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SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



Included in this newsletter is a survey which is being conducted by our district's School Profile Committee. The survey will be used as part of our school improvement process. Input is needed from as many patrons and parents/guardians as possible. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to the school. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The Board of Education and I have spent much time discussing facility needs facing the district. I was able to outline several potential projects that could be addressed at sometime. The projects that have been discussed include the following:

- The roof on the old gym at the Cook site needs to be replaced.
- Tuckpointing needs to be done on the elementary building at the Tecumseh site. Tuckpointing (or repointing as it is sometimes called) involves replacing existing mortar between bricks. The existing mortar in the elementary building is not in very good shape.
- Replace the existing heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) systems in the elementary and high school buildings at the Tecumseh site. The boiler system is fairly old and will need to be replaced eventually.

- Tie rooms in the original building to the new HVAC system at the Cook site.
- Replace controls for the HVAC systems.

Replace most lighting fixtures in all three main buildings.

Many angles must be taken into consideration as we discuss facility projects. To help consider some of these angles the Board's Building and Grounds Committee and I met with representatives from six firms to get more information on possible solutions to our facility issues. The Board and I purposefully did not seek bids or firm projections. What was simply discussed were "what ifs". Some of the firms did provide projections of what a potential project could cost. If the Board were to decide on a project that included most or all of the projects listed above it is safe to say that a total cost would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2 million or above.

After receiving input from these firms we received a lesson on financing projects from a representative from Ameritas. Ameritas is the fiscal agent who handled the financing of the bond issue for the construction project that was completed by Nemaha Valley Schools in the late 90's. In all scenarios that included significantly larger projects the Board would be look at financing projects through various types of bonds. The Board has the legal authority to use this type of financing up to a certain amount without approval of the voters and would raise the tax levy above the \$1.05 levy limit.

After much consideration the Board has decided to take the following actions:

- Complete the roof project in Cook as soon as possible. Financing for this project, which is estimated to be around \$85,000, will be handled through the Special Building Fund. The Board and I have generated funds for such projects within the \$1.05 levy limit as required by law.
 - Start on the tuckpointing of the elementary building in Tecumseh this year. The project may be spread out over the next 2-4 years, with the neediest sides of the building being addressed first. Again, funding for this project would be generated through the Special Building Fund.
- On the rest of the projects we will slow down and consider other options. Hopefully options may be available that will allow us to "pay as we go". That is, we would like to generate funds, if possible, without going the route of borrowing large sums through bonds. The feeling I got from the Board is that in the current economic times they could not see asking for more via taxes.

Mr. Moles, Superintendent Continued

I believe the Board provided empathetic leadership in taking this stand—although they had the legal authority they recognized that asking for more at this time was not something they could do. They need to be commended for this approach. This is not to say, however, that we will never go down that path as we do all recognize that we have facility needs that will eventually need to be addressed.

VETERANS DAY OBSERVATIONS

The district will host Veterans Day programs at both sites on Thursday, November 11 at 10:45 a.m. We will have musical presentations from students, as well as a guest speaker at both sites. The guest speakers this year are both long time educators familiar to our district. They both served in the U.S. Army earlier in their lives. Julie Tubbesing, 5th grade teacher in Cook, will be the featured speaker at the Cook site. Tom Rother, once the Superintendent of Schools for Tecumseh Public Schools, will be the guest speaker at the Tecumseh site. The program is 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 Bev Wiebke or Laurie Badertscher at 335-3320. If you plan on eating at the Cook site please contact either Julie Damme or Mary Teten at 864-4181. I look forward to a great turnout for this very special observance.



