



# Northwood-Kensett Community School District

## VIKING DISPATCH

February, 2014

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

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### FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Wow, I always knew that winter in Iowa was cold and there could be snow. Now I know that winter at the top of Iowa is extremely cold and there is a lot of snow. Thankfully this too shall pass. Before we know it we will be outside watching track meets, getting ready for prom and planning graduation parties.

I would like to share some good news for the district. In early January, we were notified that we would be receiving a Fire Safety Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00. This money will be used to install electromagnet door hold openers that are connected to the fire alarm system. Basically it will make it safe to have classroom doors held open without wedges or other unsafe items. The project will begin in June and should be completed before school starts. We are grateful to receive this grant, as this project would not be feasible without it.

#### Worth County Development Funds Allotted for 2014

The Worth County Development Authority (WCDA) has notified the district that we will be receiving a total of \$445,705.28. As in the past we will be using a committee made up of teachers and administrators to determine how these funds will be spent. Members of this Committee include Monte DeArmoun, Diane Hanson, Steve Hartman, Brian Costello, Keith Fritz, and Michael Crozier.

<b>Casino Funds</b> <b>Worth County Development</b> <b>Authority</b> <b>2014</b> 			
Northwood-Kensett	Total Funds	\$ 445,705.28	
29%	24%	19%	14%
Physical Plant Operations, Maintenance Expansion, Green Energy	Staff Development, Equipment, Technology, Text Books, Support Staff and Instructional Support	Organization Request, Fees & Fundraising	Teacher Budget
\$ 150,295.97	\$ 124,382.87	\$ 98,469.77	\$ 72,556.67

Mr. Crozier continued:

It is important that everyone understand that these categories are pre-determined as shown above. It is the committee's responsibility to approve expenditures within the categories.

The Committee will review and finalize the expenditure of funds and present their proposal to the Board of Education and to the WCDA Board for approval. The WCDA plans to distribute moneys to the district on July 1, 2014.

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 Deb Hanson, Ken Abrams, Gary Christiansen, Roger Gentz, Dean Hendrikson, Dan Reeder, and Joyce Russel, please take the time to thank them for their efforts

#### District Goals Established

At a workshop in November the School Board and Administrators took time to discuss and develop long-term goals for the district. This was a valuable process for the board and district.

1. We will increase the percentage of students at Northwood-Kensett who are performing at the proficient level each year, in reading, mathematics, and science. We will use data, information and best practice to guide this work. We will demonstrate that students are showing increased learning in all subject areas.
2. Create and sustain a working atmosphere where innovative thinking and risk taking is encouraged and innovation is an expectation of employees.
3. Promote a culture that focuses on student achievement, district initiatives and accomplishments: which are communicated between the staff, administration, board and stakeholders.
4. Sustain a healthy financial status while providing a quality education and providing top quality facilities and access to technology.

The district administration will be developing action plans that will address progress towards these goals. These plans will be updated on a bi-annual basis.

Have a great February!

## OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Districts are now required to notify patrons of open enrollment application deadlines and the possibility of transportation assistance. For the 2014-2015 school year, the deadline for filing an open enrollment application for students in grades 1-12 is March 1, 2014. The deadline for students entering kindergarten is September 1, 2014.

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 illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the Superintendent of Schools, 1200 First Avenue North, Northwood, IA 50459, Phone 641-324-2021, who has been designated as the district's Equity Coordinator and to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504, and Iowa Code Section 280.3.

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

### The Days of Old....

Every morning traveling to school I have the radio on in my truck. I find the music therapeutic and relaxing. It helps provide a sense of calm for me as I walk through the agenda for the day in my head. Last week, I couldn't help but get caught up in a song by Mark Wills titled "19 Somethin". It's a catchy tune that describes some of the fads of the 70's and 80's. It put a smile on my face as the lyrics took me back to watching Star Wars at least eight times, or having a few Evel Knievel scars on my arm. Ahh, the good old days.

