



# Northwood-Kensett Community School District VIKING DISPATCH

March, 2015

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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## FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

Local partnerships are vital to both the community and its schools. Two of the resources in which this truth is evident are with our local TUNE board, and with the WCDA board.

Recently, more than sixty high school students were invited by TUNE and the management of our local theatre to watch the movie "Selma" during the school day. This isn't the first time they've been so generous: our students have also had the privilege of watching "Lincoln" and "The Bully Project" at the theatre. Theatre management also ensures that there is some type of family-friendly movie playing the week we have an early dismissal, and schedule a matinee that Wednesday afternoon for the kids. The backpacks and coats are piled up to the rafters in the theatre lobby some days!

TUNE supports the Backpack Buddies program, as well, which provides food every week for children who may not have enough to eat at home.

How were the social studies teachers able to pay for the students to see "Selma" at the theatre? Through the funds they each receive every year from the WCDA. It would be impossible for me to list all of the educational supports we are able to provide our students through the generosity of the WCDA, but just know that hundreds of thousands of dollars every year are provided to N-K Schools, which buys textbooks, educational and extracurricular equipment, professional development for teachers, and facilities improvements that would not be possible without them.

Our local business and public agencies are partners in education, as well, from local leaders helping our seniors prepare for the world of work by conducting mock job interviews, to agreeing to host students as workers in their businesses to gain work experience, to providing programming like the wise use of credit cards.

Our gratitude goes out to all who support our students in these and in so many other ways.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As you know, Northwood-Kensett Elementary has been designated as a “School in Need of Assistance,” or SINA. Please know that the SINA designation refers to federal criteria. As a SINA school we are required to offer you a school choice to another school within the district. However, there are no other elementary schools in our district. We want to assure you that we remain a fully accredited school in complete compliance with State of Iowa regulations.

## STATE SPEECH NEWS

By: Kat Ross

On February 7th, 5 Northwood-Kensett students competed at Large Group State Speech in Decorah, Iowa. Paije Sletten and Kailey Eskildsen performed Seafood Science Lab. The skit was about a girl who gets hungry during class and eats the crawfish they are dissecting. They received a II rating from the judges and lots of great feedback about their outgoing personalities. Tayah Lande, Mary Irons, and Angel Masee competed in group improv. Their scenario was “it's the night before Christmas and the elves go on strike.” They got lots of laughter from the audience and received a II rating from the judges.

Go to [www.nkvikings.com](http://www.nkvikings.com) for the most up-to-date happenings at Northwood-Kensett Community Schools.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SIXTH GRADER

By: Ms. Hagen and Ms. Orvedal

The year started with our Environment unit in science, Ancient History in Social Studies, Every Day math, writings work based on the six traits of writing, and stories to increase our reading comprehension and interests.

In the fall, October brought our first field trip to Hormel Nature Center in Austin, MN. We had a chance to get involved with nature as we hiked and gathered data about water quality.

January brought an end to our Egyptian unit with our pyramids and papers about pharaohs, mummies, and daily life. The rest of the student body enjoyed looking at our pyramids in the library. We were also lucky enough to squeeze in great weather for our second field to Hormel Nature Center for a day of survival skills (fire building), and cross-country skiing...Fun was had by all!!!

April will bring the Invent Iowa project. We are looking forward to many really great inventions, and good sales pitches (presentations) to promote our inventions. Six of our local inventions will go on to represent NK at the AEA Invention Convention held at Willowbrook Mall in Mason City on April 23.

As the school year comes to an end, we will proudly show off some of our above mentioned work at the Project Fair, which is in conjunction with the 5th/6th Grade Spring concert, on May 15th. The public is welcome to come and share our projects. Also, the 6th grade, in conjunction with 4-H leaders, will once again be planting our garden at the fairgrounds. We are lucky enough to have master gardeners in the area who help us learn about vegetables and flowers. Please come to the fair and check it out!

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

As we move into March I want to remind you that the Iowa Assessments are administered this month to students in 3-12. Below is a letter that will be sent out to all families in grades 3-6 at the beginning of the month. Our school, as with all schools in Iowa, take these assessments very seriously. We hope that you will help us in relaying the importance of these tests to your children.

