



# Northwood Kensett Community School District

## VIKING DISPATCH

February/March 2009

Volume 15 Issue 4

### From the Office of Thomas K. Nugent Superintendent of Schools

#### A WINDFALL OF FUNDS

By now, I am positive that everyone has learned that the Worth County Development Authority (WCDA) has made available to the District a total of \$449,714. To assist in the expenditure of these funds, we will once again have our Advisory Committee study and implement appropriate policies and recommendations. Members of this Committee include Monte DeArmoun, Diane Hanson, Steve Hartman, John Anderson, Brian Costello, Keith Fritz, and Tom Nugent.

It is important that our patrons be conversant that there are specific categories and regulations for the expenditure of moneys, and they are:

- I. Physical Plant Operations, Maintenance, Expansion, Green Energy. Total of \$151,647. Additionally, only 70% of the money may be expended on one specific project.
- II. Staff Development, Equipment, Technology, Textbooks, Library Books, Support Staff, Instructional Support. Total of \$125,501.
- III. Organizational Requests, Fees, Fundraising. Total of \$99,355.
- IV. Teacher Budgets. Total of \$73,209. Each teacher in the district will have approximately \$1,700 to expend for their classroom.

The Advisory Committee will review and finalize the expenditure of funds and present their proposal to the Board of Education and to the WCDA Board for review and approval. The WCDA plans to distribute moneys to the district on July 1, 2009.

In addition to the above, the WCDA will be granting scholarships to every graduating senior who has resided in Worth County during their junior and senior years. The WCDA will announce individual scholarship amounts at a later date.

The District has many projects that need to be addressed. We made great strides the past two summers in facility improvements and I am positive we can do the same this summer and throughout the immediate future. With the impact of WCDA funds, plus the district's Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PPEL), and the School Infrastructure Local Option Sales Tax (SILO), I am confident we can address the facility issues in the district to promote an educational environment conducive for student achievement.

The Board of Education, Administration, and Staff are greatly appreciative of the WCDA for their commitment and dedication. If you have a chance to visit with Kim Miller, Deb Hanson, Ken Abrams, Gary Christiansen, Roger Gentz, Dennis May, Steve Miller, Dan Reeder, Joyce Russel, and Amy Yezek, please take the time to thank them for their efforts.

#### Individual Highlights:

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## **SPRING BREAK MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> (No School)**

### **SPRING PICTURES**

Spring pictures this year will be on different dates for Elementary and Jr./Sr. High School. Skarpness Photography will be doing the spring pictures this year.

Jr./Sr. High School: Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Elementary: Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **SPRING CONFERENCES SET FOR MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup> & March 5<sup>th</sup>**

We will be holding spring conferences this year March 3<sup>rd</sup> & March 5<sup>th</sup>. These conferences will be held for grades K-6 at the elementary from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. both days. These conferences are individual conferences with 15 minute increments scheduled for each student in grades K-6. Student attendance is optional. Grades 7-12 will hold conferences from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. both days. There will be no school on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **ITBS/ITED TESTING TO BEGIN MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>**

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development will start on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and continue throughout the whole week. This testing will be given to students in grade 3 through 6. The ITBS/ITED for grades 7-12 will start March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please make sure that students get plenty of rest, drink lots of water and have a healthy breakfast every morning. Not that this is any different from any other day, but in order for students to be mentally acute and be at their best, this is especially necessary.

### **Nurses Corner**

Erin Rice, RN

I would like to remind parents about dental screenings that are required for kindergarteners, freshman, and students that have transferred from out of state. For kindergartners, a screening done between the ages of 3-6 is acceptable. For freshman and out of state transfer students a screening done one year prior to August 7, 2008 is acceptable. I am asking to have all dental screenings turned in by March 16, 2009. If financial assistance or assistance finding a dentist is needed please contact me at 324-1127 or email [erice@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us](mailto:erice@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us).

## **Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO CELEBRATE DR. SEUSS'S 105<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**

On March 2, 2009, Northwood-Kensett Elementary school will celebrate the 105th anniversary of Dr. Seuss's birth. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year the Title 1 reading classes have joined with the N.E.A. in promoting reading by sponsoring READ ACROSS AMERICA events.

N-K children are joining millions of readers across the country in urging parents, grandparents, and community members to join them in this celebration of reading. Together, let's commit ourselves to the goal of having every person in Northwood and Kensett in the company of a good book on March 2nd. The elementary students will culminate the week with a special event. The **Stebens Children's Theater will present a play "Why do Mosquito's Buzz?" to K-6 students.**

### **WORTH COUNTY PARENTING FAIR MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Worth County Parenting Fair will take place on Thursday, March 26th at the Northwood-Kensett Elementary School Gym at 7 P.M. in Northwood. The evening will begin with a free meal in the Elementary cafeteria with serving to begin at 6:00 P.M. This years Parenting Fair will focus on Family Resources In Tough Economic Times.

