

**Jack D. Moles**  
Superintendent  
402-335-3330

**Rick Lester**  
HS Principal  
402-335-3328

**Rich Bacon**  
Athletic Director  
MS Principal  
Elem Principal - Cook Site  
402-848-4171

**Jon Rother**  
Elem Principal - Tecumseh Site  
402-335-3320

## Johnson County Central Public Schools



### Monthly Newsletter

May 2011

#### SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



On Thursday, April 28, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman signed LB 235 into law. LB 235 set the State Aid totals for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. There were no major changes to the formula used in the bill, so it appears that Johnson County Central will lose almost \$338,000 in State Aid next year. Actually, a great deal of this is a result of Federal stimulus (ARRA) funds going away, which is something we knew was happening at the end of this year. Of the amount we are losing, \$195,000 comes from the loss of these stimulus funds.

We do receive some one time help in the form of a Federal Educational Jobs Bill. We will receive about \$123,000 in these funds. We receive these funds in this year's budget, expend them this year, then carry forward that amount into next year's budget. Again, this is a one time influx of funding. It helps us next year, but we will lose that amount the following year.

Another issue that is likely to come out of the legislative session this year is a raise in the employer's share of the state retirement system for public school employees. There will likely be a .6% raise in the district's share in 2011-12, then another .9% raise for 2012-13. The .6% raise for next year will likely result in about \$25,000 more in retirement payments.

How is the district going to deal with these financial shortfalls? We are set up to deal with these for at least a while, but it will be very tight. One way in which we will deal with this is we will have two staff members retiring this year. Our current plan is to absorb these positions and fill from within. This will result in significant savings. Something else we have that creates us some latitude is that this year we levied about six cents for the Special Building Fund. The funds generated by this levy have been used to take care of some facility issues that needed to be addressed. We will fix two roofs this summer as well as replacing HVAC equipment in the elementary building in Tecumseh. Since we will have taken care of these issues, we will be able to levy less in the Special Building Fund and move more toward the General Fund. All of this will not result in a raise in levy rate, just a change in where the funds generated from the levy goes.

As I said, things will definitely be tighter, but we will be able to deal with this next year. Year two of this two year "cliff effect", though, will cause us further concerns. LB 235 does call for a raise of over \$50 million in the State Aid pool, so there is the possibility that we could see a slight raise in our state aid. This remains to be seen, however.

Another issue caused by LB 235 is that there will be a decrease in a district's budget authority. A new regulation will not allow school's to grow their budgets as much as in the past. In a case where a district might have the funds to create a decent budget, it might get caught on the expenditure side under limitations. However, a school district with a healthy "unused budget authority", may be able to grow its budget at a slightly higher level. For this purpose I have made a recommendation to the Board of Education that we amend our budget this year. The plan is to amend our budget at the May 11 Board meeting. This move, which is being made by many districts across the state, will not result in more expenditures being made by the district this budget year or in more taxes being collected. It simply will be a move that will serve to

protect our unused budget authority in outlying years. You will see a public notice announcing the move to amend our budget. Again, this move does not affect our spending or tax collections this year.

## **GRADUATION**

I would like to wish the graduating class good luck in their futures. This has been a class with many accomplishments. This group of students is the first to attend high school only as Johnson County Central Thunderbirds. Thus, they will have a special place in our school's history. I will miss this group as their graduation will create a huge void in our school. I have certainly been proud to be associated with them.

This is the time of year that brings along many celebrations. I would like to urge our students and their parents to use good sense in the activities that sometimes go along with these celebrations. I am, of course, referring to alcohol use by students. Absolutely nothing good comes out of teenagers drinking. At best nothing negative happens to them. This is the time of year that I worry the most about the safety of our kids. I sincerely hope this worry is all for naught. Parents, please do your part in ensuring the safety of our students.

## **PRINCIPALS NEWS**

### **Rick Lester, High School Principal**

The first class to be together four years as JCC students will soon be completed and they can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Graduation is just around the corner. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors; whether that be in post education, military service or entering the workforce. At JCC we are excited for their exit from school and know we have helped prepare them to be successful citizens wherever that may be.

The seniors last day of class is on Friday, April 29. This will be a full day of school. On Wednesday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. they will return to school for graduation rehearsal. They will also receive their final report card. Following rehearsal I am hosting a barbecue party for my seniors. This is my way of thanking them for the memories and gives me a chance to give them my gift and wish them luck personally.

