call or email me.

School - (402) 335-3320
 Email - ledorand@jccentral.org

At the conclusion of the elementary portion of the program we will clear the auditorium and take 30 minutes to reset it for the high school portion of the program.

- Professor Atticus Antler - Bri Robeson
- Dr. Hoof - Madison VanLaningham
- Schoolmaster Joe Buck - Cameron Werner
- Coach Catapult - Levi Othmer
- Bessie (reindeer cadet) - Elie Bstrandig - Rowland
- Annalia (reindeer cadet) - Marisol Mandl
- Buzz (reindeer cadet) - Kaden Dorn
- Howard (reindeer cadet) - Zeke Burki
- Orylle (reindeer cadet) - Caleb Liscomb
- Wilbur (reindeer cadet) - Jack Waring
- Angel (reindeer cadet) - Addysan Hollmann
- Randolph (reindeer cadet with a red nose) - Gabe Bernadt
- Reindeer #1 - Teresa Doiel
- Reindeer #2 - Abby Mejia
- Reindeer #3 - Owen Weber
- Santa Claus - Trevin Huskey
- Mrs. Claus - Ashley Beethe
- Elf #1 - Isaac Beethe
- Elf #2 - Saige Rother
- Elf #3 - Charlyn Bobadilla
- Elf #4 - Shelbi Peters
- Elf #5 - Eli Bugsi
- Elf #6 - Lee Xayaphonesongkham

Costumes

Costumes can always be as simple or elaborate as you have the time and resources to make them. Most schools, however, will be working with a limit for both of these commodities, so creativity is of the utmost importance. Happily, costumes for common characters like reindeer, elves, Santa, and Mrs. Claus are readily available. And who says you have to use a full costume? Just using antlers for reindeer or pointy hats for elves could go a long way. Your audience will figure it out.

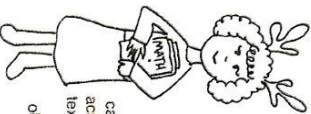
The other adults in this musical could be dressed just about any way, though we offer suggestions here. They could be human, reindeer, elves, or any North Pole/holiday/fantasy inhabitant, such as a polar bear. Below, we offer a few basic ideas for creating some of the costumes on a limited budget.

antlers - buy or make with headband and cardboard

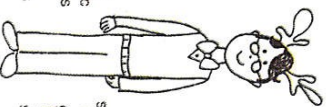
cadets could be wearing "flight suits" (running suit) complete with insignia

If the adults are reindeer (your option), add antlers

adult-looking clothes (add coats, etc., for outdoor look)



carrying academic textbooks with obvious titles



stodious-looking glasses, bow tie, sweater, vest

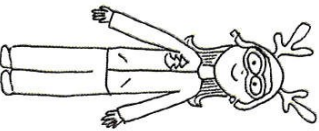


sweat suit, whistle around neck, athletic shoes, clipboard

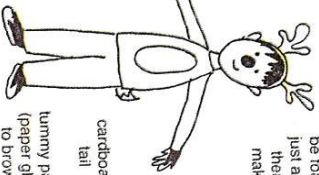


fun idea: imitate your own principal's or schoolmaster's style of dressing

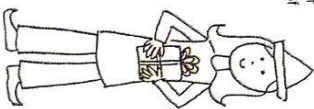
aviator goggles are optional, but neat



black cardboard "hooves" can be attached to hands and feet



cardboard tail, tummy patch (paper glued to brown sweatshirt)



pointy shoes (points made of cardboard and attached to shoes)

