

Jack D. Moles
Superintendent
402-335-3330

Rick Lester
High School Principal
402-335-3328

Rich Bacon
Athletic Director
Middle School Principal
402-864-4171

Jon Rother
Elementary Principal
402-335-3320



SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



BUDGET/TAX REQUEST

At the regular Board of Education meeting on Sept. 10, the Board approved the budget for the 2014-14 school year, as well as the Property Tax Request. The General Fund property tax levy request for the coming year was set at \$0.952736. This is a significant drop from last year's levy rate of \$1.013274. The difference, as many will notice, is that this year's levy will generate considerably more in taxes as a result of climbing valuations. A school district has a combined General Fund and Special Building Fund levy limit. In the past the combined levy for these two funds had been set at close to \$1.05. This year the Board and I saw an opportunity to drop the levy to a combined \$0.983039.

Two problems the Board and I are having to deal with are (1) the loss of State Aid over the past several years, and (2) concern over the low level of the district's Necessary Cash Reserve. I would like to take this opportunity to explain those two issues.

Below is a table showing the drop in State Aid over the past few years.

2010-11 STATE AID	2011-12 STATE AID	2012-13 STATE AID	2013-14 STATE AID	2014-15 STATE AID	DIFFERENCE FROM 10-11 TO 14-15
\$1,245,286	\$907,414	\$519,582	\$230,795	\$107,383	-\$1,137,903

The table shows that over a span of five school years that we lost \$1,137,903 in State Aid. However, in my estimation, we mathematically lost much more. I would contend that we actually lost \$3,215,970 in state funding for our district. The way I reached this number is to subtract the State Aid received for each of the 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 years from the base year of 2010-11. Thus, in 2011-12 we were down \$337,872 in State Aid from the previous year. In 2012-13, then, I show us as receiving \$725,704 less in State Aid than we received in 2010-11, and \$1,014,491 less in State Aid for the 2013-14 year as compared to 2010-11, and \$1,137,903 for the current year. The drop in State Aid can be directly attributed to growing property valuations. This has caused us to rely more heavily on property taxes and our cash on hand. I was of the strong belief that we would become a "Non-Equalized District" this year—that is we would not receive any state aid as our local resources (valuations) are considered enough to allow us to meet our financial requirements. I was off on that estimation, but that time is quickly approaching. I predict next year will be the year we move to "non-equalized" status.

Coupled with this lost State Aid, is a growing concern the Board and I have over our “Necessary Cash Reserve”. A Necessary Cash Reserve is the amount of resources that allow the district to have a positive cash flow. In Nebraska, school districts do not receive a constant flow of income each month. The only funds that come in on a regular basis are State Aid receipts. Schools receive an equal amount each month for 10 months, thus a somewhat constant flow. For example, in 2010-11 we received a monthly State Aid check in the amount of \$124,528. This year we will receive a monthly State Aid check in the amount of \$10,738. With decreasing State Aid, the rest of our income is much more sporadic, mainly coming in September, January, and May as most property taxes are paid in those months. March and April are especially low income months, so a district needs to ensure that it is in line to pay the bills when income is low. The Nebraska Department of Education used to promote the idea of maintaining a Necessary Cash Reserve at a level of at least two months worth of General Fund expenditures. They have begun to expand this philosophy, now saying that a district should aim to maintain a Necessary Cash Reserve equal to two to six months worth of expenditures. Our monthly General Fund expenditures average almost \$600,000, so two months worth of expenditures would be about \$1,200,000. We operated last year with a Necessary Cash Reserve of \$700,000. I told the Board early in the school year last year that there was a very real possibility that we could have to borrow on a short term basis to pay the bills in March and April. Of course, this would mean paying interest rates on the borrowed money. Luckily, we did not need to do this. Our goal is to grow our Necessary Cash Reserve. We took the opportunity to raise it to a level of \$1,000,000 for the coming year. Again, this is not where we want to end up, but we have set a goal we really do need to reach.

One thing the Board and I are continuing to try to keep ahead on, or at least even with, is addressing facility needs through the Special Building Fund. We continue to try to maintain a working total in this fund in order to meet the facility needs we know are coming over the next few years. Upcoming projects include a pretty substantial roof project at the Cook site, more door work at both sites, and the need to again refinish the track.

ISRAEL PROJECT

This month will offer our school another opportunity to become acquainted with students from Israel. As part of an American-Israel Friendship League project, families in our district will host ten students and one adult chaperone from the city of Ra’anana. The students will spend time in school, as well as being involved in some activities with our host students. At the end of their week in our district, three of our students and an adult sponsor will spend time in Washington DC and New York City with the Israeli students, then spend two weeks in Israel. For one week they will tour the country, then spend a week in the Israeli students’ homes and schools. I believe this is a fabulous opportunity for our participating students and our host families, as well as for the rest of our student body.



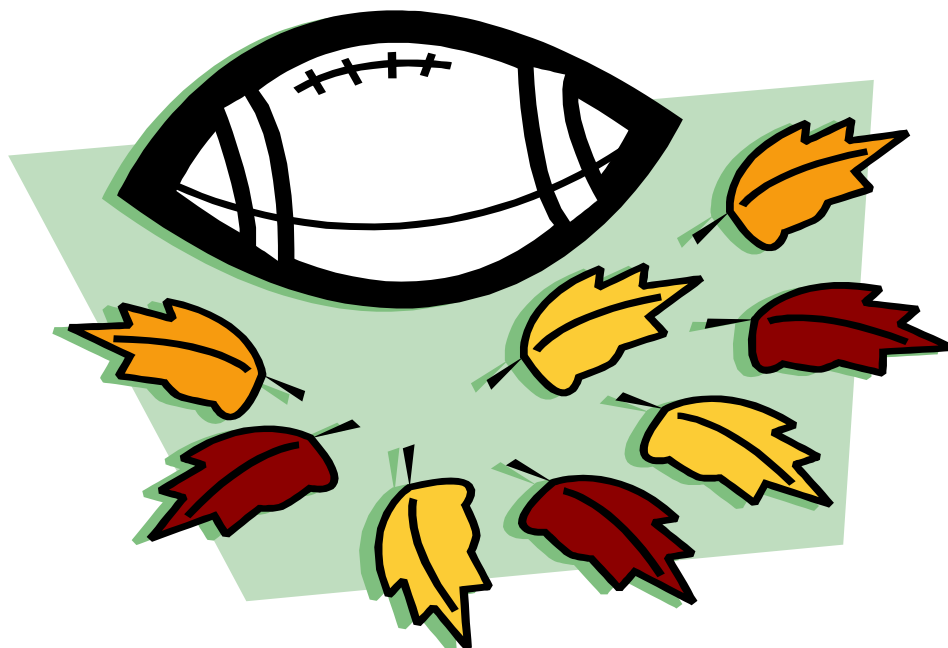
NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

