



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

September, 2016

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

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FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Here we go!

Welcome to the start of another great year. A special welcome to our new families in our communities. You will be very pleased with the educational opportunities that Northwood-Kensett provides.

As we start a new school year I wanted to touch on a few items to help the year run smoothly.

- We have two places around our building for morning drop off—one is in front of the building by the elementary office doors. This area does become a little congested in the mornings, please be patient. Pull as far as you can up the driveway loop and drop your kids off. Try not to sit too long as others are waiting to drop off their children. The second place you can drop your kids off is on the north side of the building by the playground entrance. If students are eating breakfast, the door by the kitchen is unlocked. Please do not use the bus drop off zone on the south side of the building. .

- I wanted to remind parents that the dismissal time for bus students is at 3:20. You cannot park by the elementary office between 3:00-3:30 because of our busses arriving. Students that are not riding the school bus are dismissed at 3:25.

- Lastly, in our effort to get an accurate lunch count, I'd like to ask parents to call in to the office if you will be joining us for lunch. If possible, please call prior to 9:00 am.

Thanks!

Mr. Costello

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

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

A new school year always brings excitement for students, parents, teachers and all other school employees. The new school year means we all get a fresh start maybe a new teacher, a new teaching assignment, a new teaching job or new duties. This is our chance to make the best of new situations. I hope that everyone takes on a positive outlook and keeps in mind that everything we do should be for the betterment of our students. I know that is how I will be looking at the new school year.

I would like to thank our maintenance staff for all their hard work over the summer. Our buildings and grounds look great and our community should be proud of the facilities we provide our children. The staff is listed below.

Daryl Love Director, Kent Nitcher, Randy Werner, Joanne Aswegan, Monte DeArmoun, Savanna Bachus, Jordan Reindl, Trevor Varner, Jalin Davis and Kole Parks.

Our big accomplishment over the summer was the completion of our construction project at the secondary building. We have a brand new art room, concession stand and kitchen. This project turned out beautiful. The general contractor on the project was Kenison Construction, a local business. Without their dedication and hard work we would not have completed this project on time. Thank you Kenison Construction. If you get a chance, please drop in and see the completed project.

Other projects that were completed include:

- ✚ Remodeled Elementary Kitchen
- ✚ Resurface of the Bus Barn Parking
- ✚ New Gutters on the Elementary School
- ✚ New Sound Systems at the Baseball and Softball Fields
- ✚ New Concrete at the Elementary Playground
- ✚ New Ceiling in the Hallways North and West of the Secondary Gym

Renewal of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy

On September 13, 2016 voters will be asked to go to the polls to vote on the renewal of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL). This is not a new levy. The ballot is seeking approval to continue a .67-cent levy that has been in place for years. The Northwood-Kensett School District has been able to keep the grounds and building in good shape and keep a safe fleet of busses due to this levy being in place. For a list of projects that the PPEL has help fund, please click on the following link [NK Timeline Newspaper\(2\).pdf](#). Remember to go to the polls on September 13, 2016. Polls are open from noon to 8:00 PM.

Have a great school year.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

"Nothing."

"I dunno."

"OK, I guess."

Quiz question: Can you guess the question that preceded each of these answers?

Hint: a parent asked the question of their child.

Give up? If you guessed it was a parent asking either, "What did you do at school today?" or "How did school go today?" then you are 100% correct!

I have two kids of my own, and I've certainly been met with the same response. It's a scene played out in homes all across America, probably all around the world. That's because kids are people, too, and they get tired after a long day just like we do.

But you are an important adult in the life of a child, dear reader. And everyone appreciates someone taking a genuine interest in their lives, especially our kids. So don't quit trying to engage in conversation with that young person because their answer is weak at first. Ask better questions!

Specificity and persistence are the keys. Toss a class name or teacher name in there, like "What did Mr. Capitani ask you to do in American History today?" or "My friend Dan says that the anatomy class is dissecting cats...is that what you're doing right now?"

Follow that up with, "...That sounds kind of fun. Did you enjoy it? What did your friends think of that?"

Dead end? Met with a shrug and a return to scrolling through their cell phone? Come back around later, the next day even. But don't give up. Be curious about their experiences at school, in class, at practice, during rehearsal. Follow up is important, because asking one question and then going back to watching Wheel of Fortune clearly shows you're not trying hard enough, either. As a parent you will get out of the relationship what you put in to the relationship.

Maintaining and cultivating a curiosity about your child's life--whether it's about school or elsewhere--will provide fertile ground for that relationship to flourish.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

By: Beth Butler

This year Northwood-Kensett Schools is implementing a Teacher Leadership Program funded through the state's Teacher Leader Compensation grant. The purpose of the program is to enhance student learning through teachers collaborating and learning together.