Dear Parents,

March 18 thru March 20, students in third through sixth grade will be taking Iowa Assessments formerly called Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS).

These tests provide the school and your family important information about your children's academic achievement. They also determine our progress in meeting the No Child Left Behind legislation. We must meet certain criteria in order to be compliant with the law. To ensure the authenticity of the scores in these assessments, I am asking you to take the following measures so that your children do their best.

- Talk to your children about the test. Revisit the personal achievement goals they set for themselves and were shared with you during our spring conferences. Impress upon them the importance of doing their best.
- Make sure your children have a good night's sleep. Proper rest is one of the biggest factors affecting a student's performance.
- Make sure your children have a good breakfast. This will help students focus on the test.

By taking these simple steps, you are doing your part in helping our students show us what they know and what they have learned this past year.

Please call me (324-1127) if you have any questions or would like further information. Thank you!

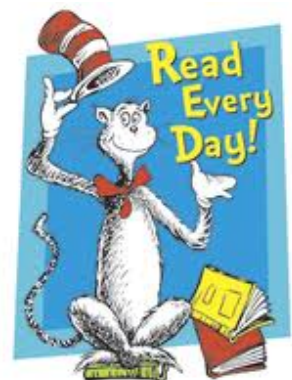
Sincerely,

Brian Costello  
Elementary Principal

Again this year, we will tie our round-up with our pre-school parent night. Below is the schedule for the evening of April 7. Please use the preschool doors to enter the building.

Session 1: For students whose last name starts with the letters A-L.  
5:00-5:30 Literacy session in the preschool classrooms

Session 2: For students whose name starts with the letters M-Z.  
5:45-6:15 Literacy session in the preschool classrooms



## FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

### **Worth County Development Funds Allotted for 2015**

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.

### **NORTHWOOD-KENSETT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Proposed Expenditure of WCDA Money February 15, 2015**

#### **I. Physical Plant Operations, Maintenance, Expansion, Green Energy: Total: \$148,700.59**

- Request \$148,700.59 for remodeling of the Secondary Family and Consumer Science room and the east hallway. Total estimated cost of the renovation is \$425,000.00.

#### **II. Staff Development, Equipment, Technology, Textbooks, Library Books, Support Staff, Instructional Support. Total: \$123,062.56**

- The adoption of 7-12 Career and Technical, K-12 Art and K-12 Music is on the 2015-2016 cycle. Request for \$65,600 will allow the purchase of appropriate resources plus resources in other K-12 curriculum areas as needed.
- Request \$3,000 for library books.
- Request \$7,000 for staff development, which will allow the staff to attend conferences and workshops.
- Request \$38,000 for technology to include hardware, software, airports, materials, and replacement of computers as needed.
- Request \$1,500 exercise bikes for Physical Educational and Athletics.
- Request \$5000 for classroom amplification systems in the elementary building.
- Request \$2,962.56 for an ice machine in the elementary building.

#### **III. Organizational Requests, Fees, Fundraising. Total: \$97,424.52**

- Request \$23,000 for reduction of K-12 textbook fees. The textbook fee for grades K-12 will remain at \$5.00.
- Request \$3,000 to reduce K-2 milk break fee.
- Request \$24,950 for activity passes this will continue to allow all students to attend all home events (sports, fine arts, etc.) at no charge (large family savings).

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER (cont.)

- Request \$8,000 for the purchase of athletic uniforms. The district traditionally purchases all uniforms for the athletic teams. The Athletic Boosters do not assist with the purchase of uniforms.
- Request \$18,000 for the Activity Fund. This money will be used to help alleviate some of the deficits of some of our student activity organizations, specifically those organizations that are unable to raise funds due to small numbers. Mr. Fritz will work with activity sponsors to finalize allocating the money. Additionally, we are including the PTO, Educational Foundation, Post Prom, and Boosters in this grouping.
- Request \$4,000 for Student Team Camps, grades 9-12. Moneys are used to assist students who participate in Sports Camps, Music Camps, Drama Camps, etc.
- Request \$1,500 to eliminate towel fees for grades 7-12.
- Request \$5,000 for K-12 field trips.
- Request \$9,974.52 for laptop computer fees. A ruling from the Department of Education does not allow the charging of laptop computer fees. Approval of this request will allow every student, grades 4-12, continued access to a laptop computer to enhance his or her education.