As many people already know, the Board of Education approved the purchase and installation of a new security system for all the buildings in our school district. The system was installed this past summer, and we can now benefit from the upgraded camera system and security locks on all doors district wide. Although the cameras are up and working, the new electronic door locking system will be implemented beginning Monday, September 29, 2014. The buildings doors can be programmed to lock and unlock via a computer-generated system, so students, parents and visitors will need to adapt to the new access system to our school buildings.

Starting on Monday, September 29, 2014, student arrival and building entrance will be as usual. All exterior doors will be unlocked and accessible to students until the first bell at 8:12 a.m. At this bell, all exterior doors will lock and remain locked until 4:15 p.m. Any students, parent, visitors, salesman etc. who need access to the building during this 8:12 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. time frame, will need to enter the HS building via the main entrance only (west doors). They will be required to press the video panel on the right side of the door to gain access to the building. The high school secretary, Mrs. Moles, and I have a video intercom in our offices. We will be the sole persons to allow access to the high school building by any student or visitor. This controlled access to our school is for the safety and security of our students and allows us to know who is in our building at all times. I have visited with each class of students and have explained how the new system works. I explained that they are on camera and I emphasized the importance of good and appropriate behavior in and around the school. Cameras are in place in the halls, cafeteria, gym, parking lots and outside the building.

I would like the parents' help in support of this emphasis - I have been informed about inappropriate behavior taking place in the school's parking lot, especially after ball games. There should be no congregating in the school parking lots, even after games. Students are aware of this, and now you, as parents, know as well. The sheriff's department has been informed and they will monitor to make sure students aren't congregating in parking lots. I have access at any time to the surveillance videos, even at home, which will assist me in monitoring any inappropriate activities or students congregating in the parking lots. Please make sure your student does not linger or congregate in school parking lots, especially after games or school activities. Parents' help on this matter is much appreciated.

These security measures and system changes are for the safety and benefit of all our students, staff and members of our community. Everyone's understanding and cooperation will make this a good and positive experience, and will insure we keep our kids safe.



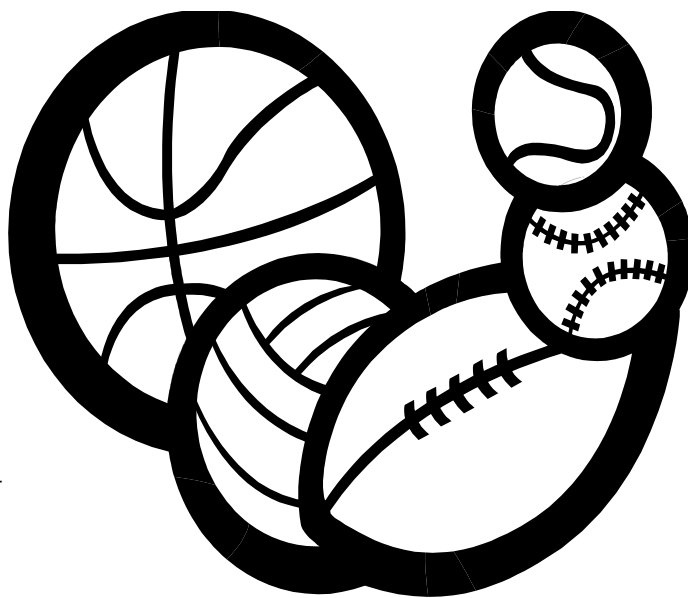
Rich Bacon–Middle School Principal, Athletic Director

During the last week of August, all students were administered the Measures of Academic Progress or MAP test. These are computerized adaptive tests that provide teachers information that can be used to improve teaching and learning. Results from these tests provide achievement and growth data that will allow our teachers to develop targeted instructional strategies to improve student learning. Students took two tests a day in the subject areas of Reading, Language Usage, Math, and Science. Our students seemed to take these tests seriously and should be commended for their efforts throughout the testing period. Over the next few weeks, the Middle School Teachers will be talking to their students individually about how they did on the assessments and what the results mean. Information from these assessments can be used to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses for each individual student.

The first quarter ends on Thursday, October 24th, and Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held after school on Thursday, October 30 from 4:00 – 8:00 and Friday, October 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There are still a few weeks left in the quarter for students to work on their grades. Hopefully, parents won't wait until conferences to find out how their child has done. I encourage all parents talk to their children about their study habits and academic progress, check out their sons/daughters grades on Power School before the end of the quarter, and encourage your child to finish the quarter strong. Middle school athletics is in full swing as we are in the heart of the fall sports season. We have 23 boys playing football, 18 girls playing volleyball and 3 boys and 2 girls running cross country during the fall season. These student-athletes are working hard to improve their fundamentals and come together as a team, and are committing a great deal of time and effort to participate. There are still a few opportunities to watch our teams play. Come out and support the Thunderbirds!

The Middle School Band marched at the Richardson County Parade in Humboldt and also performed with the high school band at the Homecoming football game. The band did an outstanding job during this performance. Their performance and behavior is something that the entire Johnson County Central community can continue to take great pride in. Congratulations and a big thank you to the band and Mrs. Fricke.

