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Johnson County Central Public Schools



Monthly Newsletter

January 2016

SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



This fall has been a rather historic one for public education in Nebraska. Two very significant happenings have made it historic: (1) the introduction of the AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow) accountability system in Nebraska, and (2) the passage of a new federal education law, commonly referred to as ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).

ESSA replaces the controversial NCLB (No Child Left Behind). NCLB was introduced in 2002 and was, in my opinion, filled with many flaws. One of the main flaws was that it named schools as “low performing” even though they were actually performing very well by most other indications. For example, 675 (out of 932) individual schools in Nebraska were identified as “low performing” even though 119 of those schools had 90% or more of their students meeting or exceeding state reading standards. Another example, this one locally, is that our elementary in Tecumseh was identified as “needing improvement” even though we had significantly raised state assessment scores over the past three years. Basically, the reason why we were identified as “needing improvement” is that we were determined not to raise our scores enough. We were fairly well pleased with the scores from the past year but according to NCLB, we did not measure up.

NCLB was up for re-authorization (and a chance to be amended) for many years but political issues kept this from happening. Finally things broke this fall, and both houses of Congress passed ESSA. President Obama signed it into law just a few days later. I believe the most dramatic effect of the new law is that it will move decision making on most education issues back to the states. Nebraska has been kind of a renegade when it comes to the old NCLB as our state tried to keep as much decision making on the state level as it could. However, it was starting to lose traction as NCLB grew in age.

Nebraska has never really had a great system that allows for the identification of schools that are being successful. Although the state has developed State Standards for curricular areas and has tied state assessments (NeSA assessments) to those standards, there was not really an all-inclusive way of determining which schools are successful. Attempts were made at this but they tended to ignore some very key available data. For example, our previous Governor would annually provide a “ranking” of schools based on which schools were most successful on NeSA assessments. The problem is that this totally ignored other pieces of data such as student demographics or graduation rates. AQuESTT provides for a better way of “ranking” schools. I do not believe the AQuESTT system is a finished product at this point. I believe there will be some adjustments made to it over the next few years to where it is a better instrument providing a better picture of how well schools really measure up.

AQuESTT is focused on the continuous improvement of schools. The system focuses on six areas: (1) positive partnerships, relationships, and student success, (2) transitions, (3) educational opportunities and access, (4) college and career readiness, (5) assessment, and (6) educator effectiveness. The basic tenet is that success in these areas will result in better outcomes for students and the school district. Individual school buildings and districts as a whole are classified into four performance levels: excellent, great, good, and needs improvement. As a district, Johnson County Central was placed in the “great” classification. While we are certainly pleased with this, our goal will be to move into the “excellent” classification. The steps to view JCC’s information can be accessed using the following steps:

1. Go to the NDE website at <http://www.education.ne.gov/>.
2. Under the heading “AQuESTT for Nebraska” click on the top link that is entitled “Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow”.
3. To view JCC information go to the heading “Information for the Public”. Click on the bullet “AQuESTT Final Classification Reports, Public View.”
4. You will be taken to a page that has a pull down menu. Click on the arrow then scroll down to Johnson County Central. You can view JCC information as a whole district or each of the building/grade level listings.

I would also like to encourage you to view information on Johnson County Central on the 2014-15 State of the Schools Report which is posted on the Nebraska Department of Education website. The following steps will take you to the JCC information:

1. Go to the following website: www.education.ne.gov.
2. About half the way down the page click on the link “State of the Schools Report”.
3. Click on the word “District” near the top of the page.
4. On the left side of the page you will see the words “Select a District by”. Click on the bubble next to “District Name”. Type in the words “Johnson Co Central” in the box below that section, then click on the word “Search”.
5. You will then click on the words “Johnson Co Central Public Schs” in the box that appears.

You should now have access to JCC information on the State of the Schools Report. Click on the blue boxes near the top of the page to access different pieces of information. Most of the places that can be accessed will provide a comparison of statewide data and our local data.

If you have any questions about how to reference this information please feel free to call me (402-335-3320) or email (jack.moles@jccentral.org).



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to our parents and ask for your assistance with an issue the administration and teachers feel is critical to our students' academic success. We have a number of students who have chosen not to do their daily work.

The ZAP after school program is designed for students to have the opportunity to complete assignments that have not been submitted to their teachers. As you know, when students do not complete an assignment, they are placed on the ZAP list. Currently, in an average week, the ZAP list consists of thirty or more students who have not completed assignments; this number has even gone as high as fifty students. Of course, this program only works with cooperation among the parents, students, and school.