Reindeer Cadet

Reindeer

Elves

a nose can be foam or just a bit of theater makeup

pointy hat red or green lining with red or green shirt and pants under

Third Grade News by Mrs. Dieckgrafe

Third Grade News Mrs. Dieckgrafe The students found this year's Veteran's program to be special, because their classmate's uncle was the guest of honor. Mr. Josh Rother gave a moving presentation to the JCC student body, staff, and guests. The boys and girls enjoyed hearing Mr. Rother's perspective and experiences of serving our great country. We are all very grateful for our veterans and their service to the United States of America. Thank you veterans! November is a time to remember all the people and things for which we are thankful. So, the students did some creative writing to share all that they are thankful for. A resounding theme in their writing was how thankful they are for their family and friends. Come and take a look at their writing displayed in the halls of the elementary building in Tecumseh. The class also began reading about the Pilgrims and their community of Plymouth in our social studies book. Students learned about some of the Native American people that helped the Pilgrims to survive their first year in America. This reading sparked some curiosity about the Native American people. We then completed many activities to better understand the Native American people and how they lived in the past. The kids had a great time with these activities. This December we will be learning about different cultures and how they celebrate Christmas. Third graders will study Germany, Sweden, Mexico, and other countries' Christmas customs. They will also share and write how they celebrate the holidays within their own families. The third graders in Mrs. Dieckgrafe's room want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Johnson County Central Academic Decathlon

Team Members:

Seniors: Sara Kettelhake, Courtney Klaasmeyer, Sloan Pollard, Annika McDonald

Juniors: Hannah Swanda, Gunnar Burger

Sophomores: Autumn Nolte, Simon Rother

Freshman: Greg McGinnis, Gabe DeFreece

The 2016-2017 main topic for the USAD is WWII. The JCC AcaDeca team is studying art, music, economics, and the social science of WWII. The team has read the novel, "Transit" by Anna Siegers. The math focus is Algebra/Trigonometry and Atomic and Nuclear physics is the focus for science. This year's goal is to return to state competition in Omaha in February.

On Tuesday, November 15, 2016 the AcaDeca team and coaches visited SAC Museum for a special tour to learn about the planes flown during WWII and observed an exhibit that helped us travel through an era that is not only heart wrenching but unfathomable. We had the rare opportunity to listen to the story of a child survivor from the holocaust. She survived two concentration camps and a multitude of homes that helped hide her identity. Unfortunately, her father and mother died at Auschwitz. She came to America when she was fifteen and currently resides in Omaha. The students were enamored with her and felt her highs and lows as her narration took them through her childhood journeys.

2016-17 Schedule:

January 21, 2017: Academic Decathlon Regionals

February 17-18, 2017: State Academic Decathlon (Omaha)

Sponsors: Tina Richardson, Devon Roesener, Jack Moles

JCC Holiday Music Schedule

Friday, December 9 – 7:00 PM

Cook Site Concerts

(estimated times)

7:00 – 4th & 5th GRADE

7:20 – 6TH Grade

7:40 – 7th & 8th Grade



Monday, December 19 – 6:30 PM

Tecumseh Site Concerts

(estimated times)

6:30 – K-3 Program

7:00 – Intermission

7:30 – High School Choir

7:45 – High School Bands

Thursday, December 22 – 4:00 PM

High School Christmas Caroling

(all may join us starting
at Belle Terrace)





Mrs. Borrenpohl's Kindergarten News

The 13 students in Mrs. Borrenpohl's Kindergarten class have been busy these last two months. In October we celebrated Halloween dressed in our costumes. A special guest from the ESU 5 came and showed both Kindergarten classes some science demonstrations. We watched as he "carved" pumpkins by using gas pressure to explode the pieces of a pumpkin out making it into a Jack-O-Lantern.

Then in November, we created some fall crafts that consisted of tissue paper corn, feather turkeys, and fall scarecrows. We also visited Belle Terrace to sing our Thanksgiving songs about turkeys, Pilgrims, and Indians. We ended November with having a feast that consisted of friendship stew, deer meat, and pumpkin pie along with some other treats.

December is one of the most exciting months of the year with the holiday season. It can also be an excellent time for all of us to teach our students to be thankful and show them the value of generosity and kindness. During December we have more days out of school which gives parents more time to bond with their children and to continue helping them in their learning. A great suggestion would be to spend time reading to your child and having them read to you a favorite holiday book. Have a happy and safe holiday season. Mrs. B



Youth Basketball – What do I teach?

Basketball is a game of skills, I understand that many parents may not know what to teach and when to teach it as they help their sons or daughters to learn these basic skills. For that reason I thought I would compile some ideas.

First and most important especially at the youth level is that the players should be having fun. A player that is not enjoying learning the skills will not be likely to put in the time necessary to master them.

The teaching progression below is broken into 3 levels with approximate ages.