Ten teachers make up the Teacher Leadership Committee. They include: Kimberly Odegaard (Director of Curriculum & Innovation), Beth Butler (Instructional Coach), Laura Crippin, Jake Urbatsch, Monte DeArmoun, Deb Faugstad (Model Teachers), and Alyssa Hanna, Heidi Vansteenburgh, Dave Capitani, and Steve Hartman (Mentor Teachers). These teachers are working with colleagues to observe, learn, and reflect on the great teaching that occurs daily across our district, and provide opportunities for teachers to continue to grow and improve professionally.

The students are the driving force -- teachers want to do what is best for the students, which means we need to continually collaborate and reflect on best practice. The N-K faculty is very excited for the possibilities of the Teacher Leadership Program.

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.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CHARACTER



(Left to right): Trent Tiedemann, Ella Leonard, and Peyton Wilder. Not pictured: Kamryn Backhaus.



(Left to right): Lamonte Sims, Emma Logeman, Hayley Wallin and Ellie Ehrhardt.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER BY AMY HANSEN AND ASHLEY WILLIAMS

By: Amy Hansen

"He who fails to plan is planning to fail" - Winston Churchill



Even so, sometimes those plans cannot be executed seamlessly.

Overall, the start to the school year at the secondary building has been smooth. By paying more attention to four-year plans each year, students have a clearer view of what their schedules will be and how they reflect both their academic and post-secondary goals.

PSEO classes through NIACC continue to be popular, and students were able to log in to their NIACC accounts and get acquainted with them last week before classes started. Books were also disbursed last Wednesday.

However, come Monday morning, the Composition I teacher emailed twelve of our high school students to inform them that they had the wrong book and would need to get to the NIACC bookstore—STAT—to get the correct ones. A miscommunication at the bookstore had resulted in the wrong books being on the book list and the wrong books being delivered to high schools. Some of our students came to seek assistance with this issue, and we quickly determined that a) they did not need to go to NIACC to get new books, b) they should do what they could with their class until new books arrived, and c) new books would soon be delivered to school.

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By: Ashley Williams

Hello!

I'm Ashley Shaw, and I am the elementary school counselor here at Northwood-Kensett!

I work full-time at the elementary school, and I work with all students who attend our school. I will be visiting each classroom on a regular basis, and I may also have the opportunity to work with your children in small groups or individually. I work with small groups of students on topics like organization, homework completion, social skills, and friendship. Small groups may contain students who are in the group to learn a new skill, as well as students who will help model a skill they already practice. Individually, I may work with students on these same topics or others like building self-esteem or family changes. All small groups and individual sessions will be arranged with the teachers so that the students are not missing out on crucial information in the classroom.

At the beginning of September, I will be getting married. Following the wedding, I will be changing my last name to Williams. In August, I spoke with grades 1-6 about my name change. I have introduced myself as Mrs. Williams to the kindergarten classes. I have no problem with students continuing to call me Ms. Shaw, but as some students may begin to use my new last name, I just want to make sure that parents and community members are aware that they're referring to me.

September's character pillar is Respect. Each grade level will be learning new skills on how to become more respectful. This month's lessons for the younger grades will focus on respect, manners, and listening. The older grades will focus on being a good friend, respecting differences, and in all grades we will also begin to discuss bullying and what we can do to make all students feel welcome and comfortable at Northwood-Kensett Elementary.

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NURSES'S CORNER BY HEATHER RHEINGANS

It's that time of year again that I am forced to inflict pain on some of your children. I am currently reviewing all of our student's immunization records and compiling a list of those children that are not current on their shots. You will receive a letter from me if your child is one of those students describing what vaccination they need to become current. The state of Iowa requires that vaccines be current to attend public school, with the exception of religious or medical reasons. In these cases a notarized document needs to be provided for religious exemption and likewise a doctor's note is required for medical exemption. If there is no medical or religious exemption and your child's immunizations are not current, I must issue a provisional certificate of immunization explaining to you which vaccines they still need. You then have 60 days to either complete the vaccine or start the vaccine series. If this has not been completed by the end of the 60 days, your child will not be allowed in school until the required vaccines have been administered.

While I'm on the subject of immunizations, a new law was passed in 2012 requiring that all students entering 7th grade need a tdap booster. Again, if this is not completed a provisional certificate of immunization has to be issued and the 60 days will be given to meet this requirement.

Also on a quick note, I want to remind all Kindergarten and 9th grade parents that your child is required to have a dental screening. For our kindergarten students the dental screening can be done as early as age 3 and can be performed by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, registered nurse, or physician's assistant. Screenings must occur before December of their Kindergarten year to be considered valid. I do offer dental screenings to the Kindergarten students in the fall. Consent for this screening will be sent home with your child a few days before. Unfortunately I am not able to provide dental screenings to the 9th grade students, however, I am currently working with some local dentists and dental hygienists to come and provide a free clinic to 9th grade students who are having troubles meeting this requirement. I will send out a parental consent notifying you when this clinic will take place. This screening can be done no sooner than 1 year before his or her 9th grade year, and has to be completed by December to be valid. If dental care is a financial concern for you, please contact me so that I may help you get in contact with an agency to help.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Randy Buehrer and the Northwood American Legion Post for donating two shade trees at the softball field. These will shade N-K Vikings fans for many years to come!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER (cont.)