When students are listed on ZAP, they must attend. A benefit of the after school ZAP program is not only will students be given an hour to work on their incomplete school work, but they also may have the opportunity to work directly with a teacher. Until students complete their missing assignments, they must attend ZAP after school. These students will not be able to attend extra-curricular practices (but they will be able to attend games home or away), they will not be able to utilize the bus transportation right after school, and they will not be able to work after school until they have spent the time in ZAP to complete their assignments.

If parents have a specific reason that their student cannot attend ZAP after school, they need to contact the high school office before the end of the school day (3:43 p.m.) to excuse their student. If a student is not in attendance when required, and if the parent has not contacted the office prior to the beginning of the ZAP period, this will require one hour of Saturday school for each missed ZAP period. All Saturday school (for ZAP) must be completed before the semester ends, or the student will forfeit that semester's credits.

Due to the high number of students in ZAP, and also due to the number of students on the down list, there will be a new consequence for any student on either of these lists. Starting January 5, 2016, the beginning of the third quarter, students will forfeit personal use of their app access to their iPad when:

- A student has to attend the ZAP after school program
- A student is on the down list in any class for a grade of 69% or below.

These students will only have access to apps that are required for classes and the school website. Students will not be able to download any new apps. This action will remain in effect for the remainder of the quarter in which the incident took place. The student will receive full access of their iPad starting the following quarter, as long as they remain off ZAP and off the down list.

*Students in good standing can play games before school, during lunch and after school.

NO GAME PLAYING DURING ANY CLASS OR STUDY HALL.

News From Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal and Athletic Director

As report cards from the 1st semester come home, it is a good time to sit down with your children and take a close look at their academic progress. The semester grades a student earns are a large determining factor whether an individual will be promoted to the next grade level or be retained in their current grade next year. The Middle School Handbook states that “students are required to pass seven out of the ten semesters of core subjects (math, social studies, science, reading & language arts) in a given year to be promoted to the next grade. Any student passing six semesters or less will be strongly considered for retention. An administrative committee will consider each case on an individual basis. The administrative committee will look at other factors, in addition to a student’s grades, such as the student’s MAP scores, NeSA scores, personal history and social maturity. If, after looking at the other factors, the committee believes the student can be successful at the next grade level it may recommend the student be promoted. If the committee believes that the student may be missing a few necessary skills it may recommend the student take and complete summer school, at the student’s expense, to make up for the academic deficiency before being promoted to the next grade level. Or, the committee may feel that the student may benefit from another year of maturity and recommend they be retained in their current grade. Regardless of your child’s grades, it would be very beneficial for parents and children to sit down and discuss how they did during the first semester and set some academic goals for the 2nd semester.

At the conclusion of each season the Nebraska School Activities Association and the Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association recognizes students who have been nominated by their schools based on their individual academic excellence and significant contributions made to their NSAA activity. To be eligible for this honor the following leadership and scholarship guidelines must be met:

1. A nominated student must be a varsity player or organizational leader who has played a significant role on the team or in the organizational activity.
2. A nominated student must have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average, in all curricular subjects, of 93% or 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.
3. NSAA high schools may nominate a maximum of two students per NSAA activity program.

The following Johnson County Central students were recipients of the Fall 2015 NSAA Academic All-State Awards: Football – Spencer Dorsey & Nick Goracke; Girls Golf – Rudy Pooch & Taylor Gerdes; Girls Cross Country – Angelica Wellman & Aleisha McDonald; Boys Cross Country – Aaron Johnson & Samuel Saldivar; Volleyball – Marissa Borrenpohl & Mackenzie Eltiste; Play Production – Grant Moles & Keaton Kleespies. Congratulations to these students for the leadership and example they have provided to the rest of the student body, and their commitment, hard work, and success in the classroom and their extracurricular activity.

Congratulations to 8th Graders Carrie Beethe, Jazi Ascheman, and Joe Rodriguez for being selected as the District Winners in the Patriots Pen contest. These students competed against other students from our school by submitting an essay on the subject “What Freedom Means to Me.” Each of these students received a cash prize given by the VFW Post 8221, and Carrie’s essay advanced to the regional contest.

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

Crime & Punishment



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Tuesday, January 5—Classes resume!
- Monday, January 11—Pennies for Patients.
- NeSA Writing Assessment for Grades 4, 8 & 11.