The Thunderbird Booster Club will be having a meeting in October. I encourage everyone to get involved in some capacity in this great organization. Our athletic teams have very nice uniforms and are very well equipped due to the financial support of our Booster Club. Most of the money used to support our athletic teams comes from the sale of concessions at our athletic events, so a good percentage of this money comes from the opposing team's fans. When you are asked to work in the concession stand at a game, remember you are not just working in the concession stand, you are supporting our student athletes. The Booster Club would love to have greater parent involvement at meetings and input on how to support our teams. Please plan to attend the meetings and become more involved in this organization. Go Thunderbirds!



Elementary News

J O H N S O N C O U N T Y C E N T R A L



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Oct. 3—Title I Pumpkin Painting, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 10—Picture re-takes.
- Oct. 10—Fire Safety Day with Mr. Gary Peters. Fire truck rides beginning at 1:00 p.m.
- Oct. 17—1:00 p.m. dismissal! Teacher work day.
- Oct. 18—PTO Halloween Costume Fun Run! 9:00 a.m. at Tecumseh Site schools.
- Oct. 24—Red Ribbon Assembly @ 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 24—End of 1st Quarter.
- Oct. 30—Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- Oct. 31—Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8 a.m.—12 p.m.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are a great time for teachers and parents to collaborate, share information and formulate a plan to help further each child's education. Not only do we want to share information about academics and the way children learn, but also about their behaviors and social skills.

It may come as no surprise to some of us, but some children act very differently at school compared to home. Parent-Teacher conferences is a great opportunity to problem solve with someone whose career is children, how they learn, how they grow and how they behave. To help your child be successful, there are 3 big factors that need to be happening at home.

1.) **Expectations**—Our ex-

pectations from our children should be that they work their hardest, do their best and treat others with respect and kindness. We should expect this of our children *all the time*.

2.) **Consistency**—We need to make sure that our students have a place and a time to do their homework daily. If these routines are in place, it really helps our children to plan and get work done. Setting aside time and planning is a great life-skill for students to learn. This is also consistency on our part as parents with our expectations and how we follow up on those expectations.

3.) **Respect**—This is respect for others, and more importantly, respect for their parents. As the parent, we should be the most respected person in our children's



lives. Too often, I see where children misbehave and treat others poorly because the parent(s) have lost control of, and respect from, their child. (Or maybe it was never there to begin with.) To get this back, it takes resolve, patience, persistence and firmness on the part of the parent(s). And, it won't be easy.

Parent-Teacher Conference appointments will be mailed to you. We do our best to give you times that accommodate your needs and allow you to make it to all of your conferences in a timely manner. If there is a conflict with one of your times, or you need to change times, please call the elementary office.

Costumes!

JCC Elementary students are welcome to dress up in costumes all day on October 30. A few rules:

- Students are expected to participate in all normal daily activities.
- Costumes must not interfere with their ability to do daily lessons or participate in P.E. and Music.
- Weapons of any kind, toy or otherwise, are not allowed.
- Face paint and hair coloring is discouraged as it tends to sweat off or smear.
- Should the costume, or any part of the costume, become a distraction, your child may be asked to remove part, or as much of the costume as possible.



Counselor News

by Shelley Moles

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

National Honor Society Hosts Red Cross Blood Drive on September 17:

National Honor Society at Johnson County Central hosted its first “Sweet 16” Red Cross Blood Drive for the school year on September 17, 2014. Thank you to all the students, staff, parents, and former students who took time from their busy schedules to give this very precious and personal gift. Each unit of blood donated may have helped save 3 lives!

Students, staff, parents, community members, and former students who signed in to donate blood were: Peggy Fuhrman, Jerald Bausch, Jack Moles, Wendi Buggi, Linda Goracke, John Goracke, Kendra Clifton, Shelley Moles, Logan Dorsey, Kelly Rathbone, Jon Rother, Lyndee Wenzl, Hanna Carnagey, Austin Gloe, Justin Kuhns, Adela Mejia, Michael Clark, Shawna Othmer, Layton Sullwold, Alexander King, Mariah Trew, Hunter Thompson, Jenna Murphy, Jesus Castor, Bryan Murphy, Andrew Weinzetl, Spencer Dorsey, Tyson Parrish, Grant Moles, Cyndy Reyes, Melissa Bausch, Melissa Aldana, Vicky Boone, Evan Pohlman, Eric Biehl, Tabitha Hidalgo, Sydnee Wenzl, Austin Valenzuela, Jayna Lambelet, Natalie Roddy, Nancy Ramirez, Kirk Faris, and Joseph Henne. A total of 41 units were collected!

Members of National Honor Society are: Lacey Badertscher, Kaycee Bartels, Melissa Bausch, Isaac Buss, Michael Clark, Erika Hunzeker, Kelsie Kaster, Michael Purcell, Daisy Ramirez, Cody Rieken, Ryan Teten, Lindsay Weber, Spencer Dorsey, Mitchell Faris, Ashleigh Kapke, Grant Moles, Bryan Murphy, Rudy Pooch, and Natalie Roddy. Thank you to all the members of National Honor Society for the work they did in preparing for the blood drive and on the day of the blood drive.

2014-2015 SAT Testing Dates and Registration:

SAT testing dates and registration deadlines for the 2014-2015 school year are listed below. Although many Nebraska and surrounding state colleges and universities use the ACT testing program, students may also consider taking the SAT Reasoning test for scholarship and college admissions purposes. Some selective colleges may require the SAT and also request one or more SAT Subject Tests. The SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests may not be taken on the same test date; up to three Subject Tests may be taken on the same test date.