Honors night is Monday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school gym. I encourage all students and parents to attend. Honors night is a wonderful time to publically acknowledge the outstanding academic accomplishments of our students. This year, in an effort to shorten the evening, we are changing the format. We will announce each student and all their academic awards at once. We will do this for each class. I hope all students and their parents will attend so we can acknowledge their academic achievements.

As the year draws to a close, I encourage you to help your student to stay the course and finish the year strong. So many students are out of school for activities during the spring I want to make sure you are monitoring their studies and their absences to keep them on track to finish the year on a good note. Let's all work together to make the final weeks of the 2010-2011 school year a great finish.

### **Rich Bacon, Middle School & Elementary Principal**

The 2010-2011 Johnson County Central Athletic Banquet will be held on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m. The highlight of the evening is sure to be our guest speaker, Matt Davison. Matt was a 1997 Tecumseh High School graduate, former Cornhusker football player, and current announcer for Nebraska football and basketball games. This year's meal will be provided by the Thunderbird Booster Club be free of charge. We have had an outstanding year in athletics again this year. Our sports teams all had very competitive seasons and represented themselves and our school very well. In addition to the team successes, we've also had many individuals who have achieved some impressive honors and earned trips to their respective state tournaments. Congratulations and thank you to all athletes and coaches for their hard work and commitment to the overall success of our athletic program.

The Cook Site Elementary and Middle School Music Concert and Art Show will be held on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00. I hope many of you can attend as I'm sure that Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Goodrich and their students will put on a quality performance.

We made an error when we published the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll for the Middle School in March. Sixth grader Sara Kettelhake was listed on the Honor Roll, but should also have been recognized for receiving all A's during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. As a school we want to make sure we recognize students for this outstanding honor and all the hard work that goes into it. Congratulations to Sara and all students who made the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Honor Roll.

As the end of the school year approaches we'll need to turn our attention to the requirements students need to meet before they are allowed to leave for the summer. Each Middle School student will need to check out on the last day of school, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Each student will receive a check out sheet. All teachers, coaches, and staff will need to sign the check out sheet before it can be turned in to the office. Before this checkout sheet can be signed, students will have to have all school materials (textbooks, library books, uniforms, equipment, padlocks, etc.) turned in, and all bills, fees, and fines must be paid. Any lost or damaged items will need to be paid for. Both their school locker and their gym locker will need to be cleaned out and all personal items must be taken home. Students will not receive their report cards until everything on their checkout sheet has been taken care of. Please have your child check on these items prior to the last day, so he/she doesn't have to make an extra trip back to school to get their checkout sheet signed. Also, any student who has been absent for more than the eight days allowed during second semester must make up that time in Saturday school before the last day of school.

## COUNSELORS NEWS

### Shelley Moles, Counselor

*"Dedicated to excellence in education through career, academic, personal and social development for all students!"*

### 2011-2012 ACT Testing Dates and Registration:

To help with planning for next year, ACT testing dates and registration deadlines for the 2011-2012 school year are listed below. Please notice that the registration deadline for the September test date is before school begins in August.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
Saturday, September 10, 2011	Friday, August 12, 2011
Saturday, October 22, 2011	Friday, September 16, 2011
Saturday, December 10, 2011	Friday, November 4, 2011
Saturday, February 11, 2012	Friday, January 13, 2012
Saturday, April 14, 2012	Friday, March 9, 2012
Saturday, June 9, 2012	Friday, May 4, 2012

Students may register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Online registration is possible 24/7 on any computer connected to the internet. A MasterCard or VISA must be used to pay fees online. (Fee Waivers are available for juniors and seniors who qualify).

The [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) site also offers FREE practice test questions, FREE ACT Question of the Day, FREE Test tips, FREE "Preparing for the ACT" booklet in PDF format, and FREE Test Descriptions. The ACT Question of the Day may be a painless way for students to prepare for the type of questions on the ACT during the summer!

If students need to request test accommodations, extended-time testing, or plan to pay with a check, they must register by paper folder rather than online. Paper folder applications and preparation materials will be available from Mrs. Moles in the counselor's office.

Johnson County Central High School's **school code number** is **282 319**. Please use the school code number when registering for the ACT test and have the test results reported to the school so that official scores are available to include on high school transcripts. Using the school code number also makes it possible for scores to be included in the ACT score report for Johnson County Central Public School

### **H.U.G.S. Camp:**

Helping Us Grieve Successfully (H.U.G.S) is a one day camp, providing activities for youth who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. The camp is for children and teens, ages 5 and up, and their families. It is recommended at least one adult attend per family.

