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## SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



As I wondered what this month's newsletter article should be about I asked for suggestions from a small group of staff members gathered in our office recently. There were a few humorous suggestions, but one stuck with me: Thanksgiving, or to be more precise, what I am thankful for with our school. I know I could almost write a book on that topic, but thought I would share a little about what I am most thankful for in our school.

- I am thankful for good kids. As educators we sometimes get discouraged with "smaller" discipline issues such as incomplete homework, talking in class, cell phone violations, or copying. I say "smaller" because in the scheme of things, these issues are not as bad as what educators in other schools deal with on a frequent basis. I am thankful that what I cited above is the norm for the disciplinary issues that we deal with. I believe our students are fairly well behaved because they work to meet our expectations as a school. One of my mantras to the staff is that kids will meet the expectations we set for them.
- I am thankful for Principals who set a tone for having a school built on mutual respect. Mr. Lester, Mr. Bacon, and Mr. Rother all have an expectation of respect in their buildings. This respect is expected to be reciprocated between all stake holders. For example, the staff is expected to respect the students as much as the students are expected to respect the staff.
- I am thankful for a teaching staff that is flexible. Our staff has seen more changes over the last 4+ years than most teachers might see in an entire career. We have had

staff members change grade level or subject matter assignments, and some who even changed locations. They have adapted to new assessment instruments, new curricular changes, requirements placed on them by both state and federal governments, and loss of funding. Through all of this they have remained remarkably gung-ho. A part of this is because they seized opportunities to provide meaningful input on many of the changes. The desire is that all changes are made for reasons that have positive effects on kids. I believe our staff sees this and understands that changes that help kids are good.

- I am thankful for a great non-certificated staff. Our secretaries, kitchen workers, aides, nurses, maintenance crew, and bus drivers all serve to make us a stronger school. They are all very involved in supporting kids. One of the most overlooked aspects of their jobs is the character that they bring to the school. The different, but very positive, personalities that each of them possesses serve to make us a very caring school.
- I am thankful for positive support from our public. Without this support our job gets much tougher. I believe most parents, once they know rationale behind decisions, fully support the school. I believe patrons of this school district place a great deal of trust in the staff, the administration, and the Board of Education, to produce a great product—successful students.
- I am thankful for a great Board of Education. I hear other administrators talk of "issues" on their own Boards and I just do not seem to have to deal with those. We

**JCC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER**

do have longer Board meetings than many Boards, but I believe there are two reasons that cause this: (1) The Board does talk issues through before reaching decisions. Most of their decisions have been unanimous, but it is because they have taken the time to look at all angles before voting. (2) We have a Board that genuinely respects and enjoys each other. There are no hidden agendas and they each want to do what they can to ensure we have the best school possible.

I am thankful for the professional opportunities that I have been allowed to take part in. The Board recognizes that is important to me to be involved on other levels than just the local level. They have allowed me to be involved in leadership roles on the state level and that has allowed me to grow as an administrator. I do believe this has, in the long run, been a benefit to the district as well, but not all Boards are that farsighted.

So, those are reasons why I am thankful for our school. Many of them were probably not what the reader might expect to see, but they are very real and very important to me.

**VETERANS DAY OBSERVATIONS**

The district will host Veterans Day programs at both sites on Friday, November 11 at 10:45 a.m. We will have musical presentations from students, as well as a guest speaker at both sites. At this time, the guest speaker for the Tecumseh site is unknown because of a late cancellation. The speaker for the Cook site will be Jeff Mahoney. Mr. Mahoney served in the Marines and is currently serves as a bus driver for the district. The programs are open to the public. One special feature of this observance is that the school would like to invite all veterans and their spouses to stay for lunch, courtesy of the school. Lunch will be served after the ceremony. We would like to have veterans call in their reservations for lunch at the two sites, however. If you plan on eating at the Tecumseh site please contact either Alison Hector, Mary Teten, or Laurie Badertscher at 335-3320. If you plan on eating at the Cook site please contact either Julie Damme or Abby Klaasmeyer at 864-4181. I look forward to a great turnout for this very special observance.

Fall temperatures are here and JCC's fall sports are nearing the end of the season. Late October also marked the end of the first quarter of classes at JCC and the first parent/teacher conference for the 2011-2012 school year.

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade parents were able to visit with their student's teachers at individual stations in the high school gym.