Discipline is one of my least favorite things about being a principal and a parent. It's just not fun for either party involved. Nobody wants to be the "bad guy". Well, at least not very many people. However, discipline is necessary for all of us. It lets us know how we need to improve. Discipline can also be termed "corrective feedback".

I looked up the definition of "discipline". There are several ways to define the word. The definition I like best, for our purposes here at school, from Merriam-Webster.com is: *training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character.* You see, I want discipline to have a lasting effect. I want students to learn from their mistakes and grow into responsible adults. This, after all, is what school is all about isn't it? Learning and growing?

There are a few more definitions that I find interesting from Merriam-Webster.com: 1. control that is gained by requiring that rules or orders be obeyed and punishing bad behavior AND 2. PUNISHMENT.

Now, we get into some stronger

words; control and punishment. Interesting. From my position as principal, it would be an amazing feeling of power to be able to control 283 students! And, also near impossible.

Sure, we have rules, and we have consequences for breaking those rules. However, to find the most effective consequence to help students correct their behavior is always milling through my mind. We want students to choose the correct behavior because they *know* it is the correct behavior.—not out of fear of retribution. Retribution is one of the words closely attached to punishment. And, when studying retribution, we come across such words as "payback", "retaliation" and "vengeance". Wow! Not really what I have in mind when I'm working with one of our students. I'm looking more for sympathy, empathy, respect, responsibility and the well-being of others. How do I get students to understand these concepts? Well, I can't do it alone, that's for sure. *We* accomplish this as the adults in the children's

lives. Parents, educators, neighbors, family, doctors, grocery store employees. You name it. Anyone willing to spend a little time to teach children. We model these concepts and virtues in our daily lives and interactions. Children are taught through their daily experiences with other people, what they hear, what they see, the games they play and the shows they watch. If they are experiencing healthy, caring interactions, it is much more likely they will practice them.

There are times that discipline requires instruction with a dose of punishment. However, I much more prefer to practice preventative measures. This is only done through purposeful teaching, examples and living to effect the lives of our children.

TAKING OFFENSE

"We should be too big to take offense and too noble to give it." **Abraham Lincoln**

Dealing with feeling bad/sad can be difficult for some of our students. I often have students come to the office because someone looked at them "mean". Or, that someone said something that offended them and made them feel mad or sad. In many of these situations, what the students want to see is the other child "in trouble". Although the offense is not "nice", it usually is not one that is punishable. When these things happen, our first inclination as adults is to find out whoever it is that is causing anything but joy in our children's lives and punish them. However, does punishment then correct the behavior, or does it cause resentment and worsen the situation? Furthermore, punishment as an emotional response then becomes vengeance. One thing we can do for our children is to teach them how **not** to be victims. First off, our feelings are a choice directly connected to our attitude. Going into any situation, and in response to any situation, we do get to choose our emotions. This can be a tough concept for children and adults alike to grasp. Secondly, disappointment and rejection are a normal part of life. We need to teach children how to deal with these in a healthy manner. When someone says or does something offensive or that makes us "feel" bad, we don't have to let it ruin our day or to cause us to have an emotional response that we will regret. This is usually the effect the offender desires. I would not want to give them the pleasure. Finally, we need to teach children how to respond in a way to defuse the situation and help them to "shrug off" the offense. Such responses such as, "I'm sorry you feel that way" or "So" can really put the offender at a loss for words. The other thing to do is to walk away and then not be around the person.

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

November Thunderbirds!

K—Reese Badertscher, Angel Buchanan, Adree Case, Bodhi Klein, Elizabeth Wallace, Riley Wellensiek, Nayeli Bodadilla, Angelica Daniels, Trey Lubben, Sophia Schmid, Alex Thipphavong

1st—A.J. Rautenbach, Amelia Britt, Brayden Beethe, Dante Gurrola, Hayleigh Daniels, Molly Weber, Monica Jimenez, Prestin Thomas, Hope Butterbaugh, Jillian Cropp, Jonathan DeFreece, Memphis Pingel, Harley Reyes, Reagan Tams, Harrison Bacon, Zoey Bryant, Anthony Campos, Leonel Cruz, Max Goracke, Mario Lara Jr., Sierra Morrow, Erik Prado, Lane Robeson