For more information about the Worth County Parenting Fair, please call Worth County Extension Education Director, Dennis Johnson at 641-324-1531 in Northwood or E-Mail him at [djohn@iastate.edu](mailto:djohn@iastate.edu)

## **Counselor's Corner** Mr. Russell Knudson

[rknudson@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us](mailto:rknudson@nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us)

Local & WCDA Scholarships will be open from March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>. That way Mr. Knudson has time to double check to make sure all students have applied. These scholarships have to be applied for in order to receive them. You may find more information about these scholarships and their requirements under the Counselor's webpage at <http://www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us>. To get to the scholarship information and applications, click on Teacher Links>Guidance Counselor>Mr. Knudson> Scholarships. You may also download forms at this location for application. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the above email address, or by telephone (641) 324-1127 or (641) 324-2142. Further information will be provided to students during senior work sessions taking place the last week of March.

The counselor's office is in the process of reevaluating the Counseling Department. This is happening through an organized process provided by AEA 267. If you have suggestions how this office could be adjusted to better meet the needs of parents and students, please contact an administrator or the counselor at the school.

### **STUDENT OF THE MONTH (ELEMENTARY)**

Student of the Month Award is given to our third through sixth graders. The purpose of this award is to promote good citizenship. The criteria for receiving this award is handing in all assignments on time and being considerate of other classmates.

**January 2009 Students' of the Month** include Lindy Harris (Gr 3), in Mrs. Okerlund's class, Autum Miller (Gr 3), in Mrs. Hill's class; Mary Irons (Gr 4) in Mrs. Vansteenburgh's class and Jade Stubbe (Gr 4) in Mr. Park's class, Kailey Eskildsen (Gr 5) in Mr. Severson's class and Trace Carman (Gr 5) in Ms. Hagen's class, Timen Moretz (Gr 6) in Mrs. Cordle's class and Kaitlyn Varner (Gr 6) in Mr. Lease's class.

**December 2008 Students' of the Month** include Colton Moretz (Gr 3), in Mrs. Okerlund's class, Dylan Cortes (Gr 3), in Mrs. Hill's class; Justin Low (Gr 4) in Mrs. Vansteenburgh's class and Courtney Wright (Gr 4) in Mr. Park's class, Joshua Einertson (Gr 5) in Mr. Severson's class and Sully Reyerson (Gr 5) in Ms. Hagen's class, Rebecka Miller (Gr 6) in Mrs. Cordle's class and Tonya Johnson (Gr 6) in Mr. Lease's class.

**November 2008 Students' of the Month** include Jamie Steinman (Gr 3), in Mrs. Okerlund's class, Mackenzi Duvall (Gr 3), in Mrs. Hill's class; Danton Lloyd (Gr 4) in Mrs. Vansteenburgh's class and Erika Heideman (Gr 4) in Mr. Park's class, Mason Olson (Gr 5) in Mr. Severson's class and Hattie Davidson (Gr 5) in Ms. Hagen's class; Marty Hopperstad (Gr 6) in Mrs. Cordle's class and Coleby Bratrud (Gr 6) in Mr. Lease's class.

**October 2008 Students' of the Month** include Paige DeArmoun (Gr 3), in Mrs. Okerlund's class, Madison Dorsey (Gr 3), in Mrs. Hill's class; Matthew Parcher (Gr 4) in Mrs. Vansteenburgh's class and Hayden Halbach (Gr 4) in Mr. Park's class, Katie Schiltz (Gr 5) in Mr. Severson's class and Aliyah Creger (Gr 5) in Ms. Hagen's class, Shelby Hagen (Gr 6) in Mrs. Cordle's class and Alayna Oleson (Gr 6) in Mr. Lease's class.

**September 2008 Students' of the Month** include Abbey Buchanan (Gr 3), in Mrs. Okerlund's class, Hana Riedinger (Gr 3), in Mrs. Hill's class; Madison Eilertson (Gr 4) in Mrs. Vansteenburgh's class and Brooklyn Abrams (Gr 4) in Mr. Park's class, Mackenzie Dorsey (Gr 5) in Mr. Severson's class and Jenna Schmidt (Gr 5) in Ms. Hagen's class, Samantha Butler (Gr 6) in Mrs. Cordle's class and Mary Stoneking (Gr 6) in Mr. Lease's class.