With the internet and power school element JCC is providing parents the ability to check their student's progress on a daily basis. I believe this has affected our number of parents attending parent/teacher conferences. With this in mind I am still encouraging parents to attend the conferences. Having a personal, one-on-one conversation with your student's teachers is very important. You are also given the opportunity to view your child's work and check up on upcoming projects or events in their classroom. These are very important in developing a better sense of your student's overall progress, rather than just seeing their grades online.

Thank you to those parents who step up and take an extra interest in their student's educational progress, and as always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**JCC MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICH BACON**

With the long stretch of unseasonably warm weather we've been having lately it's easy to forget that winter is right around the corner. With cold weather on the way, it is important that parents ensure that their child is dressed for the weather when they leave for school in the morning. All students should have gloves, a stocking cap, and a warm jacket/winter coat for the trip to and from school and for going outside during recess.

The first quarter ended on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and grades should be processed and report cards should be in parents' hands by the time this newsletter is printed. Hopefully, all parents were able to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **JCC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** **NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL JON ROTHER**

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “ON LEVEL”

Parent-Teacher Conferences provide parents with a unique opportunity to sit down with their child's teachers and discuss their progress in a one on one setting. There is so much more going on with your child's education than the grades that they are earning. In addition to talking about their child's academic progress, Parent-Teachers Conferences also give parents an opportunity to discuss their child's personal and social development with teachers who work closely with their students on a daily basis. If you were unable to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences I hope you contact your child's teachers if you have any concerns. I would encourage every parent to sit down with each of their children and discuss their grades and homework, not just at the end of every 9 week quarter, but on a weekly basis. Future academic success is dependent on students mastering the work at their current grade level. If your child didn't perform to your expectations or failed a class, parents and their children need to sit down and set goals to improve their academic performance. If your child isn't earning the grades they are capable of, the best solution is usually good old fashioned hard work. The Junior High Volleyball and Football teams have concluded their seasons. The football team had a very successful season, finishing with a record of 4 – 0. The volleyball teams also had a successful season. The A-team finished with a 5 – 5 record, the B-team finished with a ---4 – 3 record and the C-team finished with a 3 – 3 record. Congratulations to the boys and girls who competed for the Thunderbirds this year and Football Coaches Faris and Giesbrecht, and Volleyball Coaches Morris and Parrish.

On Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 13 middle school students from Johnson County Central Schools participated in the ECNC Honor Choir at Malcolm. Students practiced all afternoon and put on an outstanding concert for the public in the evening. Johnson County Central students who participated in this Honor Choir included Missy Aldana, Mireya Avitia, Joe Bailey, Ethan Clements, Wyatt DeRoe, Keyra Grover, Eddie Li, Keelee McClintock, Rhiannon McRoberts, Grant Moles, Brittany Neukirch, Rudy Poch, and Austin Valenzuela.

A special thank you goes out to the Talmage Fire and Rescue Squad for giving fire engine rides to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades during Fire Prevention Week.

Much of the assessing and testing schools do nationwide and globally, is based on how most students at a particular grade or age level score on those same assessments. This is called norm-referenced data, when a student is compared to all other students at his or her same grade level. This data is important in the same way that growth development is charted when taking an infant to the doctor's office and they tell you if your child is growing at the normal rates. This data is not the end data. This data gives us information about the child. We can then take a look at those children who are not performing within the normal ranges and see what areas we can help the student develop in.

If a student is not growing or learning at the “normal” rate, or is not on level with grade level peers, does this mean that the child will not meet his or her full potential? Absolutely not! When we look at all the varying backgrounds, family demographics, personal interests and varying degrees of infant care and development, it is no surprise that twenty students in one classroom are in twenty different levels of educational performance. To expect all sixth graders, in the third month of sixth grade, to be performing in all subject levels at the 6.3 grade level equivalency is absurd. Does this mean we just sit back and let education take its course and whatever happens, happens? No. This is why we have the various programs in place to help all our students and support academic growth for all students. This is why communication between school and home is so important. Why a student is not performing at grade level can have a multitude of reasons: developmental delays, attitude, learning disabilities, home issues, social issues, school issues. Take your pick. There's more than I can list or think of. However, if teachers, parents, guardians, administrators, school nurses, and even the student, are communicating openly, all involved will be better able to help the student with his or her specific needs.

Previously, I mentioned that being on level, or in the normal range, is not the goal. The goal educationally

is to improve, to grow, and to continue to learn. A good question is: At what point does a student need to be on level? First grade? Seventh grade? By their senior year? I don't have a good answer for this.