Adults will gain ideas and learn skills to help themselves and their children through the grieving process.

Groups are led by professionals skilled in working with individuals who are grieving. Mental health professionals will be available to address individual concerns.

The camp is Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Children's Zoo. The cost is \$15 per family and it includes Zoo admission and train ride, snacks and lunch, program supplies, and a youth t-shirt.

For more information, visit [www.hugscamp.org](http://www.hugscamp.org) or call Nancy Gavelman, AseraCare Hospice, 402.488.1363. Information flyers and registration forms are also available from Mrs. Moles in the high school counseling office.

### **Summer Opportunities:**

Summer Health Professions Care Workshop: SHPCW will be held at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) on Tuesday, August 2 – Friday, August 5, 2011. This workshop is designed to give students the opportunity to investigate different health careers through a hands-on learning program. Students entering their junior year, who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and who have an interest in the health professions are invited to apply. (Maximum enrollment is 14 students.) Cost for the program is \$275 which includes: breakfast, lunch and snacks while on the UNMC Campus during the day, program costs and fees, transportation while in Omaha and chaperone and dorm room expenses. Completed applications are due back to UNMC by June 1, 2011. Please contact Mrs. Moles for an Application Form and more information.

### **HS Social Studies, Steve Nolte**

As the school year comes to an end, we have been quite busy in the social studies department. World History is just finishing up a unit on WWI. Students have learned what life was like in the trenches of the Western Front. They created propaganda posters from Germany, Russia, Japan, Italy and France with the posters being in that language. The Geography class is now studying the continent of Africa. Students are learning just how diverse and large this region is. Students are working on an African power point, where each student picks their own country and does an in-depth study of it. In a couple of weeks, students will have to get their dancing shoes on, because we will do our annual polka dancing unit! Modern United States History, students have learned about Watergate, Charles Manson and the 1970s. Students right now are studying different cults and are doing an extensive look at Jim Jones. I hope everyone has a great end to the school year and a fun summer!

### **Transition News to Know, Lisa Schuster**

Well, it's graduation time once again and all the seniors are excited about what lies beyond the high school doors. This can be a great and exciting time but also a little scary for some students. Planning & preparation are key to ease this for students. There is an awesome book called "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" which is a proactive approach to handling situations. Kindle's are also very popular now and you can download books that are needed to be read in college instead of purchasing the book, mind you, not all books are available and on certain ones you may only be able to purchase from the place you bought it. iPads are another new innovation, there are many free applications and you can purchase books for this too. It is very important to remember to disclose that the student has a disability and know that accommodations in college are not guaranteed or automatic, like high school. The student must advocate for themselves and take responsibility to talk to every instructor about the needed accommodations. Some important web sites to visit:

[going-to-college.org](http://going-to-college.org)

[Washington.edu/doiit](http://Washington.edu/doiit)

[ahead.org/students-parents](http://ahead.org/students-parents)

[educationest.org](http://educationest.org)

## **Tecumseh Area Arts Council Supports Stringed Duo at Johnson County Central**

On Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, Deborah Greenblatt and David Seis presented a very entertaining program for our elementary students. With tidbits of story, song and a huge selection of instruments, they entertained our students – K-2 and 3 & 4, for close to two hours! They told about how they became musicians at a young age and related personal stories that tied into the different instruments. Some of the instruments they used were the guitar, the banjo, dulcimer, violin, harmonica, penny whistle, a Native American flute, spoons, rhythm boards with dancing wooden animals, a saw with cello bow, and more that can't be recalled at the moment. The students were thoroughly entertained and in awe of the performer's skills. It was fun to see this couple enjoy music the way they did. Thanks to the Tecumseh Area Arts Council for arranging and funding this most worthwhile and entertaining event! A special thanks to C.J. Lamb for making the arrangements and the introduction.

## **6th Grade Language Arts, Mrs. Niedermeyer**

With summer vacation about to begin, it's an appropriate time to remind parents and students that proficient readers make great students. Research has proven that excellent reading skills help in every academic area.

So, parents, this summer combine some of your child's (children's) fun activities, such as going to the pool, park, movie, ballgame, etc. with reading a book about the activity. Also, visit the local library to check out those great books that can be enjoyed before the activities or when it's too hot, rainy, or otherwise impossible to be outside doing the physical activities that children enjoy.

Parents, be a good example for your child (children) and read to them, with them, and discuss what you or your child/children have just read. Be a good role model by reading often and helping them understand that knowing what literature means is important. Have plenty of reading materials around to help spark the interest of young readers.