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>
Saturday, November 8, 2014	October 9, 2014 (SAT & Subject tests)
Saturday, December 6, 2014	November 6, 2014 (SAT & Subject tests)
Saturday, January 24, 2015	December 29, 2014 (SAT & Subject tests)
Saturday, March 14, 2015	February 13, 2015 (SAT only)
Saturday, May 2, 2015	April 6, 2015 (SAT & Subject tests)
Saturday, June 6, 2015	May 8, 2015 (SAT & Subject tests)

Students may register for the SAT online at www.sat.collegeboard.org. Johnson County Central High School’s school code number is: **282 319**. Please use the school code number when registering for the SAT test. The fee for the SAT Reasoning test is \$52.50 (includes a writing section). The basic registration fee for the Subject Tests is \$26.00. Language Tests with Listening add \$26.00 to the basic fee; all other Subject Tests add \$16.00 each. Fee waivers are available, see Mrs. Moles.

The www.sat.collegeboard.org/practice site also offers FREE SAT preparation, FREE SAT Subject test preparation and FREE Official SAT Question of the Day.

If you have additional questions or need help registering for the SAT, please see Mrs. Moles.

Parents and students often want to know if they should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and if they will qualify for a Pell Grant or other types of *need-based* scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. The FAFSA cannot be completed before January 1 and needs information from the current year's income tax return (2013).

To help parents and students plan ahead, Education Quest has a program called "College Funding Estimator" that will estimate FAFSA results using information from the past year's (2013) income tax form. College Funding Estimator is available online at EducationQuest.org.

EducationQuest.org also has tools to help students and parents prepare for and complete the FAFSA including: FAFSA Checklist (a list of items needed to complete the FAFSA), FAFSA Tutorial (an explanation of each FAFSA question), and financial aid videos and podcasts.

PSAT Testing - Reminder:

The PSAT-NMSQT (Preliminary SAT –National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be given Wednesday morning, October 15, at Johnson County Central High School to registered junior and sophomore students. The testing fee is \$14.00 (fee waivers are available for students who meet financial qualifications.) If anyone is still interested and has not signed up, please talk Mrs. Moles as soon as possible. For juniors this is the first step in qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship. The PSAT has the same format and type of questions as the SAT college admissions test.

Financial Aid Night at Johnson County Central High School set for Tuesday, November 11, 2014:

A representative from EducationQuest will share information about financial aid on Tuesday, November 11, at 6:00 p.m. at the high school building of Johnson County Central Public Schools. Seniors, juniors and their parents are invited to attend to learn about the types of financial aid available to meet educational needs. Topics generally include: applying for grants such as Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), applying for scholarships, loan applications and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.

Parents and students may also visit the EducationQuest website at www.educationquest.com or the EducationQuest Foundation office at 1300 "O" Street in Lincoln for other FREE college planning resources.

2014-2015 College Prep Handbook

Senior and junior students received a 2014-2015 College Prep Handbook provided by the EducationQuest Foundation. This handbook is a valuable resource of up-to-date college planning services, college selection material, a chart of Nebraska college comparisons, college funding facts and information, exploring careers help, and a timeline to help juniors and seniors plan for college. Parents may want to sit down with their junior or senior, read about college planning in the handbook, discuss future plans, and map out a plan of action for reaching student college goals using information from the 2014-2015 College Prep Handbook as a guide. Mrs. Moles also has a few copies of the Spanish version, "2014-2015 Manual de Preparación para la Universidad" available in her office for students and parents.

Just a Reminder about College Fairs:

Lincoln Area College Fair – Sunday, October 19 at Southeast Community College-Lincoln, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Financial aid sessions by EducationQuest. FREE!

Omaha Area College Fair – Sunday, October 26 at University of Nebraska-Omaha, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Financial aid sessions by EducationQuest. FREE!

Elementary Guidance

By: Marsha Bacon

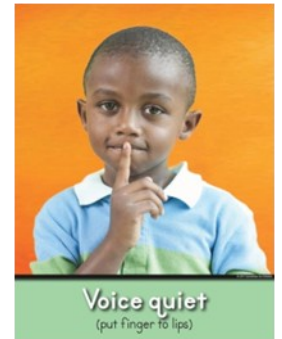
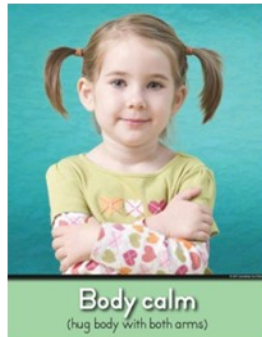


Listen

- Focus on the speaker
- Wait your turn to speak
- Remember what you hear
- Think of questions

The last few weeks, elementary students have been learning the rules for listening, how to focus in the classroom, and how to use self-talk. Students in Kindergarten and grade 1 learned the four rules for listening: eyes are watching, voices are quiet, body is calm and ears are listening. These four rules help students to ready themselves for their teacher's lesson and learn the information he or she is sharing. Students in grades 2 and 3 have also been working on listening skills. In addition to following directions, these students are expected to be able to repeat what the speaker shared and think of questions with the information that was presented. Self-talk is another tool students can use to be successful. Self-talk

means talking to yourself in a quiet voice or in your head. It can help students stay focused, on task and handle distractions. Self-talk was introduced to all students K-3. We encourage them to use it in class as well as other situations in which they need to remember information and stay focused. These concepts will help your child be successful in the classroom as well as other avenues in life. Please encourage them to be good listeners and to use self talk at home as well.



ELL NEWS...

The year is off to a great start. We have been busy working on the four main goals of the ELL classroom – improving Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Elementary students have enjoyed our Reading Street Readers, which help us practice the skills they are working on in their classrooms. Middle school and high school students are excited about the newest version of Rosetta Stone, which can be used on the computer and iPad. The high school students even use the app on their iPads so that they can practice English anywhere there is wi-fi. This new version of Rosetta even includes fun learning games.

As we approach the fall and winter holidays, it is always amazing to see our students who have moved from other countries experience these holidays and happenings for the first time. Halloween, Thanksgiving, the first snowfall and Christmas vacation always take on a new meaning when you get to see someone experience them for the first time in a new country. As we move through the year, we will continue to work on extending vocabulary and understanding of these holidays and happenings in American culture.

Academic Excellence at Johnson County Central Schools
13 Johnson County Central Middle School and Elementary Students
Receive Highest Achievable Scores on Nebraska State Accountability Tests.