### **IV. Teacher Budget. Total: \$71,786.49**

- This breaks down to \$1,595 per teacher, with every teacher sharing equally regardless of full-time equivalency. The remaining \$11.49 will be used for the purchase of paper supplies.
- Request will be submitted to the WCDA prior to May15, 2015.

The Committee has reviewed and finalized the expenditure of funds and presented their proposal to the Board of Education. The Board of Education has approved the committee's recommendation and it has been sent on to the WCDA for final 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, Dean Hendrikson, Shanan Redinger, Amy Wilhelm, Ken Abrams, Barry Anonson, Roger Gentz, Harlan Helgeson and Joyce Russell, please take the time to thank them for their efforts.

### **District Strategic Plan**

The district has approved and adopted a new strategic plan. You can find the plan by clicking on the following link. [http://www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/District Information|Strategic Plan](http://www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/District+Information|Strategic+Plan)

## COUNSELORS CORNER BY AMY RENWICK AND ASHLEY SHAW

By: Amy Renwick

I'm excited this week, because it's time again for the Senior Interview process at Northwood-Kensett that is part of English 12 & Life Skills Portfolio curriculum. Our seniors have spent a significant amount of time working on career skills and college planning during 3rd quarter.

This week is the climax of the quarter— students will dress up and put what they've practiced to good use, by participating in a mock job interview with real business people from the community. These are the people who have lots of experience in interviewing potential scholarship recipients or prospective employees. Students have compiled a portfolio of a resume, business letters, and other documents that they will need to create as an adult, and will bring the portfolio to their interview to share. Next week, we will tie up loose ends and put the finishing touches on the work that has been done so far this semester.

Students have reviewed appropriate interview dress, interview etiquette, and have practiced answering common questions asked in an interview— and sometimes have received advice on how to answer them more completely. The interviewer will assess the student's performance in these areas, and will provide constructive feedback for students to use on their next (real) interview.

In the past couple of years, I have been impressed with the effort put forth by our students during this experience. Students generally put their best foot forward, and it makes me proud to be an N-K Viking. I look forward to continuing to grow this tradition with Mrs. Faugstad in our community, and hope to develop personally and be able to expand our partnerships in the community to provide even more authentic and beneficial learning experiences for our students.

By: Ashley Shaw

Throughout the month of February, we have begun talking about Kindness and Caring in Guidance. I gave the responsibility to the students to come up with ways that they can brighten someone's day. The results varied from giving someone a high-five to asking someone to play at recess to helping someone if they spill. We collected each student's ideas K-6 on a handprint, and displayed them together in the lunchroom.



The students enjoy looking at all of the handprints, finding their own, and reading others.

In March, Northwood-Kensett Elementary will be participating in Pennies for Patients. This is a voluntary, change collection program that benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The students were given a collection box they can use to bring change to school, as well as an informational letter for parents. If anyone would choose to make an online donation instead, that can be done at [ia.sy.11sevent.org](http://ia.sy.11sevent.org), just search for Northwood-Kensett.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [ashaw@nkvikings.com](mailto:ashaw@nkvikings.com) or call me at 641-324-1127 ext. 216.



**NURSE’S CORNER, BY HEATHER RHEINGANS**

February was a busy month for us in the Elementary as it is recognized at National Children’s Dental Health Month. A BIG thank-you to Dr Todd Hoepfner for visiting with our Kindergarten through 2nd grade students about how to brush our teeth properly, as well as why it’s so important to do so.



As a reminder, Iowa law requires a dental exam for children entering Kindergarten and 9th grades. This guideline is in place as a result of studies done by the National Maternal & Child Oral Health Resource Center. Their reports state that an estimated 51 million school hours per year are lost because of dental-related illness. Students with preventable or untreated health and development problems may have trouble concentrating and learning, have frequent absences from school, and have poor social relationships. Children are often unable to verbalize their dental pain. Teachers may notice a child who is having difficulty attending to tasks or who is demonstrating the effects of pain— anxiety, fatigue, irritability, depression, and withdrawal from normal activities.