2nd—Isaac Beethe, Kaiden Dorn, Danny Kongmanyvong, Harley Lubben, Trevor Pietzyk, Briana Robeson, Saige Rother, Madisen See, Madison VanLaningham, Cameron Werner, Gabe Bernadt, Eli Buggi, Marisol Mandl, Maria Maya-Soto, Wes Swanson, Catherine Wendt, Lee Xayaphonesongkham

3rd—Nolan Wellensiek, Lexi Robeson, Cameron Lowther, Madison Jansen, David Campos, Salena Conley, Kali Drake, Rue Kuhl, Jocelyn Prado

4th—Arelly Cabrales, Jovany Cabrales, Lorie Durst, Ava Klein, Kaityn Schuster, Bailee Sterup, Maya Straka, Keegan Woodcook, Michael Bernadt, Ava Buggi, Priscila Cabrales, Mia Castor, Daisy Gardner, Wyatt Ludemann, Alexis Mullins, Kaitlynn Plager, Sunnie Rother, Keven Silos, Shaylie Thiemann, Sergio Valles

5th—Ivan Arellano, Katelyn Beethe, Karen Canseco, Melissa Lowther, Maileen Maya Soto, Keiry Najera, Kimberly Orozco, Cole Robeson, Tatum Rutledge, Cameron Schuster, Erika Cabrales, Tucker Drake, MacKinze Gordon, Jacob Graham, Chayce Oenbring

Counselor News by Shelley Moles

“Dedicated to encouraging a Journey of excellence Creating lifelong learners and Citizens for tomorrow.”

Second Semester Class Changes:

High school students who need to make class schedule changes for second semester are encouraged to pick up Drop and Add forms from Mrs. Moles, and then return completed forms to Mrs. Moles. Students have the first week after returning to school, Tuesday to Monday, January 5-11, 2016, to complete Drop and Add forms for second semester class changes.

Seniors and their Parents – It's Time to Complete FAFSA!

Now is the time for seniors and their families to begin the process of completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to qualify for need-based scholarships, grants, loans and college work/study.

To complete the FAFSA, students and parents will need financial information from 2015. This includes a completed 2015 Federal Income Tax Return, 2015 W-2 forms and other records of money earned, 2015 untaxed income records, current bank statements, current business and investment records, as well as, Social Security Number, driver's license (if any), and alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen). Parents and students may see the complete checklist at www.educationquest.org.

A parent and student will need a FSA ID to log into the FAFSA website, the National Student Loan Data System, and StudentLoans.gov.

FAFSA applications may be accessed online at www.fafsa.gov. For assistance, parents and/or students may schedule an appointment with the EducationQuest office in Lincoln (1-800-303-3745) or Omaha (1-888-357-6300). The people at the EducationQuest office will help with the application and also submit the FAFSA application. Parents/students will need supporting financial and identification information needed to complete the application. Appointments should be made as soon as possible as dates fill up quickly.

Filling out the FAFSA electronically speeds up the FAFSA process and cuts down on mail delays or problems. Parents and students may also retrieve and transfer IRS data directly into the FAFSA. Approximately two weeks after tax forms were electronically submitted, the information will be available. See the FAFSA online form or the Education Quest websites for more information.

The federal government and scholarship programs use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for **need based** financial aid and scholarships. For help or more information, contact Mrs. Moles at 402-335-3328.

JCC Senior Scholarships:

A list of scholarships received in the counselor's office is available to seniors in their google classroom account. The current local scholarship list and applications are also available through google classroom. Parents/guardians may wish to review with their teen these lists and applications and encourage application for as many scholarships as possible. You may not receive every scholarship you apply for, but you won't even be considered for the scholarship if you don't apply. If in doubt about applying, APPLY!

As always, if you have questions, please call me at 402 335 3328. Scholarship lists and some local applications are also available in print form upon request by seniors.

For Check Out:

Students and parents are invited to check out and read two books from the counselor's office: The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College (2015) and The Naked Roommate: FOR PARENTS ONLY: A Parent's Guide to the New College Experience (2012). These books, written by Harlan Cohen, offer students and parents honest advice and helpful resources for achieving success at college in a humorous way. If interested in checking out either of these books for a week, please call or email Mrs. Moles. The Naked Roommate is listed as the #1 Going-to-College book and is a New York Times bestseller.

NeSA Writing Assessment and Practice Test for High School Juniors:

Johnson County Central High School juniors are scheduled to take the NeSA Writing assessment on January 20, 2016. This online writing assessment will measure student skills for writing a persuasive essay in the areas of: a) ideas/content (30%), b) organization (25%), c) word choice/voice (20%), and d) sentence fluency/conventions (20%).

