



Northwood-Kensett Community School District

VIKING DISPATCH

December 2016

Creating healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

In This Issue:

From the Desk Mr. Fritz	1
From the Desk of Mr. Costello	2
From the Desk of Mr. Crozier	3
Teacher Leadership Program	4
Music Department	5
Activities Director	6
Counselor's Corner	7-8
Nurse's Corner	9
Title I Reading	10

PO BOX 289

1200 1st Ave N.

Northwood, IA 50459

Phone:

(641) 324-1127 (Elementary)

(641) 324-2021 (Superintendent)

(641) 324-2142 (High School)

Administration

Michael R. Crozier, Superintendent

Brian Costello, Elementary Principal

Keith Fritz, Secondary Principal

School Board Members

Larry Hovey

Susan Kliment

Cindy Pangburn

Roger Harris

John Anderson

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FRITZ

Ringling the bell at a Salvation Army kettle.

Serving at your church's holiday meal after Sunday services.

Managing or keeping stats for the school's wrestling team.

Especially at this time of year, opportunities for volunteering and serving the needs of others are plentiful in our area. To recognize our students who give their time and talents to worthy causes such as these, two years ago we implemented a Silver Cord Program.

Students volunteering 100 hours by April 30th of their senior year will have the distinct honor of wearing a silver cord during their graduation ceremony.

Examples of acceptable service include after school tutoring, nursing home or senior center, work volunteer for church projects or for community blood drives, the volunteer work they may do with their 4-H club, Relay for Life, work for a political party, and other similar activities.

All it really takes for a student to receive this honor at their graduation ceremony are the 100 hours, but they can start with that in 7th grade, and some paperwork, the link to which I have listed at the end of this article.

Do I think that just getting a silver cord will be the lure that gets young people to volunteer when they might otherwise not? No. Instead, we do this because we know many of our students volunteer their time anyway, just like many of you, and this is a public way to recognize that important aspect of their life as a young person.

<http://www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/High%20School%7CSilver%20Cord%20Form>

FROM THE DESK OF MR. COSTELLO

Welcome to the holiday season! During the month of December, we will have several events taking place within our school to help celebrate this time of year. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- K-1st grade winter concert--December 8 starting at 6:00 pm
- 2nd- 4th grade winter concert--December 8 starting at 7:00 pm
- During the week of December 12-16 the 5th-6th chorus will be caroling and travel to the Lutheran Retirement Home for a performance.
- Jr./Sr. High concert--December 11 starting at 2:00 pm

I hope you'll be able to attend one of these performances!

Once again we are going to provide our students with a community service project for the holidays. Instead of the students exchanging gifts, we will collect cans of food for the local food pantry of Worth county. To participate in this voluntary project simply purchase nonperishable food items and send them with your student to school. The fifth grade math students will collect the items from classrooms each week. Students then graph class totals and post these throughout the school. The class with the most items collected, have the privilege of delivering our supply to the food pantry. This is a wonderful project to support our Character Counts Pillars.

Children need breaks from demanding school work, therefore, we plan an outdoor recess or break for all grades K-6; except on the most extreme cold and windy days. Winter coats, boots, snow pants, mittens/gloves, and head protection will be expected. We do have a small supply of these items in the nurse's office, which are used in case a student misplaces or forgets an item. Please do not rely on this supply for on-going daily use. If you need support in providing these items for your children, contact our counselor, Miss Shaw.



FROM THE DESK OF MR. CROZIER

Congratulations to all the students involved in the fall activities. Successful seasons and activities are not always measured by wins and losses, making it to playoffs, or how far they go in the playoffs. The biggest measure of success on scholastic activities is the development of good citizens. I am always proud of our students at Northwood-Kensett. I know that the character they display is a direct result of our strong activities program, and their leaders. I had the pleasure of attending our fall play on November 19, 2016. Congratulations to the students that were involved with the production of Twelve Angry Jurors. Kudos to Ms. Koenig, Mrs. Vansteenburgh, and Mrs. Brunsvold for their leadership.

If you feel strongly about public education I urge you to get involved with the Iowa School Board Associations “The Promise of Iowa” Campaign. “The Promise of Iowa” is a public education support campaign to focus attention on the future of Iowa public school students and rally citizen support for investments in public education. Learn more about the campaign on the [Promise of Iowa website](#).

The campaign launched at the IASB Annual Convention on November 17 with this [launch video](#).