## THANK YOU

Gary Peters, the Tecumseh Fire Department and the Talmage Fire Department for their services during Fire Prevention Week!

*Johnson County Central Students & Staff*



# COUNSELORS NEWS

## Shelley Moles, Counselor

*"Dedicated to encouraging a Journey of excellence Creating lifelong learners and Citizens for tomorrow."*

### **Financial Aid Night at Johnson County Central High School on Thursday, November 10, 2011:**

A representative from EducationQuest will share information about financial aid on Thursday, November 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the high school building of Johnson County Central Public Schools. Seniors, juniors and their parents are invited to attend to learn about the types of financial aid available to meet educational needs. Topics generally include: applying for grants such as Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), applying for scholarships, loan applications and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.

Parents and students may also visit the EducationQuest website at [www.educationquest.com](http://www.educationquest.com) or the EducationQuest Foundation office at 1300 "O" Street in Lincoln for other FREE college planning resources.

### **ASVAB Testing for Juniors:**

Junior students will be taking the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at Johnson County Central High School.

The ASVAB helps students identify abilities and compare their test performance to other students at their grade level.

Students may use ASVAB results to explore careers and to judge academic readiness to pursue advanced education. Results may also be used for military enlistment up to two years after taking the test. ASVAB information is not made available to the Selective Service System.

Seniors who are interested in taking the ASVAB should contact Mrs. Moles to be included in the testing.

### **Sophomore Summer Leadership Opportunities:**

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar: June 1-3, 2012, at Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska. The HOBY seminar is a summer leadership development experience for sophomore students. To be eligible, sophomore students must demonstrate leadership in

their school and/or community and be nominated by their school. The cost of \$150/student includes lodging, meals, and guest speakers. Johnson County Central High School may nominate one representative and one alternate. Students who are interested need to return their application to Mrs. Moles by November 18, 2011

Nebraska Youth Leadership Seminar: June 14-17, 2012, at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. The Nebraska Youth Leadership seminar(NLS) is a summer leadership opportunity to recognize and develop Nebraska's outstanding young leaders. NLS focuses on three key areas: strengths-based leadership, civic engagement and peer/leader interaction. It encourages teamwork in solving problems, and develops skills that students can apply in their schools and communities. The cost for the 4-day seminar is \$150/student and includes lodging, meals, transportation, and guest speakers. Johnson County Central High School may nominate two rep resentatives to attend. Students who are interested need to return their application to Mrs. Moles by December 2, 2011.

For an application or more information about either the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar or the Nebraska Youth Leadership Seminar, please see Mrs. Moles.

### **Reminder for Sophomores and Parents**

The PLAN Assessment is scheduled for sophomore students (and any student who could possibly be a junior next year) on Wednesday morning, November 9. This test is a great way for students to get ready to take the ACT test in their junior or senior year because it covers the same subjects – English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning – and the same type of questions. PLAN also includes a career interest inventory that may help students focus on career choices, an estimated ACT score and a guide that explains scores and how to use them.

Students should bring a calculator for the math test. Pencils and scratch paper will be provided. Students and parents may check out some PLAN sample questions at [www.planstudent.org](http://www.planstudent.org).

### **Nebraska Career Connections:**

Students, parents, educators, other adults and job seekers are welcomed to use the educational and career planning resources found on the Nebraska Ca-

reer Connections website. Designed for Nebraskans, Nebraska Career Connections is a collaborative effort of several state agencies and non-profit organizations including the NE Dept. of Education, NE Dept. of Labor, NE Dept. of Economic Development, Education-Quest, Future Force NE and others to coordinate resources and services through efficient and effective online access for all Nebraskans.

Some of the goals of Nebraska Career Connections are to connect Nebraskans to a variety of career exploration, planning, and management resources, create an awareness of high-demand Nebraska occupations, connect interest, skill, and work value inventories to educational options and occupations, help develop 4- or 6-year educational plans, write professional-looking resumes, and guide occupational exploration and selection of postsecondary schools and majors.

Many resources are available without logging into the site such as career clusters and searches, postsecondary options, and financial aid information.

Students at Johnson County Central High School who want to "Get Connected" (build a resume, develop a 4 year high school plan, or take an interest, skills, or work value survey and save results to an online portfolio) should ask Mrs. Moles for the details (password, school access code, survey codes) and then log on to the Nebraska Career Connections website at: [www.nebraskacareerconnections.org](http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org) !