Juniors will have the opportunity to brush up their writing skills that they learned during first semester after the holidays by using the online writing practice test on January 13.

Student Opportunities:

2016 Nebraska Attorney General's Youth Conference: Attorney General Doug Peterson is inviting select juniors to engage in learning about the processes of state government and law at the State Capitol in Lincoln on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Selected juniors from across the state will participate in discussion forums with some of Nebraska's top elected officials, listen to oral arguments, meet a Department of Corrections warden, tour the Nebraska State Capitol and eat lunch at the Governor's Residence. Juniors who are interested may pick up an application from Mrs. Moles or the application is also available at www.ago.nebraska.gov. Applications are due on or before January 31, 2016. Students will be notified of selection by February 15, 2016.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln High School College of Architecture Workshops:

Career Exploration- Architecture, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture: This high school workshop is held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus June 5-11, 2016. The workshop provides learning opportunities in the form of design studio explorations, seminars and discussions, field trips and film presentations. As part of the workshop, students will visit professional offices, learn about various career opportunities, and develop fundamental skills necessary for the study of design.

Discover Landscape Architecture. This high school workshop is held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus June 12-17, 2016. It provides learning opportunities in the form of design studio explorations, seminars and discussions, field trips and film presentations. The central focus of the workshop is a design studio where design issues are explored and creative energies are nurtured. As part of the workshop, students will visit professional offices, learn about various career opportunities, and develop fundamental skills necessary for the study of design.

For the Career Exploration-Architecture, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture or the Discover Landscape Architecture workshops, students must have completed two or more years of high school, complete the online application, provide two references, and submit an essay describing your interest. Fee for the workshop is \$585 per participant. This includes studio supplies, program fees, meals and lodging.



NHS Hosts “Sweet 16” Red Cross Blood Drive:

National Honor Society at Johnson County Central hosted its second Red Cross Blood Drive for the school year on December 11, 2015. Thank you to all the students, staff, parents, and former students who took time from their busy schedules to give this precious holiday gift! Each unit of blood donated may have helped save 3 lives.



Adan Reyes



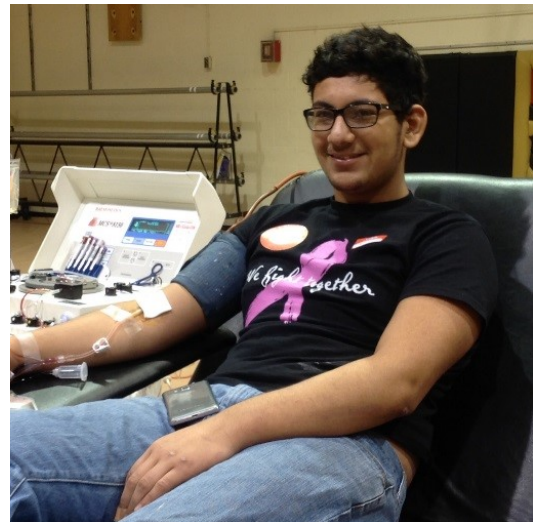
Zulema Borboa

First Time Blood Donors

Students, staff, parents, community members, and former students who signed in to donate blood were: Vicky Boone, Sarah Mueller, Jerald Bausch, Christopher Downey, Angelica Wellman, Nichole Justesen, Tomasa Sanchez, Ciera Bryant, Cyndy Reyes, Keaton Kleespies, Daisy Mejia, Kylie McMurdy, Shelley Moles, Aaron Johnson, Austin Valenzuela, Sam Sterup, Spencer Dorsey, Courtney Klaasmeyer, Madison Panko, Nikki Gordon, Melissa Aldana, Denise Pietzyk, Kaitlyn Schleif, Carlos Martell, Evelyn Chavez, Christy Hodges, Lori Panko, Syd Wenzl, Kimberly Ellicott, Paula DeFreece, Adan Reyes, Rebecca Hernandez, Mary Sterup, Annika McDonald, Grant Moles, Nancy Ramirez, Tevin Rosekrans, Susan Lacey, Keyra Grover, Jesus Castor, Joe Hatcher, Daniel Moles, Bryan Murphy, Garrett Collin, David Borrenpohl, Mario Moreno, Erin Hunzeker, Dakota Santana. A total of 55 units were collected.