Enjoy the summer and enjoy reading!

## **Second Grade, Mrs. Bartels**

It is hard to believe that we are in the last month of school—the school year has gone by so quickly. We are happy to have some nice weather and can spend time playing outside once again.

We welcomed Miss Montgomery to our classroom this past month. Miss Montgomery is our student teacher. In math she has been working with us on counting money, identifying and writing mixed numbers, and measurements. We are still working on our subtraction facts (we are trying to get faster), and we are learning multiplication facts also.

Mrs. Bartels has a piggy bank in our room. Each day more money is added to the piggy bank and one of us counts the money. We are saving for ice cream sundaes! Soon we will walk to the grocery store to see if we have enough money for all the goodies we need to make the sundaes. We can hardly wait!

A special thank you to the teachers and students at the north site for the Earth Day activities they planned for us on Earth Day. We really enjoyed spending the afternoon learning and thinking about our earth! It was fun getting to know our other second grade classmates too.

We are listening to the book [The Girl of the Shining Mountains](#). This is a book about the Indian woman, Sacagawea, and the important role she played in the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition across the western portion of America. We are preparing for our field trip to the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Center in Nebraska City on May 15. We have learned so much about the expedition and are anxious to visit the center to learn more about these famous explorers.

**Johnson County Central  
Summer Reading and Math  
June 6-9, 13-16, 20-23, 27-30**

**Open to all Johnson County Central students going into the 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades.**

**JCC's Summer Reading and Math Program will provide students with the opportunity to continue to progress and excel in their reading and math skills. Students attending will be the first to utilize the new reading series, Reading Street, as well as the Promethean Smart Board technology. Please consider taking advantage of this free program for your student(s).**

**When we know how many students will be attending, we will determine the class times and locations.**

**Contact either the Cook site or Tecumseh site offices if you would like to sign your student up for the summer Reading and Math Program.**