#### **NCAA Division I and Division II: A Note to Athletes**

Students wishing to compete in college athletics or receive an athletics scholarship need to be sure to check out the requirements for participation from the college they plan to attend. Student athletes must meet Eligibility for Academics and Amateurism. Academic eligibility is based on GPA in accepted college-preparatory core courses and a combined ACT English, Math, Reading, and Science score or combined SAT Critical Reading and Math score.

In determining Amateurism, any benefit received prior to enrolling in college may be reviewed. Activities that may be reviewed include contracts with a professional team, prize money, play with professionals, benefits from an agent or prospective agent, agreement to be represented by an agent, tryouts, practice, or competition with a professional team.

In determining academic eligibility for participation during the first year, Division I colleges and universities will require at least 16 core courses that include 4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher), 2 years of natural or physical sciences, 1 extra year of English, mathematics or natural/physical science, 2 years of social science and 4 years of extra courses (from any category previously listed or foreign language or philosophy) and achieve a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches the student's core-course grade-point average in the grade point average and test score index. (For example, a 3.0 GPA with a combined ACT score of 52, a 2.0 GPA with a combined ACT score of 86, or a 3.5 GPA with a combined ACT score of 39 would all qualify.)

Currently (until July 31, 2013) to participate in Division II colleges and universities and to receive a scholarship, a student must graduate from high school, complete at least 14 core courses that include 3 years of English, 2 years of mathematics (algebra I or higher), 2 years of natural or physical science, 2 extra years of English, mathematics or natural/physical science, 2 years of social science and 3 years of additional courses (from any category previously listed or foreign language or philosophy), have a 2.00 GPA in core courses and achieve a combined SAT score of 820 or a sum score of 68 on the ACT.

After July 31, 2013, to participate in Division II college and universities and to receive a scholarship, a student must graduate from high school, complete at least **16** core courses that include 3 years of English, 2 years of math (Algebra I or higher), 2 years of natural or physical science, 2 years of social science, and 4 years of additional core courses (from any category previously listed or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy).

Students wanting to participate in Division III college athletics should contact the college for its policies on admission, financial aid, and athletics eligibility.

The core courses from Johnson County Central that meet the definition of approved core courses are available at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). That website also contains more detailed information about NCAA participation and registration.

## **Spanish - Teacher Mrs. Bacon**

### **Spanish I**

The Spanish I class is delving into the Spanish language. They are learning vocabulary and grammar used in daily activities. They practice their pronunciation skills by reading various documents, including short stories, listening to audio recordings, and singing songs about the basics of the Spanish language. These students just completed their first vocabulary FLIP video, clips of the video can be seen on the Spanish I website.

The end of October is a special time in the Spanish I classroom. Students will begin to research El Día de Los Muertos or the Day of the Dead, an important Mexican holiday. In addition, these students are beginning to learn more complex skills such as verb conjugation and sentence writing. If your student is still struggling with vocabulary, please encourage them to practice at home with flashcards or to use the moodle website and review with the available vocabulary games.

### **Spanish II**

Spanish II will begin their first video project the week of October 14th. Students will work in small groups to create a video to demonstrate the uses of the verbs Ser, Estar, and Tener. Students will be expected to create examples of the verbs and then construct a video using iMovie, Power Point, and possibly Flash programs on the Mac laptops. The video is a great opportunity for students to incorporate their Spanish knowledge with technology. In addition, students just completed their first, all Spanish, full-length paper about their families.

### **Spanish III and Spanish IV**

These two classes also created short vocabulary videos using Flip video cameras. Clips are available for viewing on the Spanish III and IV website. As with the Spanish I class, in less than a week, both classes were able to video and create a DVD incorporating the chapter vocabulary into the video. The vocabulary terms for Spanish III were items around school, Spanish IV vocabulary terms were items around town. Both classes really enjoyed using the Flip cameras and learning vocabulary in a fun new way.

These classes are also getting into the kitchen. Both groups followed a Spanish recipe to make gorditas from scratch. It was a fun way for them to read and

apply their Spanish knowledge.

Spanish III students will continue with their books into items and things around school while Spanish IV students will be learning about toys and items at home. In addition, Spanish IV students will be working with imperfect verbs, Spanish III students will focus on the preterite.

### **Elementary Spanish**

Fridays are special in the Spanish room because the high school students go to the elementary to teach Spanish. Grades k-2 at the Tecumseh site participate in lessons created by the high school students to help learn Spanish vocabulary words. Both groups really enjoy the opportunity to teach and learn from this collaboration.