Throughout the day parts of the song played in my head, "Took the stickers off my Rubik's Cube, or skating rinks and black Trans Ams' and my first crush in Daisy Duke," memories about the days when I was a kid really started to hit me; about my family, community, and childhood friends. As some of you know, I grew up in Plymouth. My dad was a railroad man, which required him to be gone most of the time. So, mom was charged with raising four children, managing our schedules, and running the house. At the time I didn't think there was much to it. Now that I'm a parent, I'm simply in awe at what she did. Although she never complained, I know it must have been difficult for her. I think she managed by having all of us chip in. She required all of us to have chores and expected them to be completed on time and done well. My parents and the parents of my friends required all of us to be home when the town whistle blew at 6:00 pm for our evening meal and in our homes for the evening when the street lights came on. Every night, we prayed before we ate and before bed. Mom required us to complete our homework before we were able to watch TV (yes, we had to get up to manually turn the channel). Bedtime was 9:00 and stretched to 9:30 when we got a little older. I think about those expectations that my mom had for us....She modeled and enforced the fact that education was important and so was being a good citizen. She held us accountable for our actions and provided guidance when we slipped up.

In 1990, the Search Institute released a framework of 40 Developmental Assets, which identify a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. Essentially, the higher number of these Assets that a child has, the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviors and the more likely they are to thrive. (Visit their website at: [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org) for more information). What I didn't realize when I was young is that my family and my community helped instill many of the Assets that are listed in the research. As I fast forward to today, I'm excited to witness the collective energy of our communities to help raise our children. All of us have a stake in the success or lack of success of our youth. Whether you're a parent, volunteer, pastor, neighbor, coach, or teacher, our focus should be to challenge, support, encourage, and hold accountable our children so they achieve at high levels. When they are older, I hope a song comes along that takes them back to these days when they were young and they appreciate what we've instilled in them.

## ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CHARACTER



Left to right: Hayley Wallin, Emma Davidson, Elizabeth Ehrhardt, Samantha Nolan



From left to right: Austin Foss, Grace Stoneking, Brody Branstad, Natalie Cordle

Go to [www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us](http://www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us) for the most up-to-date happenings at Northwood-Kensett Community Schools.

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

Picture a sunny, breezy day in the middle of May. The negative temperatures and icy roads of winter are a distant memory, and you've already mowed the lawn a few times, enjoying the smell of cut grass and soaking in the sun.

It's the Saturday before N-K's graduation ceremony, and your son or daughter will be walking across the stage the next day.

I'm going to take a break this month from the sometimes heavy news that comes from talking about grading practices, and instead focus on an opportunity for all of our high school students that's new to N-K.

The Silver Cord program recognizes the service that our young people engage in for their work in 4-H, their churches, their families, and for their other organizations. If a young person completes 100 hours of service by the time they reach graduation, that student will have the honor of wearing a silver cord at graduation ceremonies.

Because it is a new program, we're phasing in the number of hours required. Current seniors need 25 hours, current juniors will need 50 hours, sophomores 75 hours, and freshmen 100 hours.

Credit for hours served is given when the student turns in a form to me in the office, recording the type of service, the number of hours, and signed by the person in charge of the event. I've had young people turn in hours so far for a wide variety of service opportunities:

- a mission trip with their church
- serving food during the holidays at a soup kitchen
- assisting at a charity fundraiser for a young person with leukemia
- working with special needs riders at a horse ranch
- tutoring other students in our after-school program

In a partnership with Worth County 4-H, the hours students submit are logged into a shared database. Both the school and 4-H have enjoyed a cooperative relationship over the years, and are focused on the healthy development of young people, so this sharing of resources is a logical move for both organizations.

Encourage your son or daughter to pick up some forms in the office. They're also available on our website. And look forward to that day in May when your son or daughter walks across the stage proudly, not only having reached the end of one journey, but walking into the start of the next.

