



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

May, 2016

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

As I write this, my seniors have eleven days of classes left. How do they spend their time for those eleven days? Perhaps this will surprise some of you, but by and large they spend those last eleven days much like they spent the preceding 167 days—doing homework, trying to get good grades, competing in musical and athletic competitions, and generally enjoying each other's company before they begin to drift apart following their graduation.

There's much to accomplish before then: mandatory CPR for everyone, dealing with scholarship applications and student housing notifications, helping parents with cleaning out the garage before their graduation reception, and wrapping up the big senior project for English 12. Despite the sometimes-popular opinion to the contrary, the seniors don't coast or check out for the end of their high school careers.

And our teachers wouldn't let them! Standards remain high right on through the end of the school year; and with what I'm seeing for post-high school plans from this group of seniors, college will continue to challenge them academically.

And although I hear the word "stressed" uttered from the mouths of seniors more often now than usual, I quietly smile because I know that what they're experiencing doesn't hold a candle to the stresses and pressures they'll face as adults. But that's the way of things: perspectives change with experience, and we seek new experiences based on changing perspectives. The more we learn, the more we can handle.

Next fall, the cycle comes around again...a fresh faced wobbly group of little pre-schoolers will let go of their teary-eyed parent's hands and walk into their new classrooms for the first time, and last year's juniors will step into the high school and seek out the seats in the lunchroom that seniors traditionally occupy. Happens every year.

So when my seniors ask me if I'll miss them, the answer is 'yes' of course, but I'm not sad. Graduation is the day we've been preparing for all these years, after all.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

May is such a beautiful time of year. Spring has sprung, birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and the days are warming up. We all feel the excitement of spring—even our kids. This has been a great school year and we are nearing the end of it. The last day for students will be Friday, May 20. Prior to closing out the books on the 2015-2016 school year, I want to pass along a few items:

1. During the afternoon of May 18, elementary students will participate in the 2nd annual Track and Field Day. We'll pack a lunch and spend the afternoon participating in various events ranging from tug-of-war to running events. To protect our new track, students WILL need to bring tennis shoes to wear. After the events are over, walkers will be dismissed to go home and bus students will load their busses at the high school. **We will not have a bus pick up at the elementary** I hope you will have an opportunity to join us that afternoon and cheer on your child. If you would like to help with any event, please contact Mr. Kessel at the elementary. A letter will be coming home with more details at a later date.
2. From June 6-17 Northwood-Kensett will offer a summer reading program for students that are currently in grades K-2. We will target students that have shown additional services in reading would be beneficial. A few details still need to be worked through, but the basic schedule will have us holding class from 9:30-11:30. We currently have three teachers lined up to serve as summer school instructors. Group sizes will be limited to 8-10 students for each instructor, with lessons targeted to specific areas of need for the students in each class. In the very near future details of the program will be shared with parents. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to receive additional support and instruction.
3. Northwood-Kensett will NOT be offering a summer meal program this year. Our elementary kitchen is scheduled for some much needed remodeling. This will take up a good chunk of the summer months, so we'll hold off our meal program until next year.
4. Registration for next year will be Tuesday, August 9th from 11:00-7:00. Our first day of classes will be Tuesday, August 23rd.

Thank you for your support this year. I

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. CROZIER

Construction is Underway on Kitchens, Art Room, and Concession Stand Storage Area



The remodel and renovation project has begun at the secondary building. The plan is to have the art room complete before school is out. The addition to the kitchen and electrical room is underway and the outside walls should be going up soon. Thanks to Kenison Construction for making the Northwood-Kensett project priority number one.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNIZES BOARD MEMBERS

As citizen leaders, school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Yet few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities. All Iowa citizens should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and focus attention on the crucial role these elected public officials play in the education of our children. Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. That job entails an endless string of meetings and school functions to attend; reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study; and a host of difficult decisions to make.

School board members come from all walks of life, yet they share a common goal – excellence and equity in public education. Although they may individually disagree on certain issues, their role as a board is to consistently strive toward that goal.

Board members contribute thousands of hours each year leading their districts. Whether they are crafting policies, hiring top-notch administrators, listening to staff and student concerns or recognizing outstanding programs, board members always keep their eyes on the goal of student achievement. The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading in their districts. They also work hard at seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours in the schools and at extracurricular events. They are truly advocates for the children of our state.

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ELEMENTARY TRACK AND FIELD DAY

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF
CHARACTER

By: Mike Kessel

Northwood-Kensett is excited to announce that the 2nd Annual Elementary Track & Field Day will be held the afternoon of May 18th starting at 12:30 p.m. (weather permitting). The students in grades K-6 will participate in seven different field events east of the football field with each class rotating through each event. Around 1:30 the K-6 will move to the main grandstand area and participate in several running events on the track.

I am in great need of helpers for both field and running events. Field events are: Long Jump, Tug O' War, Flag Tag, Football Target Throw, Wet Sponge Tag, Potato Sack Races, and the Tic Tac Toe relay. Also needed are helpers at the start and finish lines. If you would like to help with either a field event, running events, or both please email me. My email is mkessel@nkvikings.com. Also I can be reached at the high school before 10:00 a.m. and the elementary after 10:15 a.m. each day (641-324-1127).