## **HS Social Studies - Teacher Mr. Nolte**

The history department has had a busy fall so far, Geography students are now studying the countries of the Middle East. Students are discovering that there is much more to this region than oil and war. Students will be completing a country project over a Middle Eastern country with the focus on the culture of that country.

World History students have completed an in-depth look at the different religions of the world. This is always an interesting topic that brings about many questions. Students completed a project a particular religion, this allowed the students to do some individual research on a specific religion.

US Military History students have been covering World War I. Over the past month, they have focused their studies on trench warfare, use of animals in the war and the propaganda of the war. Students will begin 6 week unit on World War II and will explore many different topics during that time. Hope everyone has a great fall and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

## JC Central Physical Education - Chris Hutt

The K thru 3 classes meet daily for 25 minutes. Our weekly time totals 125 minutes. Research has shown that a student can improve on their seatwork in the classroom if they have more exercise opportunities mixed into their school day. PE class and recess can provide that stress outlet. It is also important for kids to be active and play outside at home.

The K-1 classes have worked on exercises, body movements, ball skills, yoga mats, jumping rope, hula hoops, roller racers and scooter boards. They have also demonstrated cooperation skills when using the parachute. They have enjoyed learning T-BIRD Jumping Jacks. The students showed great concentration and coordination in becoming "BIG FOOT" using the "Monster Trax."

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students complete a different warm-up each day which include; jogging, exercises, jumping rope, and wall stretches. They have participated in station activities where they rotate to three stations for a different game or activity. We have focused on ball skills of catching and throwing and developing coordination. The students have utilized their skills while playing a "Bull in the Ring" game. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade participated in a challenging game of "Catch and Step Back", where each student has to catch the ball to move further apart.

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade PE students have been participating in Volleyball, Newcome, and Ultimate Football. The freshman have PE and Health on alternating days. A student has PE on M-W-F and Health on T-TH. The classes will switch for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

Tennis has been the main unit in Advanced PE. Students were pre-tested in tennis terminology, strategies, fundamentals, equipment, benefits, rules, scoring, and the different racket strokes. They were then able to put what they learned into use at the tennis courts at the city park. Doubles and Singles tournaments were a fun part of this unit. Tennis is a great exercise activity with minimal cost.

This class has also played Volleyball, Newcome, Double Volleyball, One-Bounce Volleyball and Volleyball Eliminator.

## Art news—Ms. J.Fox

### Middle School art

Middle school students are on trimester rotation this year. Twelve weeks instead of eight or nine in a quarter! You can see finished art projects throughout the year displayed in the middle school commons area glass cases.

### Mural project at the middle school.

Sixth and Seventh grade art students have been working on the new mural in the middle school cafeteria. The six words of the **Thunderbird Way** are being painted in a band of gold. The words citizenship, caring, trustworthy, fairness, respect, and responsibility now encircle the cafeteria / gym. Last year students came up with the idea and helped to make the letter stencils and place them on the cafeteria / gym walls to form the band. Due to the lateness of the year the letters were only outlined by summer break. A few "thunder bolts" and a thin out line of gold or black remain. We have learned that slowly and carefully is the best way to paint!





## Lights! Camera! Action!

- On Monday, October 3, eight Johnson County Central High School students represented the JCC drama department at the Doane College Drama Conference in Crete, Nebraska. The group joined students from the college and surrounding high schools to enjoy a day of interactive theater workshops led by professional directors.

During these workshops, students and directors discussed various levels of acting, musical theater, stage combat, auditioning, playwrighting, directing and costume development. Students learned new techniques for developing their character roles in a play, creating believable fight scenes, preparing music and script cuttings for theater auditions, and directing the ebb-and-flow of scenes.

The Doane College theater department also treated students and teachers to a production of Patrick Barlow's comedy "The 39 Steps," adapted from the novel by John Buchan and the movie of Alfred Hitchcock. The show's college cast and crew delighted the audience with creative staging and technical stunts, providing directors and budding theater students ideas for future productions.

The Doane College Players (student drama club) could not have planned this drama conference at a better time, as JCC is currently preparing its own production for the 2011 one act play season. This year's play is "Jolly Roger: King o' the Pirates," a melodrama of the high seas by Wayne Mitchell, Shane Mitchell, and Erin Dagon. This short play mingles heroic sea captains and villainous pirates with wild chase scenes and mistaken identities to form a hilarious comedy.