PRINCIPALS NEWS

Rick Lester, High School Principal

Two very important items I would like to discuss in my news article this month are ITBS testing and Dating Violence. ITBS testing will be given to high school students in our district, except for the current seniors, on October 20 and 21. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the results of this testing. The district uses these results to determine our curriculum and build on our student's strengths and helps them grow and improve in their areas of weakness. I will meet with each class this week and stress the importance of these tests and the value of good preparation. I would encourage every parent to help make sure their student gets plenty of sleep prior to testing and a good healthy breakfast is essential to promote alertness and concentration for the duration of these mornings of testing. It is also very essential that every student be in school these two days, so please make sure not to schedule any unnecessary appointments outside of school on October 20 and 21. Results of these tests will be sent home. I would like to emphasize that there is no pass or fail on these ITBS tests, the results are only used as a guideline to show your student's academic strengths and weaknesses and should be used to help your student prepare for future class scheduling and studying. What I mean by this, is if your student is strong in math or science they may be suited for a career in this type of field. If their weak in english or reading maybe they should take more classes or study a little more in these areas. If either you or your student's have any question over this testing or their results, please feel free to contact me or the high school counselor, Mrs. Moles.

The next subject I want to talk about is "Dating Violence". The Nebraska Legislature passed a law this year requiring schools to create and implement a plan to educate and help prevent dating violence. Dating violence can happen in many ways. It can occur to boys as well as girls and can be manifest in other ways besides the atypical physical violence. Verbal and sexual violence are also considered areas of dating violence. At JCC we do not feel we have a problem with dating violence but we have educated our faculty and staff and will be educating our students in an upcoming assembly. The Board of Education has already approved our policy and it is stated in the student handbook. We at JCC have a zero tolerance policy for dating violence. We have reading materials available to the students thru the counselor and all staff have been educated about dating violence and how to deal with it. In an upcoming assembly on Wednesday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m., Project Response will be providing a presentation on "Teen Dating Violence Awareness, Prevention and Response". All middle/high school students will be attending this assembly and I would welcome any parents interested in attending to do so. This is a very serious situation and we feel it is important to educate our students about dating violence. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Rich Bacon, Middle School & Elementary Principal

With the long stretch of unseasonably warm weather we've had lately it's easy to forget that winter is right around the corner. With cold weather approaching, 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 hat, 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 14th 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 27th or 28th. 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. 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. Is your child making adequate progress? Are they working to their ability? 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. Successful students pay attention in class and ask questions when they don't understand. Successful students use their class time wisely. Successful students take homework home and actually study without listening to their MP3 players or having some other distraction in the room. Usually, there are no quick fixes to solving academic shortcomings, but students who approach their school work with clear cut goals and objectives in mind, generally see improvement in their schoolwork.

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 – 1, including a victory for our 7th grade. The volleyball teams also had a successful season. The A-team finished with a 4-3 record, the B-team finished with a 4-3 record and the C-team finished undefeated with a 7-3 record. Congratulations to the boys and girls who competed for the Thunderbirds this year and Football Coaches Faris and Giesbrecht, and Volleyball Coaches Borchert and Mahoney.

Rich Bacon, Middle School & Elementary Principal continued

On Monday, October 25th, approximately 150 middle school students from all conference schools came to Johnson County Central for the ECNC Honor Choir. 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 Isaac Buss, Ben Doeden, Austin Gloe, Justin Kuhns, Lacey Badertscher, Kaycee Bartels, Rebecca Bernadt, Marissa Green, Erika Hunzeker, Shawna Othmer, Alyssa Strubel, Lindsay Weber.

Jon Rother, Elementary Principal

During the month of October, Johnson County Central's Tecumseh site had Fire Safety Awareness. On October 1st, Mr. Gary Peters visited the school. He met with the Kindergarten through 2nd grade and then with the 3rd and 4th grades to teach them about fire safety and prevention. Then, in the afternoon, the Tecumseh Volunteer Fire Department came to school and gave the students rides on the fire trucks. This is always a fun and memorable day for our students to learn about fire safety and to connect with other adults within the community.