By: Amy Hansen

Understandably, this is causing stress and nervousness for some of the Composition I students. However, my position is that situations like these are great learning experiences for our college- & career-bound students. Even with due diligence and a clear plan, sometimes things don't go as we planned them to. Sometimes, we have to be resilient and work through problems like these. I believe next time, these students won't be thrown so off guard, and they'll know that being responsible and planning ahead will keep unforeseen problems manageable.

By: Ashley Williams

We will also begin to form our 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Junior Viking Way groups. These are student leadership groups. Students are nominated by their peers for being good examples of showing their character traits.

I look forward to working with your students this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 641-324-1127 ext. 216 or email me at ashaw@nkvikings.com!

JR. SR. HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Colton Moretz, Chloe Luther, Taylor Kramer, Cade Hengesteg, Josh Fick, Kayla Senne, Warren Cooper, Alex Eilertson, Ivy Rollene, Molly Hunchis, Kennedy Eskildsen, Morgan Johnson, AJ Branstad, Olivia Treslan, Allura Johnson, Jacob Mix, Reina Trosper, Paige DeArmoun, Laura Hopperstad, Brett Bachtle, Gideon Rollene, Miranda Stambaugh, Mackenzi Duvall, Lexey Tindall, Jeremiah Erickson and Ella Fritz.

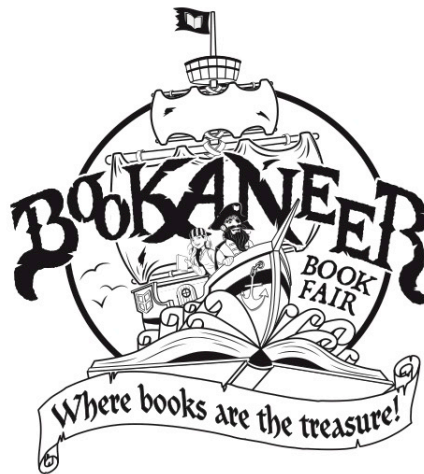


**FROM THE PILE ON THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR DESK
BY MR. HARTMAN**

Well, we are off and running here in the athletic department at Northwood-Kensett. Football and volleyball practice started in early August and both teams have varsity and JV games under their belts already. The junior high football and volleyball started when school did and games will begin in early September.

Our parent and student sportsmanship meeting was held on August 18th and we were very fortunate to have Todd Tharp and Jared Chizek from the Iowa High School Athletic Association speak at our meeting. Although it was a little warm in the gym that evening, we had a good crowd that heard a good message from Todd and Jared. They went through our sportsmanship ratings, much like I do, and congratulated our coaches, fans, and student-athletes on good sportsmanship ratings. They did break the ratings down a little bit and told us that the officials do not hear a lot of negative comments from our fans, players and coaches. They also do not hear very many positives coming from our crowd. As we go to our athletic events this year let's continue to show good sportsmanship and look for positives that we can recognize. The players, the coaches, and the officials are all trying to do their best and when they do a good job, we as fans should let them know that they did. Thanks, and let's have a great year.

Go Vikings



Dear Parents and Families:

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep pace with changing tastes and reading skills.
- **Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.**

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

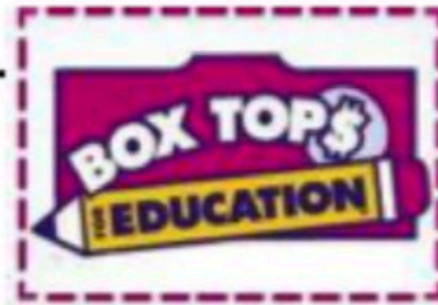
Book Fair dates: Wednesday, Sept 14th-Friday, Sept.16th.

Shopping hours: 8 AM-8:25 AM before school and 3:15 PM -4:00 PM afterschool

Special activities: Family Event is during Fall Elem. Open House, Thursday, Sept. 15th

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair . Its easy, just copy this address <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/northwoodkensettelemsch1> and paste onto your search engine and it will guide you to our homepage. Enjoy this shopping experience with your child. It's a perfect time to see what they like, promote reading at home, and add to your family library as well as earn money for new books to our school library collection.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.



Make a difference for our school!

Please clip Box Tops coupons – each one is worth **10¢ for our school!** Hang this bag on your refrigerator so it's easy to see and easy to collect the Box Tops you clip.

Box Tops can be found on hundreds of quality products from brands like these:

- General Mills
- Pillsbury®
- Betty Crocker®
- Ziploc®
- Kleenex®
- Hefty®

Visit **btfe.com** for a complete list of participating brands and to learn more about how you can help our school.

Thanks for your support!