Starring in this year's production are Ethan Fricke, Ben Goracke, Dustin Beethe, Kelly Brinkman, Taylor Dudley, Zach Lade, Chelsea Borrenpohl, Shawnee Johns, Kaycee Bartels, Isaac Buss, Colton Gartner, Alissa McClain, Erika Hunzeker, Ariel Seares, and Lauren Klaasmeyer. Those helping with the production behind-the-scenes are Jackie Straube, Leah Tubbesing, Michaela Pooch, Kelsie Kaster, Mady Henne, Hannah Borrenpohl, Christine Wellenseik, Hannah Carnagey, Angela Noudaranouvong, Laynee Davison, Danielle Pfister, Katie Gillott, and Tyleir Hofker--as well as many other groups and individuals.

Our talented crew has already begun rehearsing and will increase their rehearsal schedule this month in preparation for our fall performances. Performance dates include the following times:

November 16, 2011 – ECNC One Act Play Production Competition @ The Loft (All Day)

November 21, 2011 – JCC Performance @ JCC Elementary Auditorium, Tecumseh, 7 PM

November 28, 2011 – C1 Districts @ Tri-County High School (All Day)

December 8, 2011 – State One Act Play Competition (TBD Upon District Results)

All performances are open to the public. Please show your support for our students, and plan to attend!

### **6th Grade Math and Science—Mrs. Bohling**

The sixth graders are studying plants in science. A few examples of activities the sixth graders have done this fall include classification of plants, dissecting a flower, tree identification, seed dissection, root observations, and the study of cells (plant and animal). This week, the sixth graders will learn more about photosynthesis and energy from the sun.

In math the sixth graders are studying fractions and parts of a circle. They continue to improve their skills at problem solving questions from their Saxon math books. There is always new things to learn!!

### **Fifth Grade—Mrs Tubbesing**

The fifth graders have been very busy this school year. They have been reviewing and learning many new skills in reading, language, writing, and spelling with the new reading series *Reading Street*. Some of the activities are very challenging for them, but the format of the series is engaging and interactive. The students are enjoying the reading stories as many of them are about real people and places that the fifth graders can relate to and understand. The writing pushes them to use their higher-order thinking skills. Then they must utilize the writing process to explain what they know and have learned in that week's activities.

In Saxon math, the fifth grade students continue to review previous skills learned as they are introduced to new concepts. Currently, they are working with geometry, fractions, and percents. They have learned about angles, polygons, scales, and comparing and converting fractions to percents. The fifth graders in the near future will learn how to classify triangles, measure angles, work with mixed numbers, and add and subtract fractions.

The NESa science standards are introducing the fifth graders to a broad number of science concepts. So far this school year, they have learned about life science. The students planted pea and bean seeds to learn about where a plant gets its mass, and to study how the root system of a plant works. They have dis-

sected flowers, and done several activities to help them understand the scientific method. At the present, the fifth grade students are studying Earth science. This includes moon phases, the water cycle, cloud formations, and much more!

Mrs. Linsey Meints, our student teacher, has been with us since the beginning of the school year. She will continue to be in our classroom until the middle of December. Currently, Mrs. Meints is teaching all subject areas. Mrs. Tubbesing will begin teaching some of the subjects starting the first part of November. Mrs. Meints is doing a wonderful job, and we will miss her when her student teaching is complete.

### **Fourth Grade News—Mrs. Naber**

The second quarter of fourth grade is off to a great start. We are busy covering many new topics in all of our subjects.

We are learning many new concepts with our Saxon Math. We are working on multiplication facts, square roots, perfect squares, and adding and subtracting three and four digit numbers. Please help us practice our multiplication facts at home.

We are just beginning Unit 2 in our new reading series, *Reading Street*. We are enjoying the variety of stories we are reading as we practice the skills needed to become excellent readers. In each selection we learn many new "Amazing Words" that help bring the stories to life.

Our language this year is part of our *Reading Street Series*. We have studied many different kinds of sentences. In Unit 2, we will study nouns: common nouns, proper nouns, plural nouns, and possessive nouns. So many kinds of nouns!

We are working on our cursive handwriting. Switching to cursive has been quite a challenge! As we practice our handwriting continues to improve.