Each spring, students participate in the Nebraska State Accountability testing, also known as NeSA in the subjects of reading, mathematics, science and writing. The results of the state-developed tests are provided to schools in the fall and are used for both state and federal accountability reports. State-wide, students participate in NeSA testing by taking their grade level test. In the 2013-2014 school year, Johnson County Central Schools had a total of 18 students earn a top score of 200 on one or more of the NeSA Tests in reading, mathematics or science. A 200 is a range score, and the highest score attainable on these tests. A 70 is a top score on the writing test. The following elementary and middle school students received top scores on a NeSA test:



Back Row: Grace Clark, Connor Bartels, Andrew Beethe, Simon Rother, Kole Kleespies.
Middle Row: Calvin Antholz, Saylor Rother, Eli Waring, Gwendalyn Goracke, Carrie Beethe.
Front Row: Isabella Wolter, Lane Othmer, Hayden Huskey.

5 Students Earn Perfect Score on 2013-2014 NeSA Tests

During the 2013-2014 administration of the NeSA tests, 5 students received a perfect score on one or more tests. A perfect score indicates that these students did not miss any items on the tests. Names of these students will be on a plaque in the grade level building in which the test was given, recognizing this outstanding accomplishment. These students had the privilege of dining with building administrators at Pizza Hut to honor their accomplishment. Students with perfect NeSA scores on the 2013-2014 administration include: **Andrew Beethe, Kole Kleespies, Sierra McClintock, Hannah Swanda and Lane Othmer.**



Perfect NeSA Scores

Andrew Beethe, Kole Kleespies, Lane Othmer, Sierra McClintock, Hannah Swanda



High School 3-D

By Joan Peters

Drug-Free, Dedicated and Determined to stay that way is our mission for the Johnson County Central's 3-D group. This year we have many of our members joining the Johnson County Coalition. To be a member of this group, one must be committed to leading a drug-free lifestyle and be actively involved in the group. The Johnson County Coalition is also known as CAN. The High School CAN group meets monthly with Sterling High School members and Region V Systems.

This year CAN has received an \$11,000 grant to fund healthy lifestyle projects throughout the county. Some of our projects this year will be having an assembly on the W.A.I.T. program, Red Ribbon education for the elementary, prom letters, Family Fun Walk and our annual banquet.

We are hoping the community becomes more involved with our coalition to help it reach its full potential. We are looking for parents, businesses, clergy and other health organizations to come to our meetings. The meetings are held in the H.S. library.

We are pleased to announce that we have two freshman from JCC that have been selected to be on Region V System's Youth Action Board. They are Hannah Swanda and Nick Goracke. This is a special position for youth. They learn leadership skills and meet with Region V Systems to plan and make decisions regarding youth drug-free activities in southeast NE.

We have a strong leadership team in 3-D and CAN this year so we're excited to get started with our projects. If you can help in any way, please contact Joan Peters at the high school.



Junior High Volleyball—Ashley Julifs

We have a hard working group of 18 junior high volleyball girls. We have been very busy learning new skills and positions during practice. Our first few games have been very exciting, yet challenging. The girls continue to compete each time they take the court. This year the girls have many goals set for themselves as well as the team. The main goal is to be able to better the ball on every touch, by way of serving, passing, setting and hitting. We hope to see you cheering us on at one of our games this season.

Tuesday, October 7, @ Freeman 4:30 pm

Saturday, October 11 Tournament @ Lewiston 9:00 am

Monday, October 13, vs. Southern @ JCC HS 4:00 pm

Monday, October 20 vs. Palmyra @ JCC MS 4:00 pm

High School Spanish by Mrs. Murphy

¡Hola! This is your “new” Spanish teacher Mrs. Murphy. While I do miss teaching English, I am happy to be teaching Spanish! I know that some students may dread the words foreign language. I view my role as helping to guide them through a new system that has different grammar rules, different pronunciations, and different cultures from what we may have grown up with and have gotten used to. Let’s be frank, different is uncomfortable and scary, and it may cause us to challenge our core beliefs. I want my students and parents to know that different is not all bad, and it doesn’t have to be so scary. With the shifting demographics, our communities and the JCC school system have the unique opportunity to learn Spanish, as more and more classes contain students that are fluent Spanish speakers. For now, English is the number one most spoken language in the world. Spanish is third, behind Mandarin. I know that some people will always be monolingual, but I will provide some information on why it is great to be fluent in multiple languages. In no particular order:

- **Money.** I do not know of any parent or student that does not want to experience financial success in life. As competition heats up for an already tough job market, a person’s hiring and earning potential increases as they make themselves more appealing to employers. Companies want to market to as many people as possible. An estimated 350 million people speak Spanish as their first language, which is more than the entire U.S. population! As more Spanish-speaking immigrants have entered our nation, the demand for bilingual Spanish-speakers has increased. On top of that, in certain geographic areas, such as the Southwest, many professions now want their employees to know Spanish, such as in the medical, advertisement, agrarian, and education. These are only a few career fields.
- **Better grammar.** Learning another language helps you to understand your own grammar structures better. Some of my Marzano vocabulary words require that my students be able to properly identify nouns, adjectives, verbs, pronouns, direct, and indirect objects. Solid grammar plays well into writing and speaking. While some jobs may not require these two skills, many do, and will require our youth to write résumés, cover letters, and answer complex interview questions.
- **Travel.** For those that wish to experience adventures beyond the borders of the U.S., they may want to take a look at traveling to the 21 countries where Spanish is the native language. Yes, one can get away without knowing Spanish while going to those countries, but it is a lot more fun and more immersive to speak back to the people of the host country in their native Spanish! My knowledge of Spanish helped me to barter with market vendors in Mexico and Costa Rica, and get better portions and food options in Spain, and I have met people that I am still friends with to this day from my travels.
- **Culture.** Our culture is all about the deadlines and is faster-paced. Spanish and Latin cultures are a little more relaxed. In teaching Spanish, I teach not just about the grammar and pronunciations when it comes to speaking, I also make sure that they learn about the rich cultures that those 21 Spanish-speaking countries present: such as music styles, different foods, art, the *ciesta*, holidays, and important family and social traditions. Learning about other cultures can give a person a deep appreciation for their own culture and it can help them to broaden their own perspectives and understand people better. The melting pot that is America has reaped the benefits from many Hispanic/Latino contributors in the areas of medicine (Dr. Carmen Peralta), arts (Diego Rivera), music (Carlos Santana), sports (Roberto Clemente), and technology (Ariel Coro). While I listed one example for each category, the list could easily expand with pages upon pages of names. To raise awareness of these key figures in celebration of Hispanic Awareness month from September 15th to October 15th, I have had my students do poster reports, which expanded my own knowledge as I learned about people like Rafael Nadal, Luis Coronel, and William Levy.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Johnson County Central School is engaged in an ongoing, continuous improvement process, of which all stakeholders are an integral part. Our school district is using the AdvancED Parent Survey as a means to elicit your opinions to help target areas for the school system to improve and areas to continue to be effective. The five sections on the survey represent the five AdvancED *Standards for Quality School Systems* and provide a means for learning about parent expectations of a high-quality school system.