**Jon H. Rother  
Johnson County Central  
Elementary Principal**





*Johnson County Central's Senior Class of 2017*

*Adan Ismael Aldana*

*Madelaine Beadell*

*Branden Lee Barrenpohl*

*Anna Marie Clark*

*Logan James Driskell*

*Diana Catalina Garcia*

*Kassie Dawn Guenther*

*LoSholl Kaslynn Hunter*

*Laura Xiao Johns*

*Rebecca Ann Johnson*

*Ellen Dede Mannschreck*

*Brooke Darrian McDonald*

*Seth Michael Parrish*

*Daniel Alejandro Rojas*

*Michelle Vongphakdy*

*Wade Joseph Bartels*

*Megan Lee Bernadt*

*Breanna Kathryn Barrenpohl*

*Logan Robert Dorsey*

*Talan Russell Erdman*

*Steven Glenn Griggs*

*Ashley Nickole Hughes*

*Kallie Lynn Hupka*

*Courtney Michele Johnson*

*Brittney Rene Lester*

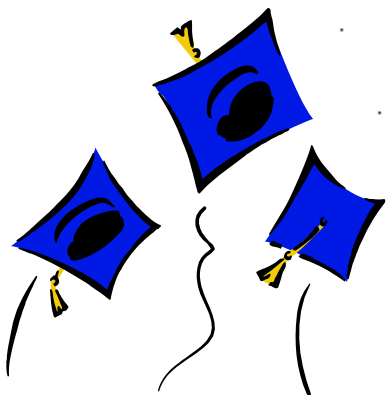
*Brianna Nicole Marr*

*Daniel Aaron Mates*

*Ricky Reyes*

*John William Sierup*

*Brittany Marie Walken*



*Congratulations!*

# May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
2p HS Musical	Drivers Ed Signup Week	Drivers Ed Signup Week	Drivers Ed Signup Week	Drivers Ed Signup Week	Drivers Ed Signup Week	Sr Art Show HS Cafeteria
	4:15p Jr High Track at Tri County	9a Varsity Track at Freeman		9a-9:30a Var Boys Golf @ JCC	Sr Art Show HS Cafeteria	8a SAT Test Day
	6p-7p Honors Night	1p Var Boys Golf at Elmwood-Murdock		6p-7p Athletic Banquet	8a ACT Registration Deadline	1p Senior Art Show
	7p-8p PTO Meeting - Cook Site				8a SAT Registration Deadline	2p-3p 2011 Graduation
					8:30a-9:30a 2nd Grade Field Trip to Lewis & Clark Center	
					9a Var Track at JCC	
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	Drivers Ed Signup Week	Drivers Ed Signup Week	Drivers Ed Signup Week	NO SCHOOL	Drivers Ed Signup Week	8a HS Chorus - Music in the Parks World of Fun
	9a-10a Var Boys Golf at Lincoln Christian	2p JH Track @ Auburn Invite	8:30a-9:30a KG Field Trip to Lincoln	Drivers Ed Signup Week	8:30a-9:30a 1st Grade Field Trip to Henry Dorley Zoo	8a-8:30a 7th 8th Grade Band - Music in Parks - Worlds of Fun
	9a-10:30a ECNC Band Jr & Sr High @ Conestoga	7p Spring Concert & Art Show	9:30a-10:30a Var Boys Golf at Thayer Central	9a-10a Var Track Districts @ JCC (Tecumseh, NE)	2p-3p JH Track ECNC @ Conestoga	
	7p T-Bird Booster Meeting		1:30p-2:30p 8th Grade Orientation - JCC HS			
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
	Drivers Ed Signup Week	9a-10a Var Boys Golf Districts @ Crooked Creek Golf Course	8:30a-9:30a NWMSU Science Olympiad	7p-8:30p Kindergarten Graduation and Concert - HS Gym	Var Track State Tournament	Var Track State Tournament
	9a-10a Var Boys Golf Districts	7p-8p Cook Elem & MS Concert & Art Show	1p-3:30p Elementary Track Meet - Tec Site		Last Day of Classes for Elementary	
	4p-5p Colorgaurd Auditions		10a-12:30p Elementary Track Meet - Cook Site			
	7p-8p KG End of the Year Program - Cook Site		6p-7p Music Booster Mtg - HS Band Room			
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
1p-2p Johnson Co Coalition - Family Fun Walk	6:30p-8:30p FFA Banquet - HS Gym	Var Boys Golf State Tournament	Var Boys Golf State Tournament			
		11a EARLY DISMISSAL - LAST DAY				
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Notes:			
		Drivers Education Classes				

# May 2011 -- Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Chicken Nuggets Smiley Fries Corn Apples Cookie Breadstick Mrs. Borrenpohl Kindergarten Milk	3 Pizza Lettuce Fruit Dessert  Milk	4 Creamed Chicken/Biscuit Peas Fruit Pudding  Milk	5 Burrito/Salsa Rice Vegetable Fruit  Milk	6 Spaghetti/Meatballs Carrots/Celery Applesauce Breadstick Cookie Mrs. Hutt Kindergarten Milk
9 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Fruit Dinner Roll  Milk	10 Chicken Patty French Fries Vegetable Fruit  Milk	11 CHEF'S CHOICE  Milk	12 NO SCHOOL DISTRICT TRACK  Milk	13 Chicken Fajita Vegetable Fruit Cookie  Milk
16 Scalloped Potatoes/Ham Vegetable Fruit Dinner Roll  Milk	17 Turkey/Cheese Wrap Corn Chips Vegetable Fruit  Milk	18 Corn Dog Tri Tater Baked Beans Fruit Dessert Milk	19 St. Andrew's School Chicken Nuggets Curly Fries Carrots/Celery Grapes Cookie Cinnamon Roll Milk	20 Chicken Teriyaki Rice Vegetable Fruit Dinner Roll Elementary last day Milk
23 CHEF'S CHOICE  Milk	24 <b>11:00 Dismissal</b>  No Lunch Served	25	26 HAVE A SAFE AND FUN SUMMER !!!!  FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF @ COOK AND TECUMSEH !!!!	27
30	31			

# Johnson County Central Public Schools

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Cook, NE 68329

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402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh  
402 864-2024 Elementary Office @ Cook  
402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook  
402 864-4181 MS Office @ Cook  
Web Site [www.jccentral.org](http://www.jccentral.org)

This newsletter is produced monthly to inform parents, district patrons and others about school events, classroom events, and student achievements in the classroom and extra curricular activities. This information is submitted by faculty and staff members. Information may be submitted to offices at Tecumseh and Cook.

The school reserves the right to edit information in the interest of space and content.

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**POSTAL PATRON**

**Thursday, May 12**

**NO SCHOOL!  
(JCC Hosts District Track Meet)**

**Friday, May 20**

**Last Day of School (Regular Dismissal)  
for Elementary Students Pre-K - 5th grade**

**Tuesday, May 24**

**Last Day of School (11:00 AM Dismissal)  
for Middle School & High School Students**