Level 1 (7 to 10 year olds)

- 1) Layups – Teach layups with either hand, always jump off the foot closest to the basket. This is a tough skill for players that are starting out so start with them very close to the basket (1–step), with no dribble and then work out from there. Use the right hand to shoot layups on the right side and the left hand on the left side.
- 2) Footwork – Teach the triple threat position and pivoting without traveling.
- 3) Shooting form- Use a small ball and/or lower basket as most players in this age are not strong enough to correctly shoot the larger ball.
- 4) Ball handling – Sometime this seems like a lost art. Teach players to dribble with either hands, speed dribble, crossover, back up dribble. This can be started at a very young age.
- 5) Basic passes – Teach chest, bounce, and overhead passes.
- 6) Play 2 on 2 or 3 on 3 games instead of 5 on 5.

Level 2 (10-12 year olds)

- 1) Layups - Continue to work on correct layups and also jump-stop power layups.
- 2) Continue to focus on shooting form, introduce some movement into shooting drills.
- 3) Ball handling – teach more dribble moves such as inside-out dribble, hesitation dribble, and between the legs dribble.
- 4) Passing – Continue to teach basic passes and add some more advance passes such as baseball pass or wrap around pass. Encourage players to add some deception to their game by not staring at their passing target.
- 5) Footwork – Introduce jab steps, pass fakes, and shot fakes.
- 6) Introduce basic post moves such as a drop step.
- 7) Keep playing 2 on 2 and 3 on 3.

Level 3 (12-14 year olds)

- 1) Layups – practice contested layups.
- 2) Continue to emphasize shooting form, move to bigger ball and regulation basket.
- 3) Ball handling – teach more dribble moves such as a spin move, behind the back, double moves.
- 4) Passing – work on passing vs defensive pressure. Introduce pick and roll.
- 5) Footwork – work on jab steps, pivots vs pressure.
- 6) Post moves – add additional post moves such as step through, turnaround jumper, jump hook.

Feel free to email me if you have questions, I do not claim to have all the answers but will gladly help where I can. Coach Faris

First Grade Newsletter for December 2016

Robyn Faris

During a regular school day, first graders have a very busy schedule. Our morning is dedicated to reading. We use the Reading Street series. There are many books to read, workbooks that help us practice reading skills, and we use our mimeo board to watch informational videos about the concepts we are learning. Reading Street also has many digital teacher resources that we can display on the board to help focus on a specific skill. We also use the Accelerated Reading program. Students read books at their reading level and complete tests on the computer. This challenges the students as they move up in levels based on their scores.

Our afternoons are extremely busy with math, spelling, writing, and social science lessons. The math lessons are in two parts. The first part of the lesson is called the math meeting. Here we discuss the calendar, count the number of days in school, read numbers from our hundreds chart, identify and graph the weather, tell time, and so much more. The other part of the lesson may include any of the following skills: counting, writing numbers, adding, subtracting, finding ordinal numbers, identifying shapes, graphing information, finding more, most, least, fewest, and sorting by attributes. We have started using math flashcards and take them home from time to time to have our parents help us memorize them. Students also practice these math skills using different apps on the iPads.

We are working on spelling words and writing skills. The students take a spelling list home each week to practice. Students also practice the weekly spelling words on iPads using the spellingcity.com program. We have been writing words, sentences, poems, and information about the topics we've been studying in social science class. We've learned about our country's flag and other symbols. We've learned about the life cycle of an apple tree and about a man by the name of Johnny Appleseed. The changing leaves was a favorite topic and is still on our minds. We've found the life cycle of a butterfly is fascinating! And of course, Halloween is always a favorite event in First Grade! We were the first class to tour the new fire station and want to thank Gary Peters, Nick Rademacher, and Allyson Gottula for taking the time to show us around. We have just completed our study of the first Thanksgiving and have realized that we have so much and are so thankful. We are now into our unit about Mexico. We will learn where it is located, some Spanish words, and the Christmas customs.

First grade is an amazing year of learning! We are thankful for our textbooks, materials, supplies, and technology devices that we use on a daily basis. If you ever have a chance to visit, please walk through our hallways and see our beautiful work. Have a wonderful and safe winter!