The week of October 4th through the 8th was Homecoming Week at JCC. Elementary students participated in the "dress-up" days. Homecoming is an opportunity for the elementary students to be a part of what is going on in the high school. This builds a sense of unity and community within our school. The week ended with great weather and an all-school parade to the Tecumseh square for pep rally. The Cook site elementary came down to Tecumseh for the day to interact with Tecumseh site elementary students doing activities, crafts and enjoying each other's company.

Also, on October 8, the Kids on the Block sponsored by the Nebraska Elks Association visited the school to teach the students about autism and relationships. This is done through the use of puppets. The puppeteers act out a scene and then ask the students questions about what they saw and what they learned. This is a much appreciated service provided by the Elks at no cost to our school.

October 14th was Hats on Day at Johnson County Central Schools. In conjunction with the Foundation for Children with Cancer (FCC), JCC students and staff were asked to donate one dollar in exchange for wearing their hats on this Friday. The day was a success! Many donated more than one dollar and some donated and elected not to wear a hat. In all, JCC raised over \$400 for FCC! Thanks to all those that participated and donated!

The JCC Title I Parent's Night was held on October 21st preceding the home football game. There were a total of 66 pumpkins handed out and all the hot dogs and cookies got eaten. It was a fun time and we enjoyed the great turnout by parents and students alike. The Title I program is a great resource for our students as it provides one-on-one attention to our students' academic needs. Essentially, this is a free tutoring service provided to our students and their families. Through the Title program, we hope to create strong bonds between the school and home to ensure student success. Thanks to all who contributed and helped!

Our students took the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) during the week of October 18th. These assessments measure our students' academic skills up to the point they are at in their academic career. The test also measures our students in comparison with all other students who take the ITBS across the nation at the same time. This is an important assessment of our students as it gives us a snap-shot of where they are academically. This assessment can inform us, parents and students of areas of strength and weakness in a student's academic domains.

Student involvement in community and a variety of activities only adds to the wealth of knowledge a student can receive at school. It is these experiences that become embedded in a child's mind and motivate them on through school towards their future goals. It is our hope that we can continue to educate our students in the academic areas and also provide for them positive and rich experiences that will mold them into future leaders and contributing members of a larger community.

Johnson County Central Elementary would like to thank the following businesses for providing Fire Safety and Prevention materials:

**Casey's - Chief Drug - Community Insurance Group, Inc.
D.A. Wolken & Sons - Ebeler Insurance - Farmers Bank of Cook - Galen Gartner Electric
Melinda M. Olinger-State Farm Insurance - St. Andrews Catholic Church
Tecumseh Federal Bank - Tecumseh Insurance Center
The Housing Authority - Westside Auto Supply - Wherry Mortuary**

Thank You!

Tecumseh School's Foundation
for the donation of a playground
bench!

The former SIG group
for the donation of a
playground bench and
playground water
fountain!

Mr. Richard, Logan
Driskell, Ricky Reyes,
Brandon Borrenpohl,
Seth Parrish for their
hard work installing
the playground
benches.

The Tecumseh
Volunteer Fire
Department for fire
truck rides and hosting
the JCC Tecumseh site
1st graders at the fire
hall!

Dan Blessing for the installation
of a much appreciated
playground water fountain!

Gary Peters for
visiting school and
teaching the students
about fire safety and
prevention!

COUNSELORS NEWS

Shelley Moles, Counselor

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

Financial Aid Night at Johnson County Central High School on Thursday, November 11, 2010:

A representative from EducationQuest will share information about financial aid on Thursday, November 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the high school building of Johnson County Central Public School in Tecumseh. Seniors 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. Juniors and their parents are also welcome and encouraged to attend.

Parents and students may also visit the EducationQuest website at 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 Thursday, December 8, 2010 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.

Sophomores and Parents

The PLAN Assessment is scheduled for sophomore students on Thursday morning, November 18. This test is a great way for 10th grade students to get ready to take the ACT test in their junior or senior year because it covers the same content areas – English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning – and has the same types of questions. PLAN also gives students an estimated ACT score, an interest inventory that may help students focus on career goals and a way to begin the college selection process.