## MESSAGE FROM THE VIKING WAY BY MR. CAMPBELL

### Caring Role Models

"No printed word, nor spoken plea can teach young minds what they should be. Not all the books on all the shelves – but what the teachers are themselves"

~ Rudyard Kipling

The Northwood-Kensett staff will be emphasizing the Character Counts pillar of Caring throughout the months for February and March. A caring person is considerate, kind, compassionate and generous. A caring person takes into account how words and actions will affect other people.

Our young people are watching and are easily influenced. Starting at a very young age, children model what they learn from their parents, daycare providers, teachers, coaches and those they observe in their communities. People who are around children the most serve as role models to guide them through their developmental stages--the time in students' lives when they begin to make choices that will define the person they will become.

A role model provides inspiration and motivation for children to seek out future accomplishments. Role models, good and bad, set examples through their behaviors and values. As our children develop, they need guidance dealing with increasingly complex issues. As parents, educators and community members, it is important that we teach and model character and courage for our youth. Nobody is expected to be perfect; In fact, everyone makes mistakes! As a role model, admitting mistakes and correcting them teaches children the importance of accepting responsibility for poor choices, as well as the consequences that may accompany them.

You can make a difference! Take advantage of each opportunity you are provided to serve as a positive role model by modeling good character. Our behavior is serving as a blueprint for children and teenagers, teaching them the importance of engaging in a lifelong quest to do what is right and to treat everyone with respect, kindness and a caring attitude.

## COUNSELORS CORNER BY RUSS KNUDSON AND AMY RENWICK

By Russ Knudson

Greetings! The second half of this school year is well under way and we are beginning to prepare for the 14-15 school year. High School students will begin to complete the “Guideways” requirement this month.

Seniors will soon begin their final work preparing for graduation. They should have a post-high school training program chosen by now. Applications should be submitted now so that housing and enrollment are ensured. They are working on Life Skills that will ensure employment security in their future. The employment skills such as interviewing, applications, and resume building are all part of those skills needed in any vocation. They are also working to complete Financial Literacy training. The practical essential part of managing money such as loans, types of interest, income tax, buying and selling, and investment are all part of this training.

Juniors should be very aware that there are no ACT tests offered in March. A very good time for Juniors to take ACT is in April of the Junior year. They then will have time to retake the test if they are not satisfied with score results before the scores will need to be used for college admissions and scholarship applications. The deadline for application for ACT in April is March 7. Junior students should also be making preparations to take ACT training. Past test takers are reporting that even though the training isn’t the most exciting life experience they have known, it does give an advantage when taking the test. Students need to focus on the content of the training rather than on the delivery.

K

Kindergarten students will be reading several short books this month based on the topics that follow the six pillars of character. Students will bring home coloring pages that accompany each lesson or story.

1-3

Students will continue the “Auto Be Good” Series. Students will be learning what qualities are needed to be a person of character. They will also be learning how to keep people of good character close as friends and use them as roll models. Choice of friends is extremely important and students will be learning what kind of friends will be best for them.

4&5

Students in grades 4 & 5 will be working in the same topics as grades 1-3 and will also continue with conflict resolution.

Grade 6 will continue their self-exploration in career discovery and sort out their strengths, likes, dislikes and matches in Career Education Training. They are now finished with their Interest Surveys and are ready to explore the results of those surveys.



## COUNSELORS CORNER (CONTINUED)

By Amy Renwick

This semester, I have the pleasure of working with 8th grade students during exploratory on their future plans. This includes interest inventories, career exploration, looking at potential colleges and programs of study, and making the big 4-Year Plan.

