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SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



As we approach the spring, I would like to take this opportunity to re-express my feelings on some points of emphasis for our students in grades 8-11 and their parents. I specifically want to combine three ideas into one common thought: class selections, the choice to stay with music, and participation in track and weight training. The common thought I want to express here is that I have a desire, and quite frankly an expectation, to see students challenge themselves more. In each of these areas I am sensing that some students may not want to challenge themselves on a higher level. By not facing these challenges, I believe students lower their chances to experience their utmost success.

I have often stressed that students who score high on the ACT are the students who are seeing larger scholarships at graduation time. We see such an importance in raising ACT scores that we make it a priority to offer the Baylor Test Prep class for our students. The Baylor course has been successful in helping students raise their ACT scores. However, this course only succeeds at the highest level when students have challenged themselves with a strenuous course load. All ACT research indicates that the surest way for a student to attain a high ACT score is to take a demanding class load. Why is a high ACT score important? The higher a student scores on the ACT, the more scholarship money he/she is likely to receive. One point on the ACT can mean thousands of dollars more in scholarships. A high grade point average is wonderful to have and does contribute to larger scholarships, but the key really is a higher ACT score. Our own data, provided by ACT, reveals the following:

1. JCC students who take full advantage of higher level math classes all the way through their senior year have an average on 27.1 on the math portion of the ACT, while those who take three lesser years of math have an average of 20.5.
2. JCC students who take full advantage of higher level science courses all the way through their senior year have an average of 23.3 on the science portion, while those who take three lesser years of science have an average of 20.5
3. JCC students who challenged themselves more had an average in math and science of 25.2, while those who did not challenge themselves as much had an average of 20.5. If we make a very simplistic and unscientific assumption that every student scored the same on the Reading and English portions of the ACT, then students who challenged themselves in science and math would score almost five points higher on the ACT. That equates to over \$5,000 more in scholarship money **ANNUALLY** to some schools. Is it worth it?

A few years ago I was approached by a parent about a student who had been notified of receiving a fairly large scholarship that would basically pay the student's tuition costs over the next four years. I knew the student had reached a certain level on the ACT, which then qualified the student for this scholarship. When I said that the ACT score was likely what pushed the student "over the top" I was told that I should make sure all parents know this. I replied that I had been pushing this every year and will continue to push it.

I know some students like to take a less demanding course of study in order to protect their grade point averages and class ranks. A survey of over 1,900 colleges and universities asked for the admissions officers to reveal what the most important factors they look for in determining whether to accept high school applicants. Among the most important factors they cited as having "considerable importance" in admission decisions were:

1. Grades in College Prep Classes 74.9%
2. Admission Test Scores (ACT, SAT) 54.3
9. Class Rank 19.2%

Notice class rank was only 9th on this list, behind such things as a counselor recommendation or the student's demonstrated interests.

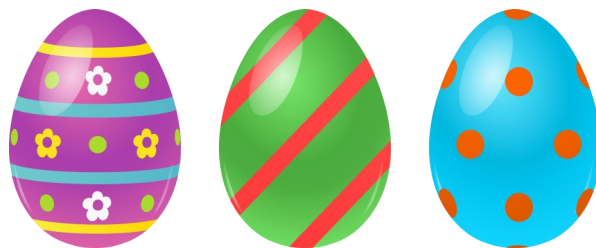
So, my challenge to our students in grades 8-11, and their parents, is to challenge themselves with a more difficult course load. This choice cannot be made in the senior year. It must be a point of emphasis upon entry into high school, but it also must be maintained throughout high school. The benefits from this choice are well documented. If classes are avoided to maintain a high GPA or class rank, then it will possibly cost the family thousands of dollars in scholarship money. Of course, we believe the changes we made recently to require high school students to take four years of both math and science will likely help move us in this direction.

The next topic I would again like to address is the choice of whether to remain in music, especially in band. First of all, the arts are a vital part of the educational experience. The arts help to define us as human beings. We find it so important that we have an arts requirement for graduation. Music, especially instrumental music, has been proven to have a direct effect on academic success, especially in math. Research shows that students who are involved in instrumental music perform better in math.

I have a concern when I hear a student may be considering dropping music, especially band, from his/her course of study. I have a belief that the main reason for this is that these students may not want to put in the work that is entailed in participation. When that is the main reason for dropping something, what kind of lesson is being learned or reinforced? One of my continuing points of emphasis has been to challenge our students and move them beyond where they think they can go.

One of my goals is to grow our student participation in the arts, especially in growing participation in the band. A school with a growing band program is most often a school that is improving itself academically. The two definitely go hand-in-hand, thus my emphasis here.

The third topic I would like to address is participation in track and the weight room. First of all, if a student decides to golf I am in total support of that choice. Golf is a great lifetime activity. However, if one of our students plans on playing other sports and is not going out for golf, then he/she should be considering track. Of course, track is good for conditioning, but my belief in the benefits of track goes much deeper than that. Track would help our athletes get on an even playing field with athletes in other schools. I can usually tell which athletes from other schools were likely out for track the previous year and hit the weight room during the summer. Track also helps to build some of the mental and physical “toughness” needed to compete on a high level. Athletes who challenge themselves in track are setting themselves up to experience greater success.



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Spring has sprung! We’ve had a few really nice days and I’m sure the students are looking forward to spring activities. At JCC we have some items that come up in the spring I would like to inform you about.

First, is the State NeSA testing for all 11th grade students - these tests are very important, not only for our school district, but the results also help our students understand their academic strengths and weaknesses. Our district uses the results of these tests to improve our instructional practices so we can enhance our students’ academic successes and better instruct them where they need improvement. These NeSA tests will take place beginning Wednesday, March 23 and Thursday, March 24 with the NeSA English. NeSA Math is Wednesday, March 30, and NeSA Science test will be given Wednesday, April 20. It is imperative that all 11th grade students are in attendance on these four days for the NeSA tests. I encourage you to stress the importance to your student to take these State NeSA test in a serious manner. Our teachers will not be issuing homework for the students taking these tests so that they may concentrate on doing their best work when taking the NeSA tests. Please also encourage them to eat well and get plenty of rest before the testing days so they are physically and mentally alert during the testing days.