Sophomore Summer Leadership Opportunities - Applications due November 22:

Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Seminar: June 2010. Specific date and site information not currently available. 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.

Nebraska Youth Leadership Seminar: June 2010. Specific date and site information not currently available. The Nebraska Youth Leadership seminar 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 representatives to attend.

Nomination applications for both of these leadership seminars will be given to all sophomore students. Students who are interested need to return their application to Mrs. Moles by November 22, 2010!

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

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 Career 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, EducationQuest, Future Force NE and others to coordinate resources and services through efficient and effective online access for all Nebraskans.

Shelley Moles, Counselor cont...

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 !

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. That website also contains more detailed information about NCAA participation and registration.

"Vocal Music Pie Night Concert"

The Pie Night Concert will be held on Monday, November 15th 7:00 pm @ the Tecumseh site. Middle School & High School choirs will be performing. All 6 - 12 chorus students whose last name begins with L through Z will need to bring a pie to Tecumseh that evening. It will be served during intermission for a free will donation toward Music Booster's Organization.

JCC Physical Education, Coach Chris Hutt

We have had a flexible PE Home to start off our 2010-11 school year. We did not have access to a gym in the first five weeks of school. This experience was trying at times with various weather conditions, but we all had fun and the students had great attitudes. We were able to adapt and accomplish our goals for each class. In the 6th week we were on the new gym floor in the High School for classes. In the 7th week the elementary gym became available once the pre-school got their room back. So, our patience has been rewarded and all is well.

Grades K and 1 have been enjoying the new track facility for some weekly exercise. They also have worked on various footwork skills on the outdoor hopscotch area. There are three hopscotch patterns and so we do laps using various movement patterns. They have also worked on kicking skills and learned the game of line soccer. We have introduced the jump rope and practiced that. We have played many games and learned that movement and exercise can be fun. Indoors the students have enjoyed the roller racers in the elem. hallways and now the gym, which develop their upper body and coordination. We have been working on coordination skills using various kinds of balls.

Grades 2 thru 4 have learned a new team nerf ball game that is very exciting. They have discovered techniques and strategies and developed teamwork and following rules in this game. We have also played nerf baseball and kick soccer baseball and line soccer. They have also been involved with hopscotch footwork and workouts on the track. Indoors we have worked on ball skills and coordination. Grades 3 and 4 have enjoyed playing Newcome, which is a catch volleyball game.

Grade 9 PE has completed a bowling unit. We spent 2 days working on scoring and preparing to go bowling. There are two sections of this class, each meeting on alternate days opposite of health class. Each class went to the Harvest Bowl 5 times to bowl. Scores and individual averages were kept and the students showed much improvement from day one to the end. They had a scoring quiz to wrap up this unit. This was a good activity at this time with the hot weather and lack of a gym facility. A big thanks to Ron and Shirley Lade and the Harvest Bowl Staff for hosting our class. This was also made possible by the parent's monetary support and our bus driver, Mr. Eichenberger. He gave up much of his prep period to take us out and pick us up from the Harvest Bowl.

The JCC Advanced PE Class finished a five-week tennis unit. We appreciate the Tecumseh City Utilities Crew for putting the additional tennis net back up for our class. They have also replaced the lighting system at the tennis court, which will be very efficient and nice. There are a dozen seniors in this class. We took notes for the unit for 2 days and then proceeded to play. We spent time working on serving and learning the rules and the court as we played. We then had many fun double elimination tournaments including singles and doubles. We played more doubles so that 8 could play at a time on two courts, with one group waiting to play on each court. At the end of this unit, the students took a 2-page tennis vocabulary test and a 5-page tennis test. They were very successful with learning and retaining their tennis knowledge.