Annika McDonald



Brejido Sanchez gives “doubles”

Members of National Honor Society are: Mitchell Faris, Grant Moles, Bryan Murphy, Rudy Pooch, Natalie Roddy, Schyler DeFreece, Sara Kettelhake, Keaton Kleespies, Sopha Kongmanyvong, Samuel Saldivar, and Angelica Wellmann. Thank you to all the members of National Honor Society for providing food for the canteen and for the work they did before and on the day of the blood drive.

Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) Assessments Begin in January Writing

The Nebraska State Writing Assessment will begin in January with 4th, 8th and 11th grade students. 11th and 8th grade students will complete their writing test online. 11th grade students will test during the day on Wednesday, January 20. 8th grade students will test on Tuesday, January 26th from 8:15-10:36. Both grades have a 1-day testing session that is untimed. 4th grade students will complete their assessments in the mornings on Wednesday, January 27th and Thursday, January 28th. The fourth graders will have a paper/pencil, timed assessment of 40-minutes each day, over 2 days.

Students will be provided a writing topic at each grade level, in which they write a response. The writing topic was developed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to measure composition of writing as specified in the writing content standards. The types of the writing topics for each grade are as follows: Grade 4 – Narrative, Grade 8 – Descriptive, Grade 11 – Persuasive. Completed assessments are returned to NDE after the Writing Window (January 18th -February 5th) closes. NDE uses an analytic scoring rubrics for all grades to score each students assessment. These rubrics use a 1-4 scale across four domains to define narrative, descriptive, and persuasive writing performance analytically. The rubrics define qualities for each of the four domains; Ideas/Content (30%), Organization (25%), Voice/Word Choice (20%), and Sentence Fluency/Conventions (20%). Students receive points based on their writing from each of the domains and are scored based on the percentages received for each category of the rubric. Students have been working with the rubric throughout the year and in previous years as well.

Encourage your child to take their time and do their best on the NeSA-Writing Assessment. Talk to your student about the importance of state testing and reflect on things they can do to help themselves be successful on the assessment such as proofreading, using word webs and utilizing dictionaries and thesauruses. Also, encourage them to get a good night's rest and to eat breakfast on the day of the test.

JCC Schools NeSA Writing Dates:

January 20, 2016

January 26, 2016

January 27th and 28th 2016

High School (11th Grade)

Middle School (8th Grade)

Cook Site Elementary (4th Grade)

Go Red and Support the Nebraska Heart Association!

Elementary students at JCC will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart in February during Heart Awareness

HELP PREVENT, TREAT AND DEFEAT HEART DISEASE - AMERICA'S #1 KILLER

Month. Students, Staff and Community Members are able to donate \$10.00 to the American Heart and Stroke Associations by purchasing a t-shirt.

All proceeds will be donated to the American Heart and Stroke Associations.

Look for order forms in your child's backpack or the weekly bulletin in January. Order forms with payment are to be returned to your child's classroom teacher or the office. Thank you for your support.



FLU SEASON IS UPON US

Happy Holidays! Families gather together, and germs get shared! Celebrations happen, and germs get shared! It gets cold outside and we all gather together inside, and germs get shared! It happens, but you can take steps to try to prevent your “catching” those lovely little germs.

The influenza vaccine is expected to be a very good “match” for the anticipated influenza viruses this year. So, if you haven’t got your vaccine, please do so. It does take 2 weeks to build up immunity, but better late than never.

We are heading into our busy season with illnesses. In the past years, we have been strongly encouraged to exclude a student until fever free for 24 hours and not requiring any Tylenol, or Ibuprofen to keep temperature down. It is also encouraged that the students feel well enough to return to normal activities. Handwashing, covering your cough, remaining home when ill is key to limiting the spread to others.

Please seek guidance from your healthcare provider for any questions regarding treatment, medications, and when your student should be seen with illnesses.

Please remember that Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is still circulating this year. The Health Department is encouraging students with a significant cough for a period of more than 2 days to be seen by healthcare provider.

At this time of the year, please remember to protect yourself from illness. Get your rest, drink plenty of fluids, eat a healthy diet, and wash your hands!!!! Encourage others not to share their germs with you also. Take care of yourself and your loved ones. Contact your healthcare provider if you have any concerns what to do if you get sick.