Second, I would like to discuss Prom – Prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 2. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m. parents will be allowed to enter the building for viewing and photos, from 8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. The dance will be held from 8:45 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Hors d’ oeuvres will be served.

Prom participants who will be attending Post-Prom activities will be allowed to change into other clothing at the school. They will need to bring this change of clothes to the school with them when they come to Prom. The Post-Prom participants will be transported via buses, provided by JCC, to Defying Gravity in Omaha. The buses will depart at approximately 12:00 a.m. and the students will return to JCC at approximately 6:00 a.m.

To help insure that we have a safe and drug and alcohol free Prom and Post-Prom, the Johnson County Sheriff’s department will be administering breathalyzer test before Prom and before the students enter the buses for Post-Prom activities.

Middle School News by Principal Rich Bacon

The arrival of spring can only mean one thing: assessment time. Students will be taking a number of Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments starting in late March through the middle of April. Eighth graders started the testing cycle on January 26th with the NeSA-Writing Assessment. Seventh and Eighth grade students will be taking the NeSA-Reading Assessment on March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, the NeSA-Math Assessment on April 6th and 7th and the NeSA-Science Assessment on April 27th and 28th. Sixth Grade students will take the NeSA-Reading Assessment on April 27th, 28th, and 29th, and the NeSA-Math Assessment on April 13th and 14th. These assessments are very important for our students and the district. Results from these assessments provide data which help guide curriculum decisions for our district. As the testing dates approach there are some things parents can do to help their children be successful on these assessments:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good breakfast the morning of the tests.
- Have your child dress in layers – studies show children do better on assessments if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.
- Encourage your child to practice the following test-taking strategies: Skip a question and move on if you don't know the answer - you can always come back to that question later; Check your answers carefully; Encourage your child to read on the days leading up to the test. The easiest and best way to prepare your child to do well on tests is to have them read often.
- Encourage your child to take the tests seriously. A lot of important decisions regarding your children are made based on data we receive from these tests. If students don't give their best effort on the standardized tests much our data will be invalid, making it difficult to make decisions that will be in the best interests of our students.

The Johnson County Spelling Contest was held on Saturday, February 6. Earning the right to represent Johnson County Central Middle School were 8th graders Carrie Beethe, Eli Waring, Hunter Clifton, Tanner Kerner & alternates Greg McGinnis & Jazi Ascheman. Seventh grade representatives of JCC were Saylor Rother, Calvin Antholz, Ruby Valles, Edwin Aguirre & alternates Cheshire Burger & Jason Kettelhake. Sixth grade representatives of JCC were Isabella Wolter, Vanessa Jimenez, Kaita Baird, Francisco Xayaphonesongkham & alternates Shayla Thompson & Stephanie Cruz. Congratulations to the following Middle School medal winners!

Overall Winners

3rd Place – Saylor Rother

6th Grade Division

3rd Place – Isabella Wolter

7th Grade Division

2nd Place – Saylor Rother

8th Grade Division

1st Place – Greg McGinnis

3rd Place – Hunter Clifton

Congratulations to all JCC medalists and participants!

Johnson County Central Middle School was fortunate to receive an educational mini-grant provided by EducationQuest, a non-profit foundation that promotes educational opportunities for young people. As a result of this mini-grant JCC 8th graders were able to visit Southeast Community College-Milford and Hudl, one of the leading sports software companies in the world. This was an outstanding opportunity for our students to learn about and take a tour of a 2-year college and a world leader in sports software as they start mapping out their course of study throughout high school.

The 6th grade science fair will be held on Thursday, March 10th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Students in Mrs. Bohling's 6th grade science class will have their experiments on display and be on hand ready to explain their observations, hypothesis and what they learned from their experiment. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

We had several Middle School students that auditioned for the Meridian Honor Choir and Honor Band. Students selected to perform in the Meridian Honor Choir on April 1 are: Sam Buss, Chloe Curry, Gabe DeFreece, Caleb Eggleston, Andrew Stafford, Jacob Wolter, Morgan Moran, and Saylor Rother. Carrie Beethe was selected for the Honor Band. It requires a lot of hard work and practice to earn the right to represent our school in an Honor Choir and Honor Band. This is an accomplishment that parents, teachers, staff, the administration and, especially, the students should be very proud of. Congratulations! The public can see these students, along with the entire 7th & 8th grade and 6th grade choirs and bands perform in early April. On Monday, April 4th there will be a middle school music concert in the main gym. On Friday, April 8th, the 7th & 8th grade band and choir will be participating in the Louisville Middle School Music Contest. We hope to see you at one of these performances.

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 IN-
TEREST:**

- Wed. March 2—Read Across America Day & AR Assembly @ 3:00 p.m.
- Thurs. March 3—HS NHS & Elementary Reading Beach Party in Elem. Gym—K-1 @ 12:30 pm, 2-3 @ 2:00 p.m.
- Fri. March 4—Grade K-2 attend Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration at Peru State College, 2-3 pm.
- Fri. March 4—End of 3rd Quarter.
- Fri. March 11—No School.
- Fri. March 18—No School. Teacher Work Day.
- Fri. March 25—No School.
- Mon. March 28—No School.

NeSA Assessments & Doing Our Best All the Time

During the times of the year, when we have assessments (NeSA & MAP), the debate always comes up on how to motivate students to do their best on the assessment. And, in all reality, this conversation comes up with the expectations for the daily work of our students. With some students, doing their best is a given. They have a sense of ownership in their work and efforts, an expectation for themselves that they don't want to disappoint, and a reputation with the adults in their lives that they don't want to tarnish. Unfortunately, however, some students don't share this same work ethic. At least not all the time. You see, when we do work or take to a task, there is usually a purpose and we get something out of it, such as personal satisfaction, a sense of making a difference or some sort of a reward. For some, doing the best work possible all the time *is* the reward; satisfaction in knowing the best effort possible was put forth. Really, isn't that what we would want out of anyone doing any job

regardless of pay or reward? Don't we want people to care about the task at hand regardless of how little or menial it can seem? Even volunteers. Don't we want them to care enough about what their volunteering to do to give their best efforts? When you go to have your hair cut or hair done, do you want your barber or stylist doing their best all the time? When you go to the doctor, do you want them doing their best work all of the time? Or, are you comfortable with them doing sub-par work some of the time? What about having your vehicle worked on. Are you okay with the shop not doing their best work? How about us at school. Are you content with us lowering our expectations and not doing our best to educate all the students? Personally, I expect anyone doing their job to be doing their best. Sure, I understand that we have days that we are ill, or that the worries of the world get us down. But not doing our jobs to best of our abilities can have serious repercussions. What if

someone repairing a gas line does careless work? Or the person putting the tires back on your car? Or the people that inspect and repair passenger planes? There are thousands of examples. And, trust me, in my mind, there is no bigger responsibility than the care of children and their education here at school.