One thing that students and parents should consider when thinking about making high school course schedules is life after high school. Students who make the most of their high school courses prepare themselves for adulthood-- whether or not they are college bound. Students who are thinking seriously about a particular field of study can prepare themselves for collegiate-level course work by taking as many introductory classes as possible during their high school years. A more rigorous course schedule will also increase a student's chance of having a high enough RAI score to be accepted to a four-year university. Students should be looking at what the entrance requirements are for their universities of interest and should plan enough challenging coursework to fulfill the admission requirements. Additionally, available online college classes for serious-minded students allow high school students to earn college credits at no cost.

Some students will choose not to go to college and will attend a training program or go directly into the field of work. In those cases, CTE classes and other classes that promote skills needed for the workplace and being an independent adult should be taken into consideration. No matter what a student sees himself or herself doing after they leave Northwood-Kensett, there is a plan that will help them to increase their chances of success once they walk out of our building walls on graduation day.

These are the things we are currently working on during 8th grade guidance. If you are an 8th grade parent, please be on the lookout for your child's 4-Year Plan. He/she will be asked to bring the plan home to discuss with their parents and/or guardians. Parents and other loved ones have a great influence on the goals a student sets for themselves. Encourage your child to aim high and try hard!

## NURSE'S CORNER , BY HEATHER RHEINGANS

Please visit my blog, linked to the school's website, to read about the dangers of frostbite. There is lots of good information regarding what to look for if you suspect frostbite or frostnip, and ways to protect yourself and children during extreme cold. I have also placed a nice chart there that indicates the amount of time it takes for frostbite to set in depending on the air temp and windchill.

I'd like to take this time to remind you to make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Snowpants, boots, warm gloves/mittens, hats, and scarves are important articles not only for playing in the snow but to keep our children warm and dry. The school's policy is that children will go outside to play if the air temperature is above zero degrees, or if the temperature is -9 or above with windchill. With this being said please have them dress in layers so that they can always take articles of clothing off if they become too hot inside, but can then put layers back on to go out to play.

## SECONDARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Thomas Yezek, Lindy Harris, Abbey Buchanan-Meyers, Devon Grahn, Kayla Branstad, Colton Moretz, Casey Dahlby, Elexis Carrison, Mackenzie Costello, Allissa Carman, Hannah Hennigar, Julson, Kaitlyn Varner, Ivy Rollene, Logan Nielsen, Samuel Kliment, Aaron Peterson, Trey Waldemar, Matthew Parcher, Kailey Eskildsen, Molly Hunchis, Trevor Luther Varner, Taylor Jorgensen, Rosita Casino, Matiya Herring Seger, Jeremiah Erickson, Keano Batton, and Julia Quisley

**FROM THE PILE ON THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR DESK  
BY MR. HARTMAN**

Last month we focused on Citizenship and Sportsmanship, this month we will discuss the pillars of Fairness and Caring. Please keep these thoughts in mind the next time you are at a sporting event as a fan, parent, cheerleader, athlete and coach. Once again when our students witness the members of our community modeling the six pillars of character at our events, it will make it easier for them to follow them as well.

**FAIRNESS & CARING**

**FAIRNESS**

Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated.

Justice: Treat everyone without favoritism or prejudice.

DO: Be fair in all your dealings with others. Play by the rules. Be sure rules are well communicated and that the enforcement is consistent, certain, and prompt.

DON'T: Cheat. Play favorites. Take advantage of others. Blame others for your shortcomings.

Openness: Teach and model being open to others' ideas, suggestions, and opinions.

DO: Be open-minded. Hear what people have to say before you decide. Get all the facts before making a decision. Think of others as well as yourself. Give everyone a chance.

DON'T: Be selfish. Be dishonorable. Be closed-minded.

**CARING**

Remember, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!

Concern for others:

DO: Teach and model kindness and compassion for others. Be considerate of others. **Put the team before yourself.** Express gratitude for what others do for you. Show others that you care about them. Forgive others shortcomings. Discourage selfishness. Give praise generously. Cheer for injured players on either team when they leave the playing area. Use constructive criticism.

DON'T: Be mean or cruel toward others. Be selfish. Intentionally hurt others' feelings. Be insensitive to others feelings.