Lisa Kuhl RN

6th Grade Reading/Title1 by Cheryl Grove



Details, details, details are so important. Reading for meaning and comprehension understanding involves searching out those details that make the story interesting. Sixth graders are working toward a better understanding of main ideas, supporting details, sequencing, generalizations, comparing/contrasting ideas and the author's purpose for writing. Students having done several poem writing projects such as: haiku, diamante, and cinquain. Christmas writing involved phrases that began with a verb and continued with thoughts of the season including couplet lines, comparison similes, and metaphors. Expressive writing takes time and thought. When your child reads more and begins to understand the importance of details, his or her writing will begin to take on more detailed expression. Please continue to encourage and compliment your child when you see an improved positive change.

Title 1 is all about helping students who need that extra guidance and encouragement in academic areas. Encourage your child to ask more questions about what he or she is not understanding. Feeling success and achievement is the goal that each student should strive for. If you feel that your child may need extra help in math or reading, please contact your child's teacher and discuss your concerns. Let's work together to make 2016 a goal achievement year for your child.

Second Grade News – Mrs. Doeden

Wow! It is hard to believe that it is the holiday season, and we are half way through our year together. Time sure has flown by! We have a great group of second grade students, and I am sure we will have a great second half of the year, too.

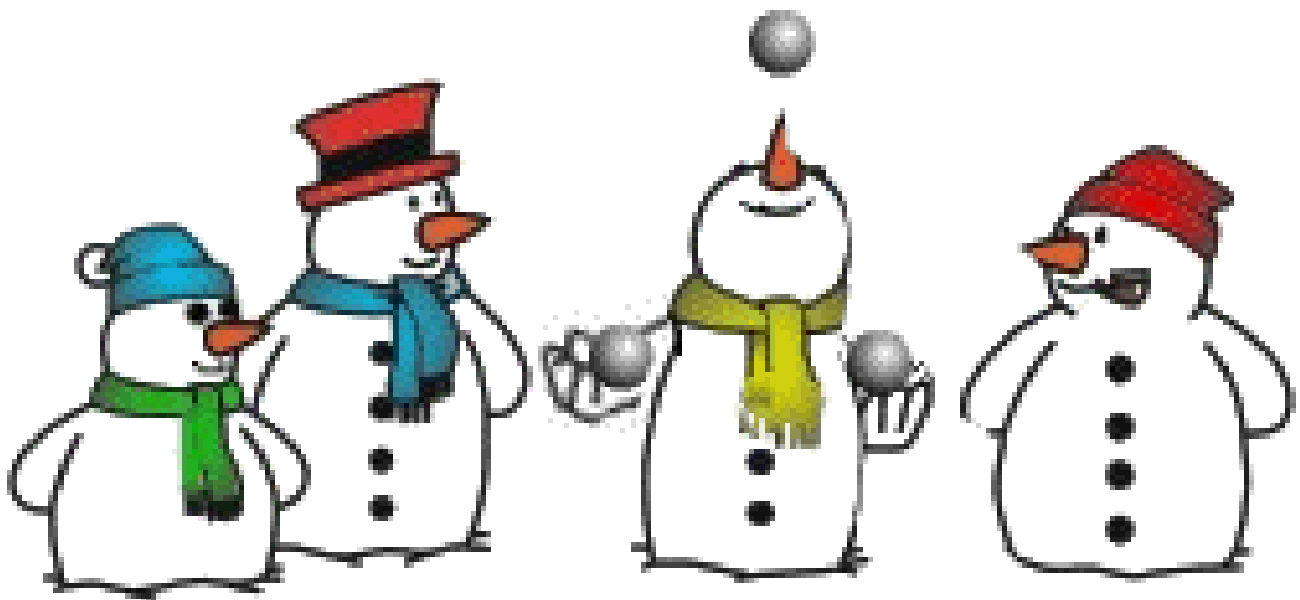
The second grade students are having an outstanding time reading for Accelerated Reader. During the first semester, our class has read over 800 books upon which we have taken tests. We have earned nearly 50 certificates to honor the children who have been reading so many books. We have read over 1,000,000 words! We are doing fantastic! Mrs. Doeden is so proud!

In math, we have been concentrating on our addition facts through 18 during the first semester. We will be continuing to practice these facts, but we will now begin to include subtraction facts in our studies. We are also learning to add two-digit numbers with and without regrouping, read the temperature on a thermometer, identify congruent shapes, and many other skills. The children love math and the challenge of new concepts each day.

Being creative in solving problems is our focus in reading for this unit. We have read folk tales as well as fanciful and realistic fiction selections. Our third grade partners from Mrs. Heidemann's class help us practice our reading assignments each week. They help us with unfamiliar words and also help us practice reading with expression. We are becoming better readers with each selection we read.