Doing our best, and working past personal ailments or worries, to ensure our best efforts comes through practice and perseverance. The ownership of our efforts is something that starts at a young age and is fostered by the expectations of the adults in our lives. It definitely starts at home, and is reinforced when we begin school, join our first little league team or begin taking lessons for a specific skill.

From our end, as adults, we can model what we expect, talk to our students about hard work and effort, and continue to verbalize our expectations for our children.



The Missoula Children's Theatre is coming to Johnson County Central Schools this May! Auditions will be on Monday, May 9. Practices will then be May 10 through May 12 with two performances on Saturday, May 14.

This event will be open to all JCC students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. There will be approximately 50-60 parts in the production. Look for more details in the upcoming months.

CONGRATULATIONS, JANUARY THUNDERBIRDS OF THE MONTH!

K—Angel Buchanan, Conner Gerking, Landon Murray, Elizabeth Wallace, Jesus-Ivan Hurtado, Johanieleah Rivera, Sophia Schmid, Wesley Schmid, Alex Thipphavong

1st—A.J. Rautenbach, Amelia Britt, Brayden Beethe, Hayleigh Daniels, Dante Gurrola, Harlee Hardesty, Molly Weber, Monica Jimenez, Prestin Thomas, Trever Bohling, Hope Butterbaugh, Jilian Cropp, Jonathan DeFreece, Phineaus Kuhl, Memphis Pingel, Harley Reyes, Reagan Tams, Brayden Taylor, Harrison Bacon, Zoey Bryant, Anthony Campos, Leonel Cruz, Max Goracke, Hayley Jones, Mario Lara Jr., Maria Mastie, Lane Robeson

2nd—Ashley Beethe, Isaac Beethe, Kaiden Dorn, Harley Lubben, Trevor Pietzyk, Briana Robeson, Saige Rother, Robert Schmiegelow, Madison VanLaningham, Madisen See, Jack Waring, Gabe Bernadt, Eli Buggi, Wyatt Case, Marisol Mandl, Maria Maya-Soto, Wes Swanson, Catherine Wendt

3rd—Kayden Badertscher, Alex Christiansen, Juanita Grobler, Lexi Robeson, Dawn Sejkora, Nolan Wellensiek, David Campos, Joel Chavez, Salena Conley, Kali Drake, Rue Kuhl, Maecee Neemann, Lydia Mejia, Maggie Niebrugge, Jocelyn Prado, Hailey Stafford

4th—Arely Cabrales, Cameron Daniels, Lorie Sofia Durst, Bailee Sterup, Maya Straka, Kollin Strayhorn, Keegan Woodcook, Kyle Bartels, Michael Bernadt, Ava Buggi, Priscilla Cabrales, Mia Castor, Ruby Duarte, Wyatt Ludemann, Zach O’Gwynn, Kaitlynn Plager, Sunnie Rother, Keven Silos, Sergio Valles

5th—Katelyn Beethe, Karen Canseco, Melissa Lowther, Keiry Najera, Kimberly Orozco, Cole Robeson, Tatum Rutledge, Cameron Schuster, Erika Cabrales, Mackinze Gordon, Jacob Graham, Hayden Huskey, Chayce Oenbring, Aiden Weber



Counselor News by Shelley Moles

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

.NeSA READING, MATH, AND SCIENCE TESTING FOR JUNIORS:

Juniors will be taking the statewide NeSA Reading/English Language Arts tests on March 23 and 24, the NeSA Math tests on March 30, and the NeSA Science test on April 20. The tests will be an online test for most students – some students will take a paper/pencil test.

The results will be used to help schools measure student progress in meeting the state English language arts, math, and science standards. Students will be scored as advanced, proficient or beginning.

At school, students have prepared for this assessment by studying diligently in reading, math, and science and by taking practice tests, Check4Learning assessments and classroom quizzes and tests.

The Statewide NeSA tests are a standardized test used to sample how well students have learned the Nebraska high school standards in English language arts, math, and science and provide valuable information about how well students are doing. Any third year high school student enrolled at Johnson County Central during the testing window will take these assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact your school counselor, principal, or classroom teachers.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

2016 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute: The 2016 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) is a 5-day conference for high school juniors and seniors to learn about career opportunities within agriculture. This year NAYI will be held July 11-15, 2016, on UNL East Campus. This year's theme is “Empowering Potential.” Engaging speakers, workshops and panels, agriculture education, professional development, leadership experience, fun and new friends and networking with peers and industry leaders are highlights for this year.

Interested juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply. Selection of delegates will be based on leadership skills, interest, and involvement in agriculture. All meals, lodging, and conference fees during the NAYI are provided for the selected delegates. (FREE!) Apply on-line at www.nda.nebraska.gov or see Mrs. Moles for a paper application. Applications are due April 15, 2016.

Camp OK Counselor 2016: Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District sponsors Camp Olympia Kiwanis (OK) with a goal of providing an educational camp experience for deserving 5th and 6th grade children from NE and IA. Counselors must be 16 or older, willing to attend training and stay at camp the entire week, act as positive role models, lead camping activities for groups of students and be in charge of a cabin each night. Camp will be held at the Y Camp in Boone, IA from June 5 to June 11. Camp counselor training will be held Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th. Students may earn over 100 hours of volunteer service and learn valuable leadership and teamwork skills! Interested students may access more information and an application for Camp OK counselor by contacting Mrs. Moles for the online link. Applications are due April 10, 2016.