Charity:

DO: Give generously of your time, talent, and treasure. Help people in need.

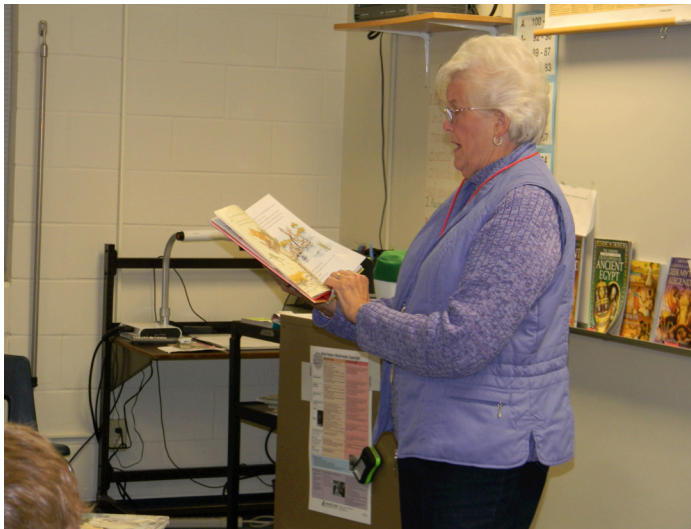
DON'T: Be selfish.



# READING WEEK 2014 AT ELEMENTARY

## Elementary School to Celebrate Dr. Seuss's 110th Birthday!

March 3-6, 2014, the Northwood-Kensett Elementary School will again celebrate the anniversary of Dr. Seuss's birth. N-K children are joining millions of readers across the country in urging parents, grandparents, and community to join them in this celebration of reading. Together, let's commit ourselves to model the love of reading all year long. This week is filled with lots of reading celebrations. All N-K Elementary students and staff will once again make a vote for their favorite Dr. Seuss book. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner will be announced at our special assembly. Students will be drawn out of hat to perform in "Minute to Win It" games. We will also have guest readers in each classroom, a Dr. Seuss "Green Eggs and Ham" lunch, and an afternoon snack of fish crackers in blue applesauce. Stebens Children's Theatre will present a play sometime in March. If you would like to volunteer as a Community Reader this week, please contact Elaine Hansen at N-K Elementary.



## Note From Mrs. Nagle, Curriculum Director and Talented and Gifted

Future Problem Solving Regional Bowl  
Forest City  
2/7/14

N-K teams from grades 4-12 will be competing in the junior, middle and senior divisions in packet writing and action plan skits. Teams are reviewing the topic of surveillance.

Future problem Solving Scenario Writing, Chloe Luther  
State Junior Division - third place, Chloe's scenario will now go on to International Future Problem Solving at ISU in the spring.

FTC Robotics  
1/25/14

The N-K team competed in six matches and three judging interviews. Chase Boyden and Julia Quisley led the 2014 team. Paul Gracia, Product Manager responsible for delivery of John Deere Worksight Solutions, spoke to the FTC Teams about the benefits of problem solving in the workplace. He praised the teams for their problem solving through their work with robotics teams.

### MATHCOUNTS

The annual Junior High School Math competition was held on the NIACC campus on 2/1/14. Morgan Johnson, Mackenzie Duvall and Dusti Bratrud represented N-K.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

### Special Education Compliance Review Brings Good News to N-K

This past January, the Northwood-Kensett Special Education Department and Administration received the news it was waiting for: Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for its K-12 students who receive special education services met the goal of 100% compliance following a review by the Iowa Department of Education in January.

The process for meeting the goal of writing compliant IEPs began in September of 2012 when special education staff and Area Education Agency 267 staff met at AEA 267 Cedar Falls to receive information regarding timelines and required components necessary for IEPs to meet 100% compliance by January 2014. Following the training, all Northwood-Kensett special education teachers worked closely with the AEA 267 special education support staff throughout 2012 and 2013 writing IEPs that would hopefully ensure that the goal of 100% compliance would be met by January of 2014.