During our Parent/Teacher conferences on October 30th and 31st, we will be asking you to take a few minutes to complete the Parent Survey. It is a paper and pencil survey with 38 questions and it is completely confidential. Please be assured that your responses will be anonymous and your honest opinions are appreciated. If you cannot attend conferences, please let the office know, and a paper copy can be sent home with your child/children to complete and return.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact me at robyn.faris@jccentral.org.

Your cooperation and support in completing the Parent Survey will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Faris

8 Johnson County Central Students Qualify to Participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP)

Eight 7th grade JCC students are invited to participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program, also known as Duke TIP. In order to be invited, students must achieve a qualifying score at or about the 95th percentile on either the MAPS or NeSA assessments or both, in the areas of Reading, Math and/or Science. These students have the opportunity to take either the ACT or SAT tests, a test designed for high school students, in 7th grade, to provide them with greater insight of their academic abilities. Participation in Duke TIP is an outstanding academic honor for these students. Students invited to participate in Duke TIP this school year include:



**Back Row: Gregory McGinnis, Gabriel DeFr e, Eli Waring, Jacob Wolter, Samuel Buss.
Front Row: Carrie Beethe, Gwendalyn Goracke, Abbigail Balfour.**

AdvancED School Accreditation

In 2011, a team of highly-qualified peer evaluators visited our Johnson County Central School District to conduct an external examination of our district's adherence and commitment to the ongoing school improvement process and to the AdvancED standards. These standards require demonstrated growth in student learning and achievement; a commitment to developing learning, thinking, and life skills for all students; and formal structures whereby each student is well known. The five AdvancED standards are:

Standard 1. Purpose and Direction

The school maintains and communicates a purpose and direction that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

Standard 2. Governance and Leadership

The school operates under governance and leadership that promotes and supports student performance and school effectiveness.

Standard 3. Teaching and Assessing for Learning

The school's curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning.

Standard 4. Resources and Support Systems

The school has resources and provides services that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

Standard 5. Using Results for Continuous Improvement

The school implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and school effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

Each of these standards is divided into several indicators to be individually examined, evaluated, and rated. The school district completes a self-assessment of each of these standards as a resource to assess practices. External team members use these standards to conduct a review of artifacts and evidence used to rate each standard, to conduct interviews with stakeholders, and to conduct observations of instruction, learning, and school operations.

At the end of this external team visit in 2011, the committee's findings were reported to our district. Johnson County Central School was given many accolades for our transition during the merger of the two school districts, and quality and effective practices in place. We were given three quality indicators to address, to implement strategies to strengthen, and to report progress. These quality indicators were:

1. Establish and implement an explicit protocol for district school improvement.
2. Develop a short-term and long-term professional development plan to target continuous school improvement, which is aligned to the district mission, and assures programs are implemented with fidelity and consistency.
3. Initiate cross-curricular, district-wide systems approach to data-driven decision-making as a part of the district continuous improvement protocol.

Accreditation Progress Reports were submitted in 2013 and 2014 detailing JCC's actions and commitment to the school improvement process and to the completion of these required actions. A few of the actions taken by our district are that we moved all kindergarten through third graders into one building in Tecumseh, and the fourth and fifth graders to our Cook site. We adopted the Reading Street language arts program for the elementary and Prentice Hall for middle school. We have reading teachers to work with our students at all levels. Our district implemented the Marzano Vocabulary Instruction Program to teach content-rich vocabulary across the curriculum and across all grade levels. We use the Measures of Academic Progress or MAP assessments as well as the NeSA scores to gauge how our students are learning. Faculty members regularly attend the Nebraska State Reading Convention, Data Convention, and the NETA conference that focuses on technology in the classroom. As a result of all these efforts, in 2014 AdvancED determined that all actions were completed with the following statements.

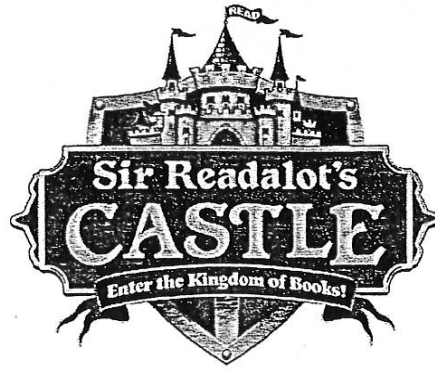
For Required Action 1: "The district has initiated serious, important procedures to address this required action to make these procedures embedded, everyday activities."

For Required Action 2: "The reader is totally impressed with the district's response to this required action and commends the school on its phenomenal success in raising student reading scores. Clearly these practices are embedded in the district's procedures and will continue to be stressed."

For Required Action 3: "Clearly the district has the processes in place for this required action to be fully implemented with the consequence that teacher effectiveness will improve and student achievement will increase. The reviewer commends the district on its comprehensive response to this required action."