Career Exploration: Architecture, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture June 5-11, 2016 and Discover Landscape Architecture June 12-June 17, 2016: These high school workshops are held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. The workshops provide learning opportunities in the form of design studio explorations, seminars and discussions, field trips and film presentations. As part of the workshops, students will visit professional offices, learn about various career opportunities, and develop fundamental skills necessary for the study of design. The programs are designed for young men and women who have completed 2 year or more years of their high school education and are interested in pursuing architecture, landscape or interior design. The fee of \$585/participant includes studio supplies, program fees, meals and lodging. Application form, recommendations and essay are due April 4, 2016. There is reserved space for 36 students in the workshop, so apply early. See Mrs. Moles for additional information or apply online at: architecture.unl.edu/workshop/application.

Automotive Summer Camp: This workshop is for any high school students interested in Automotive careers. It will be held on the Southeast Community College-Milford campus on June 10 and 11, 2016. Bright students who would like the opportunity to experience what it would be like to pursue a career in the automotive field are encouraged to apply. This will be strictly a hands-on camp with about a 3-to-1 student-to-instructor ratio. Registration deadline is May 27, 2016. The cost of \$29 per participant includes tools, meals, housing and tour transportation. Participants must be 16 years of age. Please see Mrs. Moles for an application. For more information contact Rick Morphew, SCC-Milford Campus, 600 State Street, Milford, NE 68405-8498 or call 1-800-933-7223 Ext. 8317 or e-mail rmorphew@southeast.edu. Registration is limited to 60 participants and registrations are ordered by date received.

Latina Summer Academy: held on the College of Saint Mary, Omaha campus, Sunday, June 12 - Friday, June 17, 2016. This program is for Latina girls entering tenth or eleventh grade and will feature activities in science, art and computer technology. Students will have the chance to experience college life by staying in the residence hall. Register online at CSM.edu/LSA or see Mrs. Moles for registration form. Registration fee of \$25 is required and includes classes and activities for the week. Registration is due May 13, 2016, and is limited to the first 60 registered students.

African American Summer Academy: held on the College of Saint Mary, Omaha campus, Sunday, July 10-Friday, July 15, 2016. This program is for African American girls entering tenth or eleventh grade and will feature activities in science, art and computer technology. Students will have the chance to experience college life by staying in the residence hall. Register online at CSM.edu/AASA or see Mrs. Moles for registration form. Registration fee of \$25 is required and includes classes and activities for the week. Registration is due June 13, 2016, and is limited to the first 60 registered students.

Stanford University (California): Programs available for highly motivated, intellectually curious students include Stanford Summer College Academy - a 3 week program for students ages 16-19, Summer Humanities Institute -a 3 week program for students in grades 10 and 11 to research a topic in history, literature or philosophy and produce original research projects, Stanford Summer Arts Institute - for students in grades 9-11, High School Summer College -students ages 16-19 earn Stanford undergraduate course credit in more than 145 classes, Summer Institutes High School Program - students in grades 8-11 engage in intensive study, single-subject courses, University-Level Online Math and Physics Courses -for students who have surpassed their high school's math and physics curriculum. To learn more about these programs visit: spcs.stanford.edu/collegecounselor

PKI Summer Academies: held on the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Applications and more information available at <http://www.pki.nebraska.edu/new/> and click on the "Outreach" link. Selection is based on academics, extracurricular involvement and leadership experiences. These programs feature hand-on workshops, campus living, and are free to attend. Students are responsible for transportation to and from the academies.

Holland Academy of Excellence held June 12-15, is for current sophomore students who excel in math and science and have an interest in engineering and technology. Lab experiences range from team bridge building, to water resources and soil contamination, and visual animation.

OPPD/PKI Academy of Sustainability held July 25-28, is for current juniors students who excel in math and science and have an interest in promoting the need for green building practices, technologies, policies, standards to build an environmentally responsible, economically profitable and healthy future for the region.

SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS IN OMAHA AND LINCOLN:

These events are great ways for students - especially juniors and sophomores - to start the college search process.

Omaha Area College Fair Sunday, March 20, 1-3 p.m., at the University of Nebraska at Omaha

Lincoln Area College Fair Sunday, April 19, 1-3 p.m., at Southeast Community College-Lincoln

Students should register for a barcode at **NebraskaCollegeFairs.org**, print the barcode and take it to the college fair so that college representatives can scan their demographic information.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

Johnson County Central High School will hold its National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Monday evening, March 21, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school. Teachers, friends and family are invited to attend.

The purpose of the Johnson County Central High School Chapter of NHS is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in students. Selection is based on character, leadership, scholarship, and service.

To read more about National Honor Society at Johnson County Central High School, please refer to the February newsletter.

JCC Student Students, Staff Members and Community Participants Raise over \$1,780.00 for the American Heart & Stoke Associations!

By: Marsha Bacon



Pictured to the side and below; JCC Staff and Students at the Cook site grades 4-8, and the Tecumseh site grades K-3 participating in the Red Out to support the American Heart and Stroke Associations.

Johnson County

Central students, staff and community members raised money to donate to the American Heart and Stroke Associations during National Heart Month. Individuals were able to purchase an American Heart Association t-shirt for \$10.00 through the school with all proceeds going to the American Heart and Stroke Associations. In addition, to raise funds throughout the week, students could bring money to donate to the American Heart and Stroke Associations.



The Johnson County Hospital also made a donation to support the school's fundraising efforts.

On Thursday, February 4th, all students and staff were encouraged to wear red to demonstrate their support for the American Heart and Stroke Associations during the JCC Red Out day. Students demonstrated their support and generosity by working to raise over \$1,780.00!

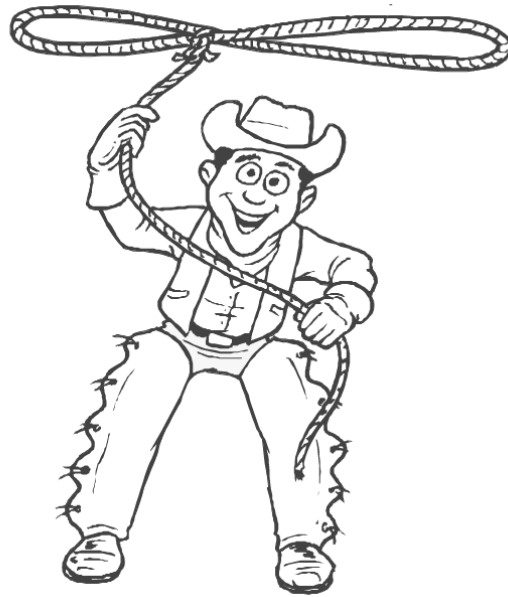
During the heart health week at JCC, students in grades PK-8 learned about healthy choices from Heather Schommer, The Youth Market Director of the American Heart and Stroke Associations. She taught students about the 5 tenants of heart health with their program: Build Pawstitive Heart Health Habits (they have dogs as mascots for each message) Eat Colorful Foods, Get Moving, Live Tobacco Free, Beware of Sodium and Choose Water Over Sugary Drinks. Posters were provided to the school about the aspects of healthy living and are located by the cafeterias in Cook and Tecumseh.