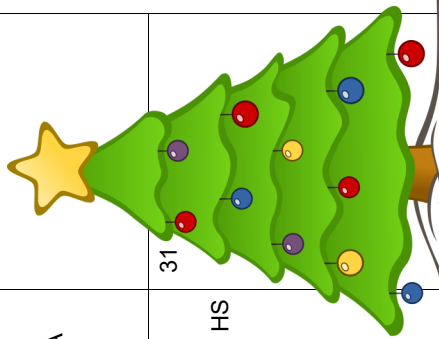

December 2016

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Br. Pork Patty /WG Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	2 Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	3
4	5 Chefs Choice	6 Chili/ WG Crackers Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie bar Milk	7 Breakfast for Lunch	8 Chicken Patty WG Bun Tater Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar	9 Cheese Stick /Maranara Sauce Fruit & Veggie Bar Brownie Milk	10
11	12 Chicken Teriyaki Fried Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	13 Meat Loaf Mashed Potato Casserole Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	14 Ch Burger / WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 Chicken Noodle Soup Cheese Stick Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Walking Taco / L,T & Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17
18	19 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	20 Pulled Pork /WG Bun Jell-O / Fruit Fruit & Veggie Bar	21 Pizza Baked Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Christmas Break	23 Christmas Break	24
25	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break	Christmas Break	Christmas Break	Christmas Break	
<p>Important Reminders: Menu is subject to change</p> <p>"This Institution Is A Equal Opportunity</p>						



December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 JH B BB @ Pawnee City 4:00 pm C Team BB G&B @ JCC HS Gym 5:00	6 CAN Mtg. @ Sterling HS 8:30 am 5th Gr Dare @ JCC MS Gym 2:30 pm JV, V G&B BB @ JCC 4:30, 6:00, & 7:45 pm	7	8 JV, V G&B BB @ JCC HS 4:30, 6:00 & 7:45 pm	9 NHS Blood Drive @ HS Gym 8:30 am Baked Potato Feed @ JCC MS 5:00-7:00 pm 4th—8th Christmas Concert 7:00 pm	10 JH B BB @ Palmyra HS 8:00 am V Wrestling @ North Bend
11	12 JH B BB @ Auburn HS 4:30 pm C Team G & B BB @ JCC HS 6:00 & 7:15 pm	13 JV, V G&B BB @ Palmyra HS 3:45, 4:30, 5:45, 7:30 pm	14 PreK Holiday Program @ Elementary Auditorium 6:30 pm Board of Ed. Meeting	15 JH B BB @ JCC MS 4:00 pm C Team G & B BB @ JCC HS 6:00 & 7:15 pm	16 JV, V G&B BB @ JCC HS 4:30, 6:00, 7:45 pm	17 V Wrestling @ JCC MS 9:30 am JH B BB @ Malcolm HS 10:00 am
18	19 Cook Preschool Program @ Cook Site 10.45 am K-3rd & HS Christmas Program @ Elem.	20 JV, V G&B BB @ JCC HS 4:30, 6:00, 7:45 pm	21 MS STEM Day @ Cook Site 9:00 am End of 1st Semester Early Dismissal @ 1:00 For Christmas Break!	22 NO SCHOOL	23 C.N.A. State Testing NO SCHOOL Start of 5 Day NSAA Moratorium	24 
25 	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL V GB BB @ Auburn HS	30 NO SCHOOL V GB BB @ Auburn HS	31

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

Phone: 402 335-3320 Superintendent @ Tecumseh
402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh
402 864-2024 Elementary Office @ Cook
402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook
402 864-4181 MS Office @ Cook
Web Site www.jccentral.org

This newsletter is produced monthly to inform parents, district patrons and others about school events, classroom events, and student achievements in the classroom and extra curricular activities. This information is submitted by faculty and staff members. Information may be submitted to offices at Tecumseh and Cook.

The school reserves the right to edit information in the interest of space and content.

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Non-Discrimination

It shall be the policy of Johnson County Central Public Schools to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for discrimination concerns. Inquiries concerning any of the above, or Title IX and Rehabilitation Act Regulations (504) should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68329; (402)335-3320.

Child find

Children that are birth to 5 years old who are experiencing problems with speech language, cognitive, emotional and/or physical development or have a disability can receive services through Early Childhood Education Services.

If interested or in need of more information please contact Rebecca Kling, Special Education Coordinator or Jack Moles, Superintendent at 402-335-3320.

Enjoy your Christmas break from the early dismissal at 1:00 on
Dec. 21st
Through January 3rd.

Classes resume on Wednesday January 4th.