## **First Grade - Robyn Faris**

What a beautiful Autumn! We studied about the changes that fall brings: cooler weather, shorter days, wind, and falling leaves. From our playground we are watching the trees to see the changing colors. We used watercolor paints to make our own fall leaves. They turned out beautiful. We had them in our hallway, but have taken them to Belle Terrace to share with the residents. Each month we are invited to Belle Terrace to participate in activities. It is a great time to share a smile, a laugh, a handshake, and a kind word with our elders.

October was fire safety month. We learned many fire safety tips to share with our families. On Friday, October 7th, Gary Peters visited the elementary school and gave an assembly about fire prevention. He stressed the importance of fire safety in our homes and in our school. He explained how many fires start from playing with matches and lighters, leaving candles burning, having too many plugs in the outlets, and also how fires start in the kitchen. Then on Monday, October 10th, we walked to the fire station and were able to see the different trucks, tools, and safety gear that firefighters need to respond to a fire. We also received fire safety materials purchased by local businesses and families. We used these materials in class to have even more discussions about ways to prevent fires and what to do in case there is a fire at home or school. We are very thankful to have our volunteer firefighters who take time out of their busy schedules to visit our school and give us a tour of the fire station.

During a regular school day, we have a busy schedule ourselves. We have a new reading series called Reading Street. We have many new books to read, workbooks that help us practice reading and writing skills, and we use our new Promethean board to watch informational videos about the concepts we are learning. Reading Street also has many teacher resources that we can put on the board to help teach a specific skill. We also have some favorite websites that have educational games that we can play that help us learn other skills we are working on in class. These sites are: [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org), [primarygames.com](http://primarygames.com), [scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com), and [storylineonline.com](http://storylineonline.com). We really like taking turns clicking on answers or moving objects around. It's fun and we are learning!

Our math lessons are in two parts. Each morning we start the day with the morning meeting. Here we discuss the calendar, count the number of days in school, read numbers from our hundreds chart, identify and graph the weather, tell time, and so much more. Later in the day we have another lesson that may include any of the following skills: counting, writing numbers, adding, subtracting, finding ordinal numbers, identifying shapes, graphing information, finding more, most, least, fewest, and sorting by attributes. We have started using math flashcards and will be taking them home from time to time to have our parents help us memorize them.

We just started spelling words. The students will be taking a spelling list home each week to practice. The words come from many of the stories we've been reading. Practice, Practice, Practice! We have been writing words, sentences, poems, and information about the topics we've been studying in social science class. We've learned about our country's flag and other symbols. We've learned about the life cycle of an apple tree and about a man by the name of Johnny Appleseed. The changing leaves was a favorite topic and is still on our minds. We've found the life cycle of a butterfly is fascinating! And of course, Halloween is always a favorite event in First Grade!

As you can see, we are very busy in First Grade. If you ever have a chance to visit, walk through our hallways and see our beautiful work. We've moved our classroom upstairs this year, so you'll have to march your way up a couple flights of stairs to find us. It's worth the walk - we have a terrific group of First Grade friends.

Mrs. Faris has a first grade website that you can read for updates on classroom activities. Go to [jccentral.org](http://jccentral.org), then to the staff link, and finally to teacher websites. Click on Robyn Faris.

### **Horizon II—Mr. Genuchi**

The students have been floating around the last few weeks learning about satellites in outer space. They have learned about astronomy satellites, weather satellites, and search and rescue satellites. The students have also been busy talking about the human body, circulatory system. They have enjoyed doing some extra exercise such as running, jumping jacks, push-ups, and jumping up and down to take their heart rate. Another exciting feature of the human body the students enjoyed was the digestive system. We took a tour of our digestive system starting in our mouth and ending in the small intestine.

### **Preschool - Cheryl Grove**

We have been enjoying the beautiful autumn temperatures and colors. October was a great time to learn and practice fire prevention safety. Our leaf hunting walk turned up many

beautiful leaves that worked great for our squirrels and our imaginations. Halloween was the big highlight with costumes and fun. November will remind us of how thankful we should be to live in this wonderful country. Thank you, Veterans, for the sacrifices you've made for us! Let us never forget that our freedom comes at a very high cost.

Our learning has centered around the letters and their sounds: m,t,a,s,p, and c. We will be learning about the following letters and enjoying great stories and activities: i,b,n,d,and k.

Parents, don't forget to help your child find a show and share item for the letter of the week on Thursdays. We really like to see what everyone brings to share and talk about. Thank you for attending Parent -Teacher Conferences. The education of your child is important at all ages and being informed is a strong part of it. Remember your child learns through play and discovery. Opening new learning paths will guide in the right direction. Happy Holidays!