### **IMMUNIZATION AND LEAD TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN**

There are new immunization requirements for kindergarten. The new requirements are 5 Dtap, 4 polio shots, and 2 varicella vaccines. The last dose of Dtap and polio vaccine should be given at or after 4 years of age. The varicella vaccines need to be given after 12 months of age. Shots should be up to date before the start of school next year. Requirements for MMR and Hepatitis B remain unchanged. Immunizations can be given at your doctors office or Worth County Public Health on the the third Thursday of every month. If immunizing your child through Public Health please make an appt with Kelli @ 324-1741.

Please bring current immunization card to roundup. If your child attends Children's Garden you will not need to bring shot record to kindergarten roundup. If shots are needed after roundup you will need to bring in your child's up to date immunization card before the start of 09-10 school year.

Students will also need a lead screening before entering kindergarten. Lead screenings can be done through your doctor office or Worth County public health. If your child has already been tested for lead they will not need another test. Only one test is required.

**Parents of Incoming Kindergarten Students:** PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS FORM TO THE ELEMENTARY OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

We would like to invite you to kindergarten roundup to be held in connection to the Kindergarten connection class on **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** in the kindergarten classroom. Parents will be meeting with the principal, school nurse, kindergarten teachers, and the elementary counselor. The round-up will be conducted in two sessions. The first session will run from 5:30-6:30 for those students whose last name begins with the letters A through J. The second session will run from 7:00-8:00 for those students whose last name starts with the letters K through Z.

Our incoming kindergarteners are invited to spend part of the day with us on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30-1:00. The classroom teachers and preschool teachers will team up to acquaint them with the classrooms and kindergarten routine. Plan on your children eating lunch with us. The cost of the noon meal is \$1.70, which can be brought to either round-up session or given to the preschool teachers. *I will hold an abbreviated roundup session at 8:30 in the school library for parents that are unable to attend the March 17<sup>th</sup> roundup.*

Reminder, we do not screen children for kindergarten readiness except at parental request. If you would like your child screened, we will have a sign-up sheet available at roundup.

We are looking forward to seeing you on March 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend either of the roundup sessions, please contact the elementary office.

Brian Costello  
Elementary Principal

Items to bring to roundup:

1. Record of your child's birth date. This could include a birth certificate, adoption record, statement of physician or another reliable record. State law requires a child to be 5 years of age on or before September 15 of the year they are entering kindergarten.
2. Immunization Records. Be reminded that the DPT and Oral Boosters are administered after age four and the MMR is administered after the age of 15 months. (see article on previous page for new requirements)
3. Social Security Number

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**SIGN UP FOR KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP**

**CHILD'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PRESCHOOL ATTENDED** \_\_\_\_\_

**BIRTHDATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Male/Female** **SSN** \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one)

**FATHERS NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **MOTHERS NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT LIVES WITH:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Both Parents** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mother** \_\_\_\_\_ **Father** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please specify)

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**DAYTIME CONTACT PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home**

**PLEASE CHECK ITEMS THAT APPLY BELOW:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will be attending evening session of kindergarten round up on March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm (A-J)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will be attending evening session of kindergarten round up on March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm (K-Z)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **My child will participate in the half day session of Kindergarten on May 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30-1:00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will be attending the abbreviated session of Kindergarten Round up on May 1<sup>st</sup> @ 8:30 am**

## **HISTORY DAY IN IOWA**

NK students in grades 6-12 will be competing at the Regional History Day Competition. The contest will be March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ AEA in Clear Lake.

## **2009 N-K MATHCOUNTS TEAM**

Brooke Burnes, Mikki Butler, Savannah Lira, Sonya Medlang.

The North Iowa Competition will be held at NIACC on 2/7/09.

MATHCOUNTS® is a national math enrichment competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement.

MATHCOUNTS challenges and motivates students to develop strong math skills, develops their self-confidence and rewards them for their achievements.

## **RUBE GOLDBERG TO TAKE PLACE 2/13/09 @ UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MANKATO.**

Students involved include Christian Burnes, Vitro deJesus, Jacob McGrane, Michelle Medlang, Trent Midtgaard, Kathy Porter, Mitchell Rainey, Nick Schiltz, Michael Steiff.

## **ENVIROTHON TO TAKE PLACE IN DMACC IN WEST DES MOINES ON 3/19/09**

Students involved include: Brianne Kilborn, Laura Medlang, Ryan Mueller-Captain, Justin Peterson, Kathy Porter, Rachel Taylor-Captain, and Laura Tempus.