In addition, on Thursday, February 4th students grades K-5 participated in Jump Rope for Heart. Our P.E. teachers, Mr. Dean Wellensiek and Mr. Garrett Collin had students participate in jump rope and ball activities while learning the importance of exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Middle School students assisted at the Cook site. Students were taught how to check their heart rates and encouraged to keep moving outside of school as well. All students in grades PK-5 were provided jump ropes courtesy of the American Heart and Stroke Associations.

Thank you to all of the students, staff and community members who supported this wonderful cause!



Kindergarten Round-Up



WHEN: Friday, April 29, 2016
9:00-11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Johnson County Central Elementary Building in Tecumseh.

WHO: Children residing in the Johnson County Central school district who are, or will be, age 5 on or before July 31, 2016.

Individual letters will be sent in April to the parents of all Kindergarten ready students residing in Johnson County Central's school district. If you do not receive a letter, please call the school and let us know that you will be attending the 2016 Kindergarten Round-Up.

If applying for early registration (child will be 5 years old on or after August 1 and on or before October 15), JCC must have received your written request by March 24, 2016.

Kindergarten Eligibility

Kindergarten Round-Up will be on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Tecumseh site Elementary School. Parents of students who are of age to attend Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year will receive a letter with more details inviting them and their child to the Round-Up.

In accordance with state law, Kindergarteners must be 5 years of age on or before July 31, 2016. However, parents may request early entry into Kindergarten. The following are the criteria for early entry into Kindergarten:

- Will turn 5 years of age between August 1 and October 15;
- Fill out the “Parent Questionnaire for Early Kindergarten Admission”;
-Submitted by: **March 24th, 2016.**
- Are deemed by the parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement;
- Achieve an average score or greater on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (4th Edition), the Social Skills Improvement System and/or Teaching Strategies GOLD.
- Pay \$50 assessment fee.

Other information collected from the parent questionnaire and the student’s pre-school teacher will also be considered in determining whether the child is eligible for early admission to Kindergarten.

If you have any questions regarding Johnson County Central’s Kindergarten eligibility policy or the criteria for early entry into Kindergarten, please feel free to call the school.

Jon H. Rother
Elementary Principal

Middle School First Semester and Second Quarter Honors



6th Grade Honor Roll

Front Row: Jazmin Cabrales, Shayla Thompson, Isabella Wolter, Ava Berkebile, Dakotah Ludemann, Emma Straka, Emma Walters.
 Back Row: Treyton Holthus, Jonathon Duncan, Lane Othmer, Logan Barras, Mathew Jansen, Vanessa Jimenez, Saydee Hardesty, Emma Swanda, Madison Pingel, Madelyn Harrifeld, Gina Golden, Kaita Baird.



7th Grade Honor Roll

Front Row: Jason Kettelhake, Boston Bailey, Dalton Berkebile, Calvin Antholz, Devin Conley, Kyle Laue.
 Back Row: Kylie Kleespies, Katie Little, Morgan Moran, Zadie Plager and Saylor Rother.



8th Grade Honor Roll

Front Row: Samuel Buss, Tanner Kerner, Carrie Beethe.
 Back Row: Jacob Wolter, Monica Thipphavong, Paola Solis, Eli Waring, Gabriel DeFreece.



2nd Quarter Thunderbirds

6th Grader: Fransisco Xayaphonesongkham,
 8th Grader: Monica Thipphavong
 7th Grader: Saylor Rother



1st Semester All A's

Front Row: Calvin Antholz, Jonathon Duncan, Vanessa Jimenz, Treyton Holthus.
 Back Row: Eli Waring, Carrie Beethe, Saylor Rother, Madelyn Harrifeld, Kaita Baird, Isabella Wolter.

High School Math – Applied Math 1

Ben Swanson

“When am I ever going to have to know how to do this?” This is a question every math teacher has probably been asked numerous times. Admittedly, it is not always an easy question to answer, and often takes some creative thinking to connect the concepts being taught to real world situations a freshman or sophomore can relate to. However, that question has not been asked lately in Applied Math 1, as we are studying the uses of percents.

Much of the prior knowledge students have about percents comes from calculating their grades on homework assignments, or from their experiences as young consumers. Most students have purchased an item and received a discount that was expressed as a percent, and then were charged a percent sales tax on the item as well. Some students may also have experience with a savings account, and have witnessed their account grow due to the percent of interest they are earning.

Students also learned of the uses of percents in situations they could likely encounter later in life such as property tax, income tax, and sales commission rates. Percents are also frequently found in advertisements, and students need to understand them in order to make wise decisions with their purchases. Many of the articles and graphics in newspapers use percents, and students need to be able to read and understand their significance to become informed citizens. Calculating a percent in your head can also be a useful skill for situations such as leaving a tip at a restaurant. With so many practical everyday uses, students can easily see the importance of learning about percents.



Science News: By Vicky Boone

Our space project from last year (that blew up on launch) will very likely be relaunched this spring. We are awaiting an exact date but likely will not be before late March. While we will not be able to go again to see the liftoff, we are hoping to show it live in the science classes if it is on a school day. Our biology II class will start making preparations to plant the seeds when they return from the International Space Station. The experiment will likely be in space approximately 6 weeks. We will potentially be able to plant the clover from space and the control in one of the new tower gardens that Mrs. Hodges has obtained for the school. We are very excited to continue the experiment that we started last year. Below are some class notes from other classes.