The AEA 267 special education support staff contributed ideas and suggestions to assist the Northwood-Kensett special education teachers in creating IEPs that met 100% compliance. They met monthly with the Northwood-Kensett special education teachers and reviewed each IEP prior to finalization.

An added benefit to the reviewing of IEPs is that IEPs are well written for each student. IEP compliance is an ongoing process. The next time Northwood-Kensett will go through the compliance review of its IEPs will be in five years.

Congratulations to the NK special education staff, administration, school staff, parents/guardians, students, and AEA special education support staff for all their hard work in meeting the 100% compliance goal for its IEPs.

Northwood-Kensett Schools  
would like to thank the WCDA  
for all their support and  
partnership. We appreciate all  
you do for the students of  
Northwood-Kensett and Worth  
County.

## FIFTH GRADE NEWS

The Big Island Rendezvous in Albert Lea was our much anticipated fall field trip. Due to the possibility of strong storms that day, the trip was cancelled. Lucky for us, however, a few of the presenters were able to come to Northwood for a morning of presentations and activities. We had the opportunity to listen to the gravedigger, learn how to make rope, and even hear a few Native American legends. We were also very grateful that our guests could join us for lunch that day!

Mr. Severson's 5th and 6th grade math classes also held their annual MANNA food drive collection in December. The elementary collected 1,320 food items and \$140 for MANNA this year. Ms. Hagen's 5th grade class collected the most items with 171. This is a great activity to support the schools Character Counts pillars. Mr. Severson and his math classes thank everyone for their contribution. As we look into the future of our school year, we will be learning about the great state of Iowa. In addition to learning about Iowa's history, we will explore some of the many great landmarks - some as close as our own county!

## FIRST GRADE NEWS

The first grade classes at Northwood-Kensett are beginning a unit on Caldecott books.

The first Caldecott Medal was awarded in honor of Randolph Caldecott in 1938. Each year one book is awarded the Caldecott Medal for outstanding illustrations and then several books are also named as honor books.

Each first grader will choose a Caldecott book and make a diorama depicting the book.

The dioramas are meant to be a family project. Other classes come to view the dioramas in our classrooms. They will then be displayed in the display case by the gym and in the elementary library.



## Moped Safety Classes 2014

### BUILD AWARENESS - COMMON SENSE - SHARP EYES & WEAR A HELMET

This course is required for anyone under 16 wanting a Moped license, and a good preparation class for those trying to obtain a driver's license.

To prepare: Read the Iowa Driver's Manual before class.

**You must be 14 or within 6 months of 14 to enroll**

**SATURDAY CLASSES** 8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

**TUITION: \$42**

**Please Bring: Sack Lunch, Snack, Beverage & Pencil**

March 8	NIACC	91323
March 29	Forest City	91324
April 5	Hampton	91325
April 12	Buffalo Center	91499
April 26	Belmond	91326
April 26	Lake Mills	91327
May 17	Charles City	91330
May 17	Garner	91328
June 21	Hampton	91331
July 19	Osage	91332
August 2	Britt	91333
August 16	NIACC	91334
September 6	Charles City	91335
October 11	NIACC	91336

Iowa DOT Certificate will be issued to students successfully completing the course.

You will take the certificate to the Motor Vehicle License Station to get  
The Moped Endorsement on your driver's permit.

**TO REGISTER: CALL 1-888-466-4222 ext. 4358 or 641-422-4358**

- Refer to course number listed above for the class you wish to attend.
- \$42 tuition is payable when you register.
- Please have name, address, birth date, phone & social security numbers available to share upon registration.

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LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

*North Iowa Area Community College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have access to its programs, facilities, and employment without discrimination based upon race, religion, colors, creed, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status, age, disability (physical or mental), veteran status, or genetic information.*