In 2014, Johnson County Central School was Accredited through AdvancED. We are actively engaged in this continuous school improvement process, and are preparing for our next external review in the spring of 2016. We will be conducting parent surveys, staff surveys, and student surveys to gather information from our stakeholders to be used in future planning and decision-making. In the next few months, more articles will be published in the newsletter and on our website at: www.jccentral.org to keep everyone informed of our school improvement process.





The Book Fair theme this year is **Sir Readalot's Castle : Enter the Kingdom of Books!**

We cordially invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission : *encouraging kids (and everyone) to open a world of possible.*

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills children learn, it is one you can influence the most. Good reading skills are an asset in all the areas of education. Like most skills, the more a person reads, the better they'll get.

The book fair will coincide with the Parent/Teacher conferences held on Oct. 30 and 31. The book fair offers many reasonably priced books with chances to win free books from the fair. Families can also help their student's classroom library by donating a book purchased at the book fair.

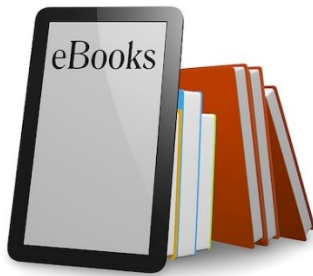
Book Fair Dates: Oct. 30 & 31 during Parent/Teacher conferences

**Where: Johnson County Central Elementary Media Center at Tecumseh and
Johnson County Central Middle School Media Center at Cook**

Please make plans to visit our Book Fair. Hope to see you there!



More Ways to Read Books!
Joan Peters



We have expanded our wonderful high school library and now have e-books available through the ESU #2 E-book Consortium. High School students and teachers will be able to check out e-books on their iPads. After one to two weeks, depending on the book, the book will disappear off the device and then more can be checked out. This is a great opportunity we are able to provide for our advanced, at-risk, and avid young readers.

Most of the e-books are fiction, but there are some nonfiction as well. We will continue to provide some nonfiction printed books in our library for research sources. High School students and teachers will begin registration and training soon. We all know how important it is to read for information but it is equally important to read for pleasure. All high school students are given the opportunity to read during the school day. This will give the students the opportunity to download books for free instead having to purchase them through the iBook app.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT/TAILGATE PARTY/PUMPKIN DECORATING

TITLE 1 SPONSORED
OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS K-5

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 3RD, 2014
JCC TECUMSEH SITE PLAYGROUND

****PARENT AND CHILD MUST ATTEND AN INFORMATIONAL TITLE 1 MEETING
IN THE H.S. CAFETERIA AT 5:15 P.M.****

EACH PARENT AND CHILD WILL RECEIVE A STAMP ON THEIR HAND ALLOWING THEM TO ATTEND THE
FUN AT 5:30 P.M. ON THE JCC TECUMSEH SITE PLAYGROUND

**FREE PUMPKIN TO PAINT - FREE HOTDOG - FREE POP -
FREE ADMISSION TO THE FOOTBALL GAME!**

In case of inclement weather; we'll stay in the H.S..cafeteria
for supper and pumpkin decorating.

COME JOIN THE FUN AND LEARN ABOUT THE TITLE 1 PROGRAM AT JCC !

SPONSORED BY JCC TITLE 1

Kindergarten News-Mrs. Borrenpohl

The kindergarten class is off to a wonderful start! We have 18 students, 9 boys and 9 girls. We have adjusted very well to our class schedule and are very enthusiastic about school!

Our reading series, *Reading Street*, has many new vocabulary words that we are learning. We have our "amazing words" and our "academic words". We learn the meanings of our amazing words through our stories and songs for the week. The academic words are used throughout the week to help us learn the parts of speech, parts of stories, and much more! We have 4 different types of decodable readers that we read throughout the week. We are learning the important skills needed to become super readers!

In one of our read-aloud stories, "*Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten*," The teacher took her class to the post office, fire station, library and park. All of the kindergarten classes were able to go on a walking field trip to the post office, fire station, library, and park. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time!



"Cowboy Up" Day

First Grade News-Mrs. Benson

There are 22 students in Mrs. Benson's classroom this year. There are 12 boys and 10 girls.

Our schedule is:

8:15 seatwork and restroom / drinks

8:30 small learning groups

9:00 small reading groups

9:30 morning meeting

9:55 P.E. with Mr. Hutt

10:20 Whole Reading group

11:10 lunch/recess

12:00 restroom / drinks

12:10 afternoon meeting

12:20 Math instruction

1:10 M - W- F Music T - Th Library

1:30 recess

1:50 Writers Workshop

2:30 Storytime

2:40 milk break/sharing time

2:50 Social Science time

3:10 D.E.A.R. and A.R. reading time

3:20 Closing meeting and pack up

3:30 Head home

We started out our 1st day with a purple adventure and enjoyed a purple cow to eat. (yummy!!!!)

We are reviewing all of our Kindergarten sounds and starting to learn our 70 new phonograms. These phonograms will help us read our amazing words and stories.

We have been working on what characters are, where the setting takes place, and the plot. What happened at the beginning, middle, and the ending of a story.

In writers workshop, we are working on how to write a sentence. We have learned that it starts with a capital and ends with a punctuation mark.

In math, we have worked with making graphs, counting pennies, knowing our shapes, counting to 100, some more stories, and some take away stories.

In Social Science, we have been talking about our flag. We made a flag with 13 stripes, red and white. It also had 50 stars on a field of blue. They are hanging in our hallway.

We will continue to learn each day, but need to remember the weather is starting to change. We should bring running shoes and jackets to school everyday.

DON'T JUST SIT ON THE SIDELINES

On Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 p.m. the T-Bird booster club will meet in the high school cafeteria.

Please come and be a part of the future of JCC Athletics.

We need parent involvement and input.



JCC PTO HALLOWEEN COSTUME FUN RUN

1 mile and 5K race

Monetary Prizes for 1st and 2nd place in both races!