You can show your support for public education by contacting your local legislator and telling them about the great things happening in our schools. Your new legislators are Jane Bloomingdale in the House of Representatives and Waylon Brown in the Senate.

Enjoy the Holidays.

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

TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

CHANGES IN OUR STATE ASSESSMENTS by: Kimberly Odegaard and Beth Butler

As mentioned in the November newsletter, beginning in the spring of 2018, the state of Iowa will be replacing the Iowa Assessments with the Smarter Balanced Assessments. We will provide information to our students, parents, and community members as we transition to this new assessment. Here is a snapshot of what Smarter Balanced is and how it is different from our current assessment:

What are the Smarter Balanced Assessments?

- End-of-year assessments customized to meet individual student needs
- High-quality interim tests to provide educators a consistent check on student progress throughout the school year
- An online library of classroom resources available to all K-12 teachers in public schools

What's different about the new assessments?

- The assessments reflect Iowa's statewide standards for what students should know and be able to do in math and English language arts, which means the assessments better reflect what's being taught in the classroom.
- In addition to subject knowledge, the new assessments will measure complex, real-world skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and writing.
- The assessments are online and computer adaptive. By adapting to each student, these assessments present an individually tailored set of questions to each student and can quickly identify which skills students have mastered.



UPDATE FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

By: Jared Barnes & Mrs. Koenig

NCIBA Middle School Honor Band

On Saturday, November 12th, four Northwood-Kensett Junior High students participated in the North Central Iowa Bandmaster Association's Middle School Honor Band at John Adams Middle School in Mason City. Students participating in the event included: Thomas Block (7th grade, trombone), Bella Efflandt (8th grade, French horn) and Nathan Hannemann (8th grade, percussion), Emma Logeman (7th grade, clarinet).

The event featured two 100-member bands, each made up with a mixture of seventh and eighth graders. Guest conductors for the bands included Paul Bloomquist, Band Director at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, and Lake Mills native Nathan Sletten, Band Director at Earlham Community Schools in Earlham. After a full day of rehearsals, the two bands presented a finale concert to a sold-out audience in the Mohawk Auditorium.



Christmas Concert Announcements

The Northwood-Kensett Music Department will present its annual holiday concerts on December 8th and December 11th in the Northwood Kensett Elementary gymnasium. Concert dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, December 8th

Kindergarten and 1st Grade - 6:00 PM

Second, Third, and Fourth Grade - 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 11th

Junior High and High School Bands and Choirs - 2:00 PM

All concerts are free of charge and open to the public. Please join us for some holiday cheer and wonderful music!

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

By: Steve Hartman

As I sit down to write this newsletter, Thanksgiving is only 2 days away and when the dog wanted to go out at 3:30pm there was freezing rain coming down. The freezing rain reminded me that with our winter seasons starting after break there is always the chance that inclement weather can alter our athletic events very quickly.

With that in mind, I want to tell you about a couple of ways you can use technology to make sure that our athletic events are still going on, or if there have been any changes. If you are at a computer, you can always go to our school website (www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us) and click on the calendar tab on the top right hand side. If there have been any changes to our schedule, that information will be there.

If you are not at a computer and have a smartphone, you can download the rSchool Today app. When you are at the App Store or Play Store this app looks like a ball cap and has the letters rST in the cap. Any changes I make on the school calendar can be viewed on this app. You can also find leave times, game times, and maps to most of the schools where our contests are being played.

Everyone please have a great Holiday Season and let's all hope for a mild winter with no postponed or canceled games.

Go Vikings

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

By: Amy Hansen

By now, most of our Northwood-Kensett community has a deep understanding of the value of a dollar. We know that it doesn't grow on trees, and we can understand how hard it is to earn money. In my experience, I've learned that only a handful of our students have that level of understanding in their Senior year and as they graduate.

At the Financial Aid presentation on November 15th, John Holland from the Iowa College Access Network stressed again that college costs are at an all-time high and were projected to rise further during the Class of 2017's time in college. For these reasons, I thought I would use this article to further encourage parents to assist in cultivating financial literacy and responsible money use throughout a student's school career.

Experts say that asking a child to be responsible for some (not all) of his/her expenses during school. For instance, Rosalind Wiseman, an expert in tweens & teens and their behaviors, recommends that parents insist that monetary gifts given to their children be put into savings. Savings can be used for the child to purchase something important, but she also encourages that the child pay for expenses such as replacing a broken phone or a lost piece of athletic gear. By holding children financially responsible for mistakes they make, students learn about the value of a dollar as well as accepting responsibility and consequences for the mistakes they make.