Biology: During the first semester sophomores studied the cell, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, DNA and genetics. We did a couple of long term studies where students could design their own experiments. One was with plant growth, and as a final step, the sophomores paired up with Kindergarteners in Mrs. Grotrian’s class to examine the effect of different colors of light compared to sunlight. This semester we have just finished with evolution and are starting on ecology. As the weather gets warmer we will be taking some trips outside to explore the local ecosystem around the school.

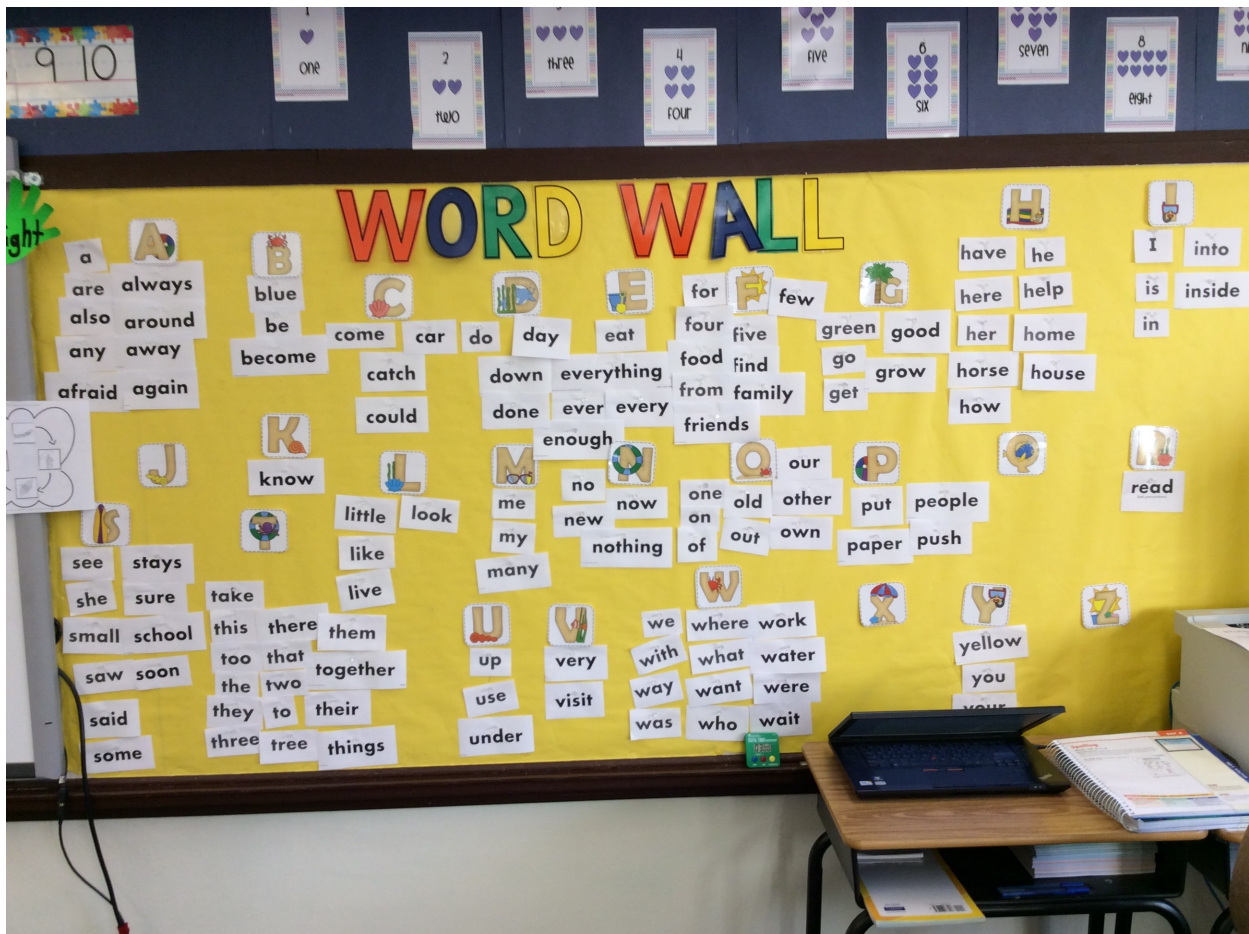
Anatomy & Physiology: Seniors taking this class have already worked their way through the integumentary system (skin), gastrointestinal system, skeletal system and muscle system last semester. We have just completed the neurological system and special senses and will be starting the cardiovascular system next week. Next quarter we will also learn about the reproductive system, pulmonary system, renal system and endocrine system. Highlights for the year so far have been trips to Doane where we were able to view the cadaver lab and to UNMC for their career day where we also got to see their new virtual teaching lab equipment. This class is offered for dual credit through Peru State College.

Biology II: Juniors and seniors in Bio II have been learning about zoology, starting with primitive one celled organisms and moving forward. We just finished learning about cartilaginous and bony fish. We have dissected a number of organisms, most recently skates, which are similar to stingrays but do not have the poisonous tail. We are now looking at vertebrates and our class will also look for opportunities to explore the local ecosystem as the weather improves.

Mrs. Borrenpohl's First Grade News

The 17 students in Mrs. Borrenpohl's First Grade Class have been very busy in the beginning of the 2016 year. We celebrated the 100th day of school on January 26th. The students brought a collection of 100 items to be counted, wrote their numbers to 100, wrote about what they would want 100 of, what they would like to spend 100 dollars on, and what they would be doing when they were 100 years old. They had some very creative answers. We also projected what each student would look like at the age of 100, which they students loved seeing.

We continue to work on our weekly spelling words. The first graders are amazed at how many words they have learned so far by looking at our word wall. In math, they are learning fractions such as halves and fourths, counting money, telling time, and addition/subtraction facts. In social sciences, we learned about our famous Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on President's Day. We are currently learning the life cycle of a butterfly. The students have been exploring a butterfly's life cycle in detail, including the four stages of life. The students and their teacher can tell the weather is starting to change into spring time as we are all ready to get outside and enjoy the nice days coming soon.



Read with Me- A Special Partnership

Gail Hutt, Reading K-3

Every Thursday afternoon second and third grade students at Johnson County Central partner with residents of Belle Terrace and Ridgeview Towers to read stories. This gives the students great reading practice. The children also develop friendships with the residents. The children and their elders learn so much from each other and they look forward to reading time every week. We want to thank the residents for supporting the children in their reading endeavors. We also thank those that help coordinate this project and our instructors of JCC's second and third graders which include Mrs. Hemmingsen, Mrs. Doeden, Mrs. Dieckgrafe, and Mrs. Heidemann.