## **SPELLING BEE TOOK PLACE ON 1/30/09**

Students involved include: Shannon Hill-Captain, Brooke Burnes, Brent Hagen, William Oleson

## **FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING SKIT TROPHIES**

**Junior Skits:** Hayden Halbach, Becka Miller-Captain, Matt Parcher, Brett Bachtle

**Senior Skits:** Mindy Holstad, Mykal Woods, Kryssiah Hapgood-Captain, Lizze Braun

## **2009 SCIENCE BOWL 1/31/09**

### **IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

N-K Science Bowl Team for 2009:

Sam Arnold-Captain, Kathy Porter, Laura Tempus, & Christian Burnes

The National Science Bowl® is an educational event and academic competition among teams of high school students from across the state of Iowa. They compete in a verbal forum to solve technical problems and answer questions in all branches of science and math.

The regional event encourages student involvement in math and science activities, improves awareness of career options in science and technology, and provides an avenue of enrichment and reward for academic science achievement.

## **DISTRICT LARGE GROUP SPEECH CONTEST**

### **RESULTS**

Thirteen students in grades 9-12 participated in district large group speech contest on January 24<sup>th</sup> at Garner-Hayfield High School.

There were three entries in Ensemble Acting and three entries in Group Improvisation.

The results are as follows:

Ensemble Acting:

Graceland - Division I or Excellent rating

Performers were Brooke Rolling and Kryssiah Hapgood

Trifles - Division II or Good rating

Performers were Laura Tempus and Megan Thofson

What a Team - Division I or Excellent rating

Performers were Evan Fritz and Alex Breitsprecher

Group 1 Improvisation - Division II or Good rating

Performers were Jordan Garcia, Kelsey Tenold, and Alex Breitsprecher

Group 2 Improvisation - Division I or Excellent rating

Performers were Marlee Butler, Laura Tempus, Megan Thofson, and Lauren Severson

Group 3 Improvisation - Division II or Good rating

Performers were Skylar Faust and Mindy Holstad

Students who earned Division I ratings qualified for State Speech Contest held in Decorah on Feb. 7.

## **NEWS FROM THE MATH CLUB**

2008-09 Officers:

Cari Stoneking, President, Sam Arnold, Vice President, Kathy Porter, Treasurer, Christian Burnes, Secretary

The officers attended a November STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) Symposium held in Cedar Falls and gave an educational presentation to the school board in January.

Cari has created a Math Club website:

<http://bwpd.niaccist.niacc.edu/~stonekingc/NKHS%20Math%20Club.html>

It can also be accessed through the school's website.

The NKHS Math Club is planning to enter the Rube Goldberg competition Friday, February 13, at Mankato, MN. The task is to create a 3-layered Valentine using 20 or more steps in a 3' by 7' by 4' space.

Mid-February our second chess tournament will be held. Our first, hopefully annual, "Pi Day" will be held in March.

Submitted by Lori Willert, Math Club Advisor

**VIKING DISPATCH**  
**NORTHWOOD-KENSETT CSD**  
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Bulk Rate  
 ECRWSS  
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**RESIDENT**

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 (641) 324-2092  
 (641) 324-2174 HS

**School Board Members**

Keith Braun      Larry Hovey  
 Cindy Pangburn      Don Pangburn  
 John Anderson

**Administration**

Thomas K. Nugent, Superintendent  
 Brian Costello, Elementary Principal  
 Keith Fritz, Secondary Principal

Feb. 11	Teacher In-service (12:50/1:00 dismissal)
March 2	Kindergarten Round up 6:00pm Elementary Building
March 2,	PTO Meeting at 7:30 pm Elementary Media Center
Mar. 3 & 5	P/T Conf. K-6 4-8; 7-12 5-9
Mar. 6	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter (44 days)
Mar. 6	No School
Mar. 9-13	Spring Break-No School
Mar. 16	Begin 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Mar 20 & 21	POPS concert 7 pm Elem gym
Mar 26	Parenting Fair, NK Elem. gym
Apr. 1	Teacher In-service (12:50/1:00 dismissal)
Apr 3	7-12 Quiz Bowl 6:00 pm HS Student Center
Apr 10	Good Friday (No School)
Apr 12	Easter
Apr 20	Project Fair, 7:00 pm Elementary Gym
May 6	Teacher In-service (12:50/1:00 dismissal)
May 9	Mind Movers Meet 9:00 am Elementary Cafeteria
May 29	End of 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter Early Dismissal 11:50/12:00 No lunch served.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT  
 NOTIFICATION**

Districts are now required to notify patrons of open enrollment application deadlines and the possibility of transportation assistance. For the 2009-2010 school year, the deadline for filing an open enrollment application for students in grades 1-12 is **March 1, 2009**. The deadline for students entering kindergarten is **September 1, 2009**.

Parents/guardians of open enrollment students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend.

It is the policy of the Northwood-Kensett Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities, or in its hiring and employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504, or Iowa Code, Section 280.3.