We're just getting into the beginning of scholarship season, and I often have students who are hesitant or even resistant to filling out scholarships. I understand that they can be a lot of work, but they generally pay out at a rate much greater than the time invested. Oftentimes, counselors hear that an organization had scholarships to give, but no one applied for them. Students who appreciate how much college will cost and how much effort and time it will take to pay student loans back should understand that it is in their best interest to research scholarships at each level (local, state, national, college-based, etc.) and apply to those for which they qualify.

Seniors are required to complete an online course in Financial Literacy, and we will watch a documentary about the cost of college this spring. Students have the opportunity to attend a scholarship mini-session in the next couple of weeks, and I have help documents to help guide them. However, financial literacy and financial responsibility is not created overnight, and we all must work together to help our students make responsible decisions— both in financing their college education and as they become citizens of our community.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER (Continued)

By: Ashley Williams

In Guidance throughout November, we have discussed and completed activities surrounding the Respect pillar of character. Our sixth grade classes put on an assembly explaining what Responsibility means, and how we can show it every day. As we move into December, we will continue to talk about Responsibility. We will talk about and complete activities that focus on being responsible for our actions and words, following school rules, and completing homework and turning it in on time. We will also continue to discuss ways we can be caring to one another.

The Junior Viking Way groups have met to decide what projects they would like to work on this year. Their first goal has been to spread positivity by being kind.

As we look towards second semester, small groups will begin forming covering topics such as study skills, organizational skills, and test taking skills to help all students be successful! If you feel like your student would benefit from taking part in a particular group, or if you have a suggestion for a group topic, please let me know.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me by email at awilliams@nkvikings.com or by phone at 641-324-1127 ext. 216!

JR. & SR. HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Laura Hopperstad, Ema Logeman, Chloe Luther, Olivia Stilley, Hayden Halbach, Marli Backhaus, Erica Palmer, Sydney Welch, Bella Hoch, Jessica Trosper, Ryder Lestrud, Tristan Rothove, Cody Wahl, Morgan Johnson, Nathan Hannermann, Lindsey Davidson, Jake Steinman, Austin Koster, Isaac Renteria, Hailey Hepperly, Caden Schrage, Maya Richey, Shallon Batton, Dali Cansino, Wyatt Willand.

NURSE'S CORNER

By: Heather Rheingans

Colder temperatures are upon us, and as much as I hate to admit, it will only continue to drop until next spring. Now is a good time to dig out your student's winter wear and check to make sure that coats, snow pants, and boots still fit and are in working order. I am always surprised when I do this to find out how much my own children have grown since last winter.

When accumulating snowfall starts, snow pants and boots are not only a necessity but also a requirement for recess at the Elementary. If students do not have these items they are expected to stand by a wall or play on the blacktop, if there has been an area cleared off. This is to protect their legs and feet from getting wet which results in an increased risk for frost-bite. I do have a limited supply of boots and snow pants to lend out if a student forgets or a tear occurs, unfortunately I do not have enough to supply all students.

Ears and fingers are the most susceptible areas to get frostbite so a warm hat, ear warmer, or ear muffs and waterproof gloves are also extremely important.

If you are experiencing financial hardships and are having difficulty funding these items, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the school councilors to discuss options for you.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

3rd & 4th Grade: (left to right) Dagen Peterson, Addison Tasker, Merrin Hanson, Camden Trenhaile.



5th/6th Grade: (left to right) Peyton Wilder, Jady Beland, Lamonte Sims, Reese Wahl.



TITLE I READING

By: Doreen Cordle

Title I Reading is a general education support program to supplement the classroom reading instruction. The Title I Reading program provides students support to help improve their reading skills. One goal of Title I Reading is to provide extra reading help and instruction for struggling readers to bring them up to grade level.

Students are selected to receive Title I services based on test scores and performance feedback from teachers and parents. Students are tested and monitored throughout the school year to measure progress.

Some students can benefit from more intensive help in order to improve their reading comprehension and fluency skills. On a daily basis, these students work in a small group who are at the same reading level.

Title I students may exit the program at any time during the school year. Students will be dismissed from the program by showing grade level performance in the classroom, performance on tests, and/or parent and teacher recommendation.

If you have any questions concerning the Title I Reading program, please feel free to contact me at the Northwood-Kensett Elementary School.

Thank you!