Medals for all Participants

Wearing your Halloween Costume is optional, but encouraged!!!

When: Saturday, October 18th at 9am

(Registration begins at 8am)

Where: Starting and Ending at JCC High School, Tecumseh, NE

Entry Fee: \$20/person or \$15/JCC student (includes t-shirt) if received by
October 3rd.

\$25/person after **October 3rd.** (does not include t-shirt)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Please contact Mandy Harrifeld @
harrifeld@hotmail.com if interested in helping!

JCC PTO Fun Run Registration Form
(one form per family)

Participant Name: _____ JCC Student Y/N

Contact Information so we can confirm your registration:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Race: 1 mile or 5 K (Please circle)

T-shirt size: Youth _____ or Adult _____

Other Participant: _____ JCC Student Y/N

Race: 1 mile or 5 K (Please circle)

T-shirt size: Youth _____ or Adult _____

Other Participant: _____ JCC Student Y/N

Race: 1 mile or 5 K (Please circle)

T-shirt size: Youth _____ or Adult _____

Other Participant: _____ JCC Student Y/N

Race: 1 mile or 5 K (Please circle)

T-shirt size: Youth _____ or Adult _____

Make Checks Payable to JCC Schools.

Please send form and entry fee to: JCC Schools

358 N. 6th St

Tecumseh, NE 68450

Questions to Mandy Harrifeld at harrifeld@hotmail.com



October 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 FFA Land Judging</p> <p>"Explore It" Career Fair @ SCC Beatrice</p>	<p>2 JV & V SB @ Blue Springs 5:00 & 6:30 C, JV & V VB @ Pawnee City 5, 6, & 7:30</p>	<p>3 V XC @ Syracuse Country Club 3:45 Lil' Pals Cheer Camp @ Elem. Gym 4:00 Pumpkin Dec/Tail Gate @ JCC Elem. Tec. 5:00 V FB @ JCC 7:00</p>	<p>4 V VB Tournament @ JCC Cook & Tecumseh 9:00 am</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6 V G Districts @ Oakland Country Club JH FB @ Palmyra 4:30 JV FB @ Lin. Christian 6:00 C, JV, V VB @ Malcolm 5, 6, 7:30</p>	<p>7 V XC ECNC @ Tec Country Club 4:30 JH VB @ Freeman 4:30 V SB @ JCC 5:30 T-Bird Booster Club @ 6:30 HS Cafeteria</p>	<p>8 UNL Companion Animal & Wildlife Career Day 9:00</p>	<p>9 V SB Districts @ Syracuse Softball Complex V XC @ Falls City 4:30 C, JV, V VB @ Auburn 5:30, 6:30, 7:30</p>	<p>10 PICTURE RETAKES V SB Districts @ Syracuse SB Complex Fire Safety Day C Team VB @ Auburn 5:30 V FB @ Falls City 7:00</p>	<p>11 Band @ Links Marching Competition C Team VB @ JCC MS 9am JH VB @ Lewiston 9:00 JH XC Championship @ LaVista South HS</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13 Girls State Golf ECNC V VB 1st Grade Fire Station Visit JH VB @ JCC HS 4:00 JH FB @ JCC 4:30 JV FB @ Palmyra 4:30</p>	<p>14 Girls State Golf ECNC V VB Johnson County Coalition Mtg. @ Sterling 8:30 am UNCM Health Career Day 8:30 am</p>	<p>15 State SB @ Hastings</p>	<p>16 XC Districts State SB @ Hastings V VB ECNC</p>	<p>17 SCHOOL OUT AT 1:00 Teacher workday State SB @ Hastings V FB @ Conestoga 7:00</p>	<p>18 PTO Halloween Fun Run @ JCC HS 9:00 am HS Band @ LPS Marching Competition</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 JH VB @ JCC MS 4:00 JV FB @ Freeman 6:30 C, JV, VB @ JCC HS 6:00, 7:15,</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 C, JV, V VB @ Conestoga 5, 6, 7:30</p>	<p>24 End of 1st Quarter State XC @ Kearney V FB vs. Louisville @ JCC 7:00</p>	<p>25</p>
	<p>27 Scholastic Book Fair C, JV VB @ JCC HS 6:00 & 7:15</p>	<p>28 Scholastic Book Fair National FFA Conv. JV & V VB @ Yutan 5:00</p>	<p>29 Scholastic Book Fair National FFA Conv.</p>	<p>30 P/T conferences 4 pm-8 pm Scholastic Book Fair National FFA Conv.</p>	<p>31 NO SCHOOL P/T conferences 8am-12pm Scholastic Book Fair Nat. FFA</p>	

October 2014

“THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 BBQ Chicken/ WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	2 Hot Dog WG Buns Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 Pep. Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Bread Stick Milk	4
5	6 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Rice Crispy Bar Milk	7 Ch Burger /WG Bun Tater Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Taco Salad Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	9 Shredded Pork WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	10 max Cheese Stix / Marinara Sauce Fruits & Veggie Bar Milk	11
12	13 Goulash Green Beans Fruit and Veggie Bar WG Bread stick Milk	14 Turkey & Cheese WG Bun Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	15 Chicken Soft Shell Taco Corn Salsa Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Chicken Patty WG Bun SP Fries Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	17 Burrito Refried Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18
19	20 Chicken Tetrizzini Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21 BBQ Sh. Pork/ WG bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Brownie Milk	22 Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	23 Br. Beef Patty Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	24 Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Fruit & Veggie Bar B&B Milk	25
26	27 Creamed Chicken/ WG Biscuit Peas Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	28 Sloppy Joe /WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29 Fajita Wrap Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	30 Hot Ham & Cheese / WG Bun Broccoli Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	31 No School!! Happy Halloween:)	

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

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

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3
Cook, NE 68329
ECRWS
ECRWS

POSTAL PATRON

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.

The Adult Basic Education program in Tecumseh is needing adult volunteers to tutor students in the areas of GED preparation and English as a Second Language.

**For more information about
becoming a volunteer Tutor, call**

Mary Mach

[402-228-8236](tel:402-228-8236)