Go Vikings

THANK YOU FROM MRS. DIANE
HANSON

As I retire after 37 years teaching (kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd), I want to say thank you to all the administrators, staff, parents, and students. It has been a grand career and one of which I am proud. I hope that I have been that teacher that when students look back on their time in my class, they feel love in their hearts, have a smile on their face, and can truly say they knew that I cared. Thank you, N-K and community! Diane Hanson



(Left to right): Breyden Hoepfner, Chloe Wright, Julian Luther and Marisa Halbach.



(Left to right): Logan Mayberry, Drake Tiedemann, Jadynd Beland and Taylor Rodemeyer.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER BY AMY RENWICK AND ASHLEY SHAW

By: Amy Renwick

We are at the stage of the school year cycle where it's time to close this school year and look ahead to the coming fall. With so many things going on, sometimes I feel like I'm just holding on tight to a runaway train.

On May 4th, 6th grade students will visit the high school for a tour and Q&A session to be introduced to the idea of school life at the Junior-Senior High school. We have such great student leadership in 7th & 8th grade who are going to help us out with that!

Drafts of students' schedules have also been completed, and now I'm meeting with students to work out the kinks. Please check your child(ren)'s schedules on JMC using the 2016-2017 school year to double check and make sure they are in accordance with your family's plan for your students' education.

I will soon be looking for Juniors & Seniors who would like to participate in Viking Crew next year to be peer-to-peer mentors for incoming 7th grade students. The program has been positive for everyone, and we'd like to extend it to all 7th grade students next year.

Seniors are currently participating in their exit interviews with me, to record their post-secondary plan and to review college/career readiness effectiveness.

It's an exciting and busy time because we're looking ahead. Don't be shy if there's an academic/social/career/college question that you'd like to address before the end of the school year. I'd be glad to help any way I can.

Go to www.nkvikings.com for the most up-to-date happenings at Northwood-Kensett Community Schools.

By: Ashley Shaw

They say it's never too early to start working with kids on college and career readiness. That is what we have been doing this month in Guidance. Kindergarten students have been learning about community helpers. The students were able to choose which "helper's hat" they would like to wear for an art project. We had police officers, firefighters, bakers/cooks, engineers/construction workers, and farmers. 1st and 2nd grade have been working with "Paws in Jobland" an interactive computer program that allows the students to learn about a variety of jobs. Each child has unique ideas about what careers they want to have when they become adults. We have been able to briefly explore many of them in Guidance this month.

3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade JVW students have been working on end of the year plays. The 3rd and 4th grade plays will focus on sportsmanship as well as how to treat each other with kindness and respect. The 5th and 6th grade play will explain how to-and how not to use the Buddy Bench on our playground.



At the Citizenship Character Counts assembly in April, one student from each class was drawn from their classroom Character Counts Container to sit at the Character Counts table! These student's names were put into their classroom containers for showing their character traits throughout the month.

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NURSES'S CORNER BY HEATHER RHEINGANS

May is National Bike month and I wanted to take time this month to go over some safety items to protect our children, and us when participating in this great outdoor activity.

The KidsHealth website states that every year, about 300,000 kids go to the emergency department because of bike injuries, and at least 10,000 kids have injuries that require a few days in the hospital. Some of these injuries are so serious that children die, usually from head injuries. Taking a few minutes to discuss some simple rules of the road could be lifesaving.

- Stop at all stop signs and obey traffic lights just as cars do. Yield to pedestrians, stop at red lights, and be especially careful at intersections.
- Always ride in the same direction as cars do. Never ride against traffic.
- Older kids should try to use bike lanes or designated bike routes whenever you can — not the sidewalk! Kids less than 10 years should ride on the sidewalk.
- Never ride at dusk or in the dark, unless there is a light or reflectors on the bike.
- Always stop and check for traffic in both directions when leaving a driveway, an alley, or a curb.
- Watch traffic closely for turning cars or cars leaving driveways.
- Don't ride too close to parked cars — doors can open suddenly.
- Always walk a bike across busy intersections using the crosswalk and following traffic signals.
- When riding in a group, always ride single file on the street.
- When passing other bikers or people on the street, always pass to their left and call out "On your left!" so they'll watch for you.
- Never share the seat with a friend or ride on the handlebars — only one person should be on a bike at a time. It's easy to lose balance or suddenly swerve into traffic when riding with a passenger.
- Never wear headphones while biking — it's essential to hear everyone else on the road at all times.
- Never hitch a ride on a moving vehicle.

It should also be encouraged to never change directions or lanes without first looking behind you, and always use the correct hand signals. Use your left arm for all hand signals:

- **Left turn:** After checking behind you, hold your arm straight out to the left and ride forward slowly.
- **Stop:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, pointing your arm downward in an upside down "L" shape and come to a stop.
- **Right turn:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, holding your arm up in an "L" shape, and ride forward slowly. Or, hold your right arm straight out from your side.