HAPPY READING!!



The year in the Industrial Technology classroom is flying by. The students are using their knowledge and abilities to take the images and plans in their heads and turn them into finished projects. One class is exploring the uses of computer design that can be used to cut wood and manufacture different shapes and designs. Another class is putting the finishing touches on an 8ft x 16ft shed that will be used at the Tecumseh Country Club to store the school's equipment year round. This project has helped teach the students how to build a shed from the ground up, from the base to the walls with siding, to the roof, and installing homemade doors. These students are excited to get this project into its final stage of furnishing the inside with shelves and equipment holders. In Woods class the students are hard at work finishing projects and finding new challenging ideas to build. Some notable projects are a park bench, a gun cabinet, and a decorative table. Some students are also taking advantage of the band saw and creating wood cut out of things from their initials, to animal designs. Even though it is only February, May will be here before we know it and with so much work to be done, I am very confident that the students will finish all of their projects and the finished products will be outstanding!

Mr. Blecha
Industrial Technology Teacher

The year is flying by and we are working hard and learning many things in second grade. We recently learned seeds can grow without soil. Mrs. Hodges, the high school Botany teacher, wrote a grant for a tower garden and placed it in our room. With the help of her Botany students we planted lettuce, basil, arugula, and cucumbers. We planted our seeds in rock wool, added some vermiculites, and placed them on the tower. We have been checking the pH and water levels in the tower with the help of her class. Recording growth and changes is done in our science journals. In one of our recent entries we wrote ... “we have beautiful green vegetables growing!” The second graders are very excited! We hope to plant some strawberries in the near future. If you are curious about what a tower garden looks like stop by and have a peek. We are very proud of having it in our room and would love to share “our growing success” with you.

To celebrate the 100th day of school, we read several different poetry selections, did some creative writing about the number 100, and did some counting activities to 100. Second graders decided 100 was a pretty big number, especially if they could live to be 100!

“Love is... “ was the topic for writing activity this month. To a second grader love could mean many things including: help with homework, getting kissed good-bye, getting to stay up late, or taking out the trash, just to name a few. It was interesting to see what great ideas they came up with.

In social science we will be studying two of the most famous presidents, Lincoln and Washington. We are going to finish our study by each student reporting on another president and sharing facts about him. We will also write letters to President Obama in honor of Presidents’ Day.

Practice! Practice! Practice!
We continue to practice telling time, counting money, learning how to measure, and just really becoming good mathematicians! Our motto is “the more we practice, the better we get!”

The second graders continue to read for the Accelerated Reading Program. We have earned several rewards because we are reading, reading, reading!

“Think Spring” From the Second Graders and Mrs. H.!



Johnson County Central competed at State Academic Decathlon the weekend of February 19-20. The team placed 3rd in the small school division. The Super Quiz team placed 2nd. Listed are the individual results.

Grant Moles Regular Honors

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz
1st Place Art
1st Place Economics
1st Math (Perfect Score)
2nd Place Science
2nd Place Speech
3rd Place Language/Literature
2nd Place Music
Top Scorer For JCC
Top State Scorer For Small Schools

Sierra McClintock Regular Honors

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz

Sara Kettelhake Regular Honors

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz

Bryan Murphy Regular Scholastic

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz
3rd Place Science

Bryce Sabs Regular Scholastic

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz
2nd Place Essay
3rd Place Science

Courtney Klaasmeyer Regular Scholastic

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz

Annika McDonald Regular Varsity

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz
2nd Place Math
3rd Place Language/Literature

Gunnar Burger Regular Varsity

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz
2nd Place Math

Sloan Pollard Regular Varsity

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Super Quiz
2nd Place Math
3rd Place Speech

Hannah Swanda Alternate Honors

3rd Place Team
2nd Place Hard Science
2nd Place Soft Science

Gabi Alvarado Alternate Scholastic

3rd Place Team



Junior High Girls Basketball
By Julie Isaacs

Our goal is to be better at the end of the season than we were at the beginning. Everyday at practice, and during games, we strive to improve. With a lot of focus on the basics and fundamentals of the game, we have become a more aggressive and competitive team.

With 17 girls out for Junior High Basketball, we have an 'A-Team' and a 'B-Team'. As we near the end of our season, we keep looking for opportunities to get better & are focusing on playing as a TEAM.

The team recently participated in the Palmyra Fun Day Tournament and finished in 4th place, losing two very exciting games, both only by 2 points! Some individuals participated in some fun competitions at the tournament. Participants were Jordan Hunzeker & Carrie Beethe in the Dribbling Obstacle Course. Zadi Plager & Hayley Neemann in the Free Throw Shooting Contest. Jazi Ascheman & Monica Thippavong in the 3-point Shooting Contest.



STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT/SCARLET FEVER

STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT/SCARLET FEVER

Streptococcal sore throat (strep throat) and scarlet fever (a strep throat with a rash) are common infections in young children. These illnesses are usually not serious. However, complications such as rheumatic fever or kidney disease may rarely develop if children do not receive proper antibiotic treatment.

CAUSE: *Streptococcus* bacteria (Group A beta hemolytic strep)

SYMPTOMS: Sudden onset of fever, sore throat, swollen glands, headache, and abdominal pain. Nausea and vomiting may occur with severe cases. With scarlet fever, a very fine, bright red, raised rough texture rash (feels like sandpaper) is present. A fuzzy white tongue followed by a beefy-red 'strawberry tongue' may occur. The rash appears most often on the neck, chest, inner thigh, and in folds of the armpit, elbow, and groin. Later on, there may be peeling of the skin on the fingertips and toes.

SPREAD: Person-to-person from nose and throat secretions of infected persons (those with and without symptoms).

INCUBATION: It usually takes 1 to 3 days from the time a person is exposed until symptoms develop.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: Until at least a full 24 hours after treatment begins and fever is gone.



Until at least a full 24 hours after treatment begins and until child is without fever for 24 hours.