### **YEARBOOK SALES**

It's that time of year again to purchase your 2012 yearbook! Between now and December 22, 2011, you can purchase your annual for \$40 at the high school or Cook site office. Be sure to buy yours now, as few extra copies are ordered.

Also, the yearbook staff needs a wallet-sized vertical color picture of all seniors by January 31, 2012. We will use the school pictures for any senior pictures that we do not receive.

Finally, the staff will be selling ads to businesses in the next couple of weeks. Although we try to contact all businesses within the district area, we do miss some occasionally. If you are a business owner and would like to purchase an ad for our yearbook, please contact Ms. Baumfalk at (402) 335-3328.

**November \*\* Important Dates to Remember!!**

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**November 11: 1:00 Dismissal**

**November 23: 1:00 Dismissal**

**November 24: No School**



**November 25: No School**



Calendar Events November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30 AM Johnson Co Coalition Mtg @ Sterling 4:00 PM V VB SubDistricts	2 4:00 PM V FB State Playoffs-2nd Round	3 6:00 PM Music Booster Mtg - HS Music Rm	4 12:00 AM ACT Registration Deadline 12:00 AM V VB @ District Championship	5 12:00 AM V VB @ State Championships
6 1:00 PM District Am Legion Oratorical Contest 6:00 PM PTO Meeting - Cook Site	7	8 12:00 AM V FB @ State FB Playoffs-Quarterfinals	9 8:30 AM PLAN Test for 10th Grade	10 12:00 AM V VB @ State Championships 6:00 PM Education Quest Financial Aid Program	11 12:00 AM 3D Fruit Sales Begin 12:00 AM V VB @ State Championships 1:00 PM 1:00 Dismissal - Teacher Inservice	12 12:00 AM V VB @ State Championships
13	14 6:30 PM Pie Night / 6-12 Vocal Concert	15 12:00 AM V FB @ State FB Playoffs-Semifinals	16 12:00 AM NMEA & All State Music 9:00 AM ECNC One Act Play @ The Loft	17 6:30 PM Johnson County Coalition Banquet	18	19 2:00 PM PTO Open Gym at Cook Site
20	21 12:00 AM Watkins Products Sales Begin 7:00 PM One Act Play Production Public Performance	22 12:00 AM V FB @ Football C-2 Finals	23 1:00 PM 1:00 Dismissal	24 12:00 AM No School	25 12:00 AM No School	26
27	28 8:00 AM One Act Play Production Districts 9:00 AM County Government Day 7:00 PM Post Prom Parent Mtg - HS Cafeteria	29 4:30 PM JH BB @ Syracuse	30 2:30 PM DAARE Graduation			

# Johnson County Central School Lunch Menu for November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Chicken Strips French Fries Veggie/Fruit Bread & Butter Milk	2 Br Pork Patty / bun French Fries Veggies Fruit Milk	3 Pizza Corn Mandarin Oranges Brownie Milk	4 Salisbury Steak Cheesy Potatoes Fruit Garlic Bread Milk	5
6	7 Cheeseburger /bun Tri Tater Veggie Fruit Milk	8 Chicken Patty / bun Chips Veggies Fruit Milk	9 Toasty Dogs French Fries Veggies Fruit Milk	10 Sloppy Nachos Starz Hashbrowns Cinnamon Roll Pudding Roll	11 – <b>VETERANS DAY</b> Creamed Chicken Mashed Potatoes Peas/Corn Fruit  <b>Cake &amp; milk</b>	12
13	14 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Fruit Bread * Butter Milk	15 Spaghetti /Alfredo Lettuce Fruit Breadstick Milk	16 Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potato Fruit / Dessert Dinner Rol Milk	17 Riblet /bun Macaroni & Cheese Veggies Fruit Milk	18 Chili or Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers / Cheese Fruit / Cinn Roll Milk	19
20	21 Corn Dogs Baked Beans Waffle Fries Fruit Milk	22 Chef's Choice	23 Chicken Nuggets French Fries Roll Fruit Milk	24- NO SCHOOL 	25 - NO SCHOOL	26
27	28 Fiestada Lettuce Cookie Fruit Milk	29 Biscuits /Gravy Sausage Link Fruit Coffee Cake Milk	30 Meatball Sub Corn Chips Veggie Fruit Milk			

# Johnson County Central Public Schools

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402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook  
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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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