Writing friendly letters was one of the skills we have practiced during our grammar and writing time. Each child had an opportunity to write a letter to Santa to let him know a few things he or she was hoping for this Christmas. It was interesting that one of our reading stories was even about a little boy and his grandmother who communicated with letters, photos, drawings, and items sent through the mail. We have learned that there are many ways to communicate.

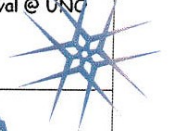
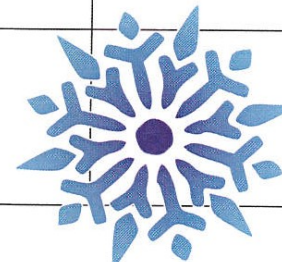
We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you will have a great 2016!



January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
 SkyHawk Cheer & Dance					1 NO SCHOOL	2 JV, V B&G BB @ Freeman HS 4:30, 6:00, 7:45	
	3	4 NO SCHOOL Teacher Workday B & G 'C' Team BB @ Weeping Water 5:30, 7:00	5 CLASSES RESUME	6	7 JV, V B&G BB @ JCC 4:30, 6:00, 7:30	8 UNO MS Honor Choir V Wrestling @ Wilber-Clatonia 3:30 JV, V B&G BB @ JCC 4:30, 6:00, 7:45	9
	10	11 V G BB MUDECAS @ Beatrice Aud. Doane Vocal Festival	12 V B BB MUDECAS @ Beatrice Aud. Doane Vocal Festival	13 HS NeSA Writing Practice Test Board of Education Mtg. @ JCC MS Library 7:30 pm	14 V B&G BB MUDECAS @ Beatrice Aud. V Wrestling @ Yutan HS 5:30 pm	15 V G BB MUDECAS @ Beatrice Aud.	16 Aca Deca Regionals V B BB MUDECAS @ Beatrice Aud. V Wrestling @ Marysville KS 9:00 am
17	18 B & G 'C' Team BB @ JCC HS 5:30 & 7:00	19 Johnson Co Coalition Mtg. @ Sterling 8:30 am JV, V B&G BB @ Weeping Water 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:45	20 11th Grade NeSA Writing Test @ HS Computer Lab 8:15	21 JV, V B&G BB @ JCC HS 4:30, 6:00, 7:45	22 JV, V G BB @ Auburn HS 6:00 & 7:45	23 Midland Cheer Competition Singing Youth of NE @ North Platte 9:00 V Wrestling @ Louisville 9:30	
24	25 JH G BB @ JCC MS 4:00 B & G 'C' Team BB @ Southern HS 6:30 & 7:30	26 8th Grade NESAs Writing Test JV, V B&G BB @ JCC HS 4:30, 6:00, 7:45	27 4th Grade NeSA Writing Test District LSE @ SCC Beatrice 9:00 am	28 4th Grade NeSA Writing Test JV, V B&G BB @ Conestoga 4:30, 6:00 7:45	29 BOCH Festival @ UNO V Wrestling @ Fairbury 3:00	30 ECNC G&B BB JH G BB @ JCC MS 8:30 BOCH Festival @ UNO	
31 BOCH Festival @ UNO Millard West Cheer Showcase							



Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
THIS INSTITUTION IS A EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER"					1 New Year's Day No School	2
Menus are subject to change						
3 	4 Teacher Workday No School	5 Chicken Nuggets SP Fries Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	6 Stromboli Fruit Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	7 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Dinner Roll Milk	8 Meatball Sub Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar	9
10	11 Cr.Chicken WG Biscuit Peas Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	12 Cheeseburger WGBun tater Tots fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	13 Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Fruit & Veggie Bar WG B&B Milk	14 Chicken Tender Wrap Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 Cheese Stick Maraniara Sauce Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	16
17	18 Burrito Spanich Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 BBQ Rib WG Bun Fruit Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	20 Ham&Scollop Potatoes Fruit b& Veggie Bar WG Dinner Roll Milk	21 Chili WG Crakers Cheese stix Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	23
24	25 Egg, Suasage / WG Biscuit Tri Tater Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 Br. Beef Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy WG Dinner HS Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	27 Chicken Tetrzzini Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Bread Stick Milk	28 Corn Dog WG Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29 Sloppy Joe PB No Bake Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	30
31						

Happy New Year!



Johnson County Central Public Schools

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PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

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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

Classes Resume January 5th, 2016. Enjoy Your Break! :)