Prevention Control

1. If your child does not appear well or develops a sore throat and other symptoms listed above, keep him/her home and call your physician.
2. **Diagnosis:** Confirmed by identification of strep in the throat, either by throat culture, or by using a rapid test which can provide results the same day.
3. **Treatment:** If the culture is positive, a penicillin shot or antibiotics taken by mouth (usually 10 days) are prescribed. This treatment will help to prevent more serious illness such as rheumatic fever, which can damage the heart valves.



The Flu: A Guide For Parents

FLU INFORMATION

What is the flu?

Influenza (the flu) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs caused by influenza viruses. There are many different influenza viruses that are constantly changing. They cause illness, hospital stays and deaths in the United States each year.

The flu can be very dangerous for children. Each year about 20,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized from flu complications, like pneumonia.

How serious is the flu?

Flu illness can vary from mild to severe. While the flu can be serious even in people who are otherwise healthy, it can be especially dangerous for young children and children of any age who have certain long term health conditions, including asthma (even mild or controlled), neurological and neurodevelopmental



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine disorders (such as diabetes), kidney, liver, and metabolic disorders, and weakened immune systems due to disease or medication. Children with these conditions and children who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy can have more severe illness from the flu.

How does the flu spread?

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

What are the symptoms of the flu?

Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. Some people with the flu will not have a fever.

How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?

People with the flu may be able to infect others by shedding virus from 1 day before getting sick to 5 to 7 days after. However, children and people with weakened immune systems can shed virus for longer, and might be still contagious past 5 to 7 days of being sick, especially if they still have symptoms.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD

How can I protect my child against the flu?

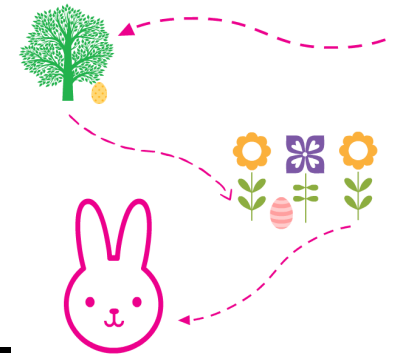
To protect against the flu, the first and most important thing you can do is to get a flu vaccine for yourself and your child.




- ▶ Vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- ▶ It's especially important that young children and children with long term health conditions get vaccinated. (See list of conditions under "How Serious is the Flu?")
- ▶ Caregivers of children with health conditions or of children younger than 6 months old should get vaccinated. (Babies younger than 6 months are too young to be vaccinated themselves.)
- ▶ Another way to protect babies is to vaccinate pregnant women because research shows that this gives some protection to the baby both while the woman is pregnant and for a few months after the baby is born.

A new flu vaccine is made each year to protect against the flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the next flu season. Flu vaccines are made using strict safety and production measures. Over the years, millions of flu vaccines have been given in the United States with a very good safety record.

Spring

March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 JH G BB @ Louisville HS 5:00 pm	2 HS MAP Testing	3 JH Wrestling @ Falls City 4:30 pm	4 END OF 3RD QUARTER K-12 College/Career Day @ Both Sites K-2 @ Dr. Seuss B-Day Celebration PSC 1:00 pm JCC Speech Showcase	5 JH Wrestling @ Norris HS 9:30 am
6	7 ECNC JH & HS Quiz Bowl @ Conestoga HS 9:00 am	8 23rd Annual Freshmore Clinic @ JCC Regional Coalition Legislative Day JH Wrestling @ Falls City 4:30 pm	9 5th grade to Water Cele- bration @ PSC 9:15 am HS MAPS Testing Board of Education Meeting @ Cook Lib. 7:30 pm	10 6th Grade Science Fair @ Cook Boys State BB County Coalition Meeting @ Sterling	11 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK Boys State BB	12 JH Wrestling @ Nebr. City HS 9:00 am Boys State BB
13 	14 District Speech @ Raymond Central HS 11:00 am	15 JH Wrestling @ Auburn HS 4:30	16	17 8th Grade Science Meet Dodgeball Tourney @ HS Gym 6:00 pm	18 NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORKDAY 2016-2017 Cheer Tryouts JCC HS 3:00 pm	19 Class C Allstate Honor Band @ Kearney 8:00 am V Track @ Wesleyan 9:30 am
20	21 NHS Induction Banquet @ HS Gym 6:30 pm	22 MUDECAS Music Concert @ HTRS 8:00 am 4th Grade Field Trip @ Lincoln	23 State Speech Contest @ UNK 11th Grade NeSA Testing 7th & 8th NeSA Testing	24 State Speech Contest @ UNK 11th Grade NeSA Testing 7th & 8th NeSA Testing	25 NO SCHOOL EASTER BREAK!	
	28 NO SCHOOL EASTER BREAK!	29 HS Music Pre Contest Concert 7:00 pm	30 11th Grade NeSA Math MUDECAS HS Quiz Bowl @ SCC Lincoln 9:00 am	31 Education Quest: College Access Symposium @ Lin- coln Marriott 8:30 am V Track @ Thayer Central 10:30 am		



March 2016

Online School Meals Bookkeeper Training- Training Videos may be viewed on I

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
THIS INSTITUTION IS A EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER"		1 BBQ Rib Patty WG Bun SP Tots Fruit & veggie Bar Milk	2 Popcorn Chicken Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	3 Taco Salad Fruit & Veggie Bar Garlic Bread Milk	4 Cheese Pizza Broccoli Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5
Menus are subject to change						
6	7 Asian Chicken Fried Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Hamburger WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Rice Crispy Bar Milk	9 Breakfast for Lunch	10 Corn dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11 No School	12
13 	14 Calzonettes Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	15 Meatball Sub Sun Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Chicken Tender Wrap Lettuce & Tomato Fruit & Veggie Bar Pudding Milk	17 Chefs Choice Happy St. Patricks Day	18 Teacher Workday No School	19
20 	21 Stromboli Spinish Salad Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Chicken Patty WG Bun Cooked Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Ham Slice Cheesy Patatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk Dinner Roll	24 Chicken Quesadilla Salsa & WG Tortilla Chips Fruit & Veggie Milk	25 No School	26
27 	28 No School	29 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Bread Stick Milk	30 Walking Taco Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	31 Cowboy Cavatini Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Milk Garlic Bread		

Johnson County Central Public Schools

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402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh
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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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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