Left turn



Stop



Right turn



Right turn alternative

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

History Day

Regional History Day was held at Waldorf University on 4/8/16. The following Northwood-Kensett students qualified for the State History Day Events held in Des Moines on 4/25/16.

Senior Division:

Matt Parcher – Nuremberg – Paper

Jade Stubbe – Encounter in Little Rock – Individual Exhibit

Junior Division:

Lindsey Davidson – DiGeorge – Individual Web Site

Kennedy Eskildsen and Jaela Parks – Reagan – Group Exhibit

Evelyn Ocel – Life of Moses – Individual Exhibit

Tyler Wunderlich – California Gold Rush – Individual Exhibit

Youth Division:

Michael Janssen – Helen Keller – Individual Exhibit

Dalton Logeman – John Deere – Individual Exhibit

State Math Bee

The N-K 6th Grade Math Bee team consisting of Marli Backhaus, Thomas Block, Logan Mayberry, Eli Mix and Hayden Moore placed second at the Regional Math Bee competition held in Clear Lake on 4/19/16. This team will now compete at the State Math Bee held on 5/12/16 at the AEA 267 in Cedar Falls.

N-K District Advisory Committee

The N-K District Advisory Committee spring meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary TAG room. Please use the Superintendent's door.

JR. SR. HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Alex Shoger, Laney Ryks, Tyra Sledge, Blake Hagen, Gavin Paulsen, Josie Einertson, JJ Halvorsen, Coltn Benson, Jenna Jorgensen, Hailey Schaefer, Austin Foss, Marcus Brandt, TeJuan Whitelow, Hannah Julson Hennigar, Jenna Schaefer, Denali Herbert, Brock Nelson, Madelyn Berge, Tegan Cotter, Cody Wahl, Mackenzie Costello, Brody Branstad, Keano Batton and Lindsey Davidson.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER (cont.)

In recognition of the dedicated service of Iowa school board members, May has been designated School Board Recognition Month by the Iowa Association of School Boards. This year's theme is "School Boards Matter: Making a Difference for Iowa's Students". Please join us by saying "thanks" to our school board members Larry Hovey President, John Anderson Vice President, Cindy Pangburn, Roger Harris and Susan Kliment and recognizing their efforts throughout the year.

Service Awards

Every year we honor employees for their years of service recognizing those for service in increments of five years. I would like to recognize the following employees.

5 year Awards

Beth Butler
 Laura Crippin
 Kim Odegaard
 Jake Urbatsch
 Theresa Van Sabben

15 years

Lisa Hagen
 Terri Scully
 Tom Scully
 Collette Ubben
 Carrie Wagner

20 years

Jeanette Berge
 Monte DeArmoun
 Judy Lee

PIZZATHON COMPETITION

On April 19, Nathan Hannemann, Bryce Paulson, Austin Foss, and Jake Steinman competed in Pizzathon in Clear Lake. The boys had to develop a pizza company, including creating a pizza recipe, developing a marketing plan, and writing an agriculture report about their ingredients. On the day of competition, the boys made their pizza and presented it to a panel of judges. The judges were really impressed with the pizza, especially the homemade crust. After they made their pizza, the boys presented their marketing plan to a different panel of judges. The day ended with a pizza buffet provided by Pizza Ranch. Although Northwood-Kensett didn't place in the competition, the boys worked hard and put forth an impressive pizza and presentation!



Pictured left to right: Jake Steinman, Nathan Hannemann, Bryce Paulson and Austin Foss.

NURSE'S CORNER (cont.)

Helmets should also be encouraged, as well as bright colored clothing so that they are easily seen. Below is a picture that my cousin recently posted on Facebook of her son's bicycle helmet. They live in the country and he was riding his bike in their driveway when he fell over and landed on a rock. Lucky for him, he had a helmet on!



Bicycle safety day, in conjunction with the Worth County Sheriff's office, will again be held at the elementary school. This will be occurring on Friday May 13th. Officer Paulson has some new activities lined up for this event so please encourage your student to ride their bike to school this day so they can participate in the obstacle course.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER (cont.)

By: Ashley Shaw

In 6th grade Guidance, we have been working on getting ready for Jr. High. This has included asking questions that were answered by 7th and 8th graders and learning how to open padlocks. Additionally, we will be traveling to the Jr. High/High School for 6th grade orientation. They will have an opportunity to ask more questions and they will tour the building.

At the elementary, we are participating in voluntary fundraising for "JDRF Kids for a Cure." Students have brought in \$989.00 in two weeks! Our goal is \$1,000, and to fill up a wall of our school with shoes.





A BIG Thank-You to all who give their Box Tops to the Northwood-Kensett School. The Box Tops are used for items that are needed in the classrooms such as white board markers, books, pencils, crayons, paper, printer ink, math games, flash cards, iPad apps - anything that will make the students at N-K successful in school. This wouldn't be made possible if it weren't for the Box Tops donations. Again, thank you and keep the Box Tops coming!!