2010-2011 JCC FBLA, Angie Huskey

Our 2010-2011 JCC-FBLA Officers are:

Our 2010-11 Officers are:

President: Kassie Guenther

Vice President: Brittany Wolken

Secretary: Michelle Vongphakady

Treasurer: Christine Wellensiek

Historian: Ellen Mannschreck



Fundraising & Community Service:

Forty two eager students make up our FBLA chapter this year. Each of our members have been busy with Homecoming activities and a Club's Choice (food) fundraiser. In addition to the fundraiser, members will be serving our community by "trick-or-treating for the food pantry" again this year. This is a much anticipated fall community service project where our members dress up for Halloween and go "trick-or-treating" around town for non-perishable food items to be donated to our local food pantries.

Conventions & Competitions

The officers attended the Fall Leadership Conference, held in Omaha, in September. This leadership conference is a one day event where officers were motivated for the year ahead. Many speakers and activity sessions made this a fun-filled, fast-paced, high-energy day.

Our members will take part in the Beatrice and Peru Business contests in February. These competitions test our members and get them ready for the much-anticipated State Leadership Conference & Competition, which will be held at the beginning of April.

Spanish, Marsha 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. 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.

Spanish II

Spanish II just completed their first video project. Students worked in small groups to create a video to demonstrate the uses of the verbs Ser, Estar, and Tener. Students were expected to create examples of the verbs and then construct a video using iMovie, Power Point, and possibly Flash programs on the Mac laptops that are new to the high school this year. The video is a great opportunity for students to incorporate their Spanish knowledge with technology.

Spanish III and Spanish IV

These two classes created short vocabulary videos using Flip video cameras. 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.

Elementary Spanish

Fridays are special in the Spanish room because the high school students go to the elementary to teach Spanish. Grades k-4 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.

Sixth Grade Math and Science, Alta Bohling

Looking For Clues

The sixth grades did a lot of clue research when studying plants this quarter. They looked for clues to identify parts of the flowers, seeds, roots, and stems by dissecting each. The students had to be tree sleuths when identifying trees. Students used the Arbor Day tree identification booklets to identify trees using clues from the leaves, seeds, and bark.

They learned the processes of photosynthesis, respiration, and transpiration. Seeds have been planted to learn about different tropisms caused by light, water, and gravity. The sixth graders feel they have learned a lot about plants.

A new addition to the classroom is a small aquarium with some different varieties of fish. Of course, all the fish have names given to them by the students.

The sixth graders say they all enjoy learning about science.

In math, the sixth graders continue to increase their math skills using Saxon Math. Factors, prime and composite numbers, percents and fractions are latest subjects covered.

Third Grade, Robin Heidemann

Third Grade is into the news. Every morning we read local, national, and world news. We are gaining valuable information about our world, vocabulary, informative writing, and map skills. The news is a great way for us to begin recognizing a world bigger than ourselves.

Autumn is a season of change. We are learning to write informative paragraphs about the changes we are noticing. It is fun to watch our earth change. Cursive writing is right around the corner. As third graders we eagerly anticipate the day when we can read and write cursive. Our cursive pencil will soon be put to the paper.

October is full of fun activities. Homecoming was a treat for us. We enjoyed preparing for the parade and spending the day with our friends from the Cook site. Our school spirit was evident each day as we dressed for the theme of the day.

Our volunteer firefighters sacrificed some time to share with us the importance of fire prevention and safety. We appreciate their willingness to serve our community. We also want to thank the businesses that helped provide the educational material we received from the firefighters.

Third Grade is an exciting year. We learn many new skills and want to thank our parents for their encouragement and support

Middle School Art , Joni Fox

This year middle school art students are on a ¼ rotation. First rotation has ended.

Due to the brief time the art curriculum has changed. 6th grade students will focus on utilizing the 6 elements of design to create a variety of patterns.

The six elements of design are: line, shape, color, value, texture, space.