I am working on getting a dental hygienist to come to the High School in March to perform screenings for any 9th grade student who still needs one. North Iowa Community Action Organization (NICA) will also be providing a free dental Sealant Program for our 2nd and 3rd grade students in March. With this program students who participate will receive a free dental screening, sealants if needed, and a fluoride treatment.

**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CHARACTER**



(Left to right): Ella Leonard, Emma Hengesteg, Isaiah Heeren, Riley Treslan



(Left to right): Carter Severson, Andrew Wilder, TeAnna Ausborn, Olivia Treslan



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

The winter season is over and they tell me that spring is just around the corner. I would like to congratulate Coach Love, Coach Cotter, and Coach Reindl and their student athletes on their successful winter season. I know they may not have won as many games or matches as they would have liked, or gone as far in the tournaments as they were hoping for, but our student athletes competed at a high level, showed great sportsmanship and represented our school very well this winter. This is a tribute to our coaches, student athletes and their parents. Thanks everyone for your hard work this winter.

We have some exciting news here at Northwood-Kensett. We have been selected to host a state qualifying track meet this year. What does this mean? This means that on May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have 12 to 13 Co-Ed teams competing on our track for the privilege to run in the state track meet. I know that this was one of the hopes of the One Track Mind committee that worked so hard all those years to get our track built. This is also a great chance for many people to see our new athletic complex and the great things we do here at N-K.

It takes many volunteers to run a successful track meet, and even more when you're hosting a state-qualifying meet. If you are interested in helping out at the state-qualifying meet on the 14th or one of the other five track meets that we will host the spring, please contact me. I can be contacted either by email at [shartman@nkvikings.com](mailto:shartman@nkvikings.com) or on my cell phone (641) 390-0554. If you have helped out in the past at one of our track meets, first, thank you, and I will be contacting you soon. If you have not helped out before but would like to this year, please get ahold of me.

# Go Vikings

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.

## JR. SR. HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Tyler Jones, Molly Hunchis, Justin Read, Gideon Rollene, Marty Hopperstad, Emily Thorson, Jasmine Barenthin, Cameron Campbell, Hannah Hennigar, Katie Schiltz, Kya Kratchmer, Mackenzie Davis, Marcus Brandt, Lindsay Davidson, Sarah Pederson, Coleby Bratrud, Clara Davidson, Tegan Cotter, Natalie Cordle, Abner Girouard, Sierra Pals, Kennedy Eskildsen, Caleb Kliment, Brody Branstad, Tanna Quisley and Jenna Schmidt.



## NOTE FROM MRS. NAGLE, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR AND TALENTED AND GIFTED

### MATHCOUNTS at Northwood-Kensett!

The N-K Junior High team placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the MATHCOUNTS Regional competition at NIACC on 2/7/15. The team included Nathan Cordle, Lindsey Davidson, Samuel Kliment, Brock Nelson and Peyton Pangburn.

Nathan Cordle qualified for State MATHCOUNTS. He will be competing at Drake University on March 20, 2015.



### Future Problem Solving

Northwood-Kensett students took home three trophies at the Regional FPS Bowl.

#### Middle Division Second Place Skit

Lindsey Davidson  
Chloe Luther  
Peyton Pangburn  
Emily Thorson

#### Junior Division Second Place Skit

Marli Backhaus  
Emma Davidson  
Ella Fritz  
Emma Logeman

#### Junior Division Third Place Skit

Andrew Breitsprecher  
Seth Clapp  
Josiah Kliment  
Wyatt Willand



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

### INVENT IOWA

The Class of 2021 will be using their 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to create an invention. Invention Conventions will be held at Northwood-Kensett on 4/8/15 and 4/9/15. Select winners will go on to the AEA267 convention held on 4/23/15 at the Willowbrook Mall in Mason City.

### 2015 PROJECT FAIR

Please join the Class of 2021 as they display their projects at the elementary on Friday, May 15, 2015 from 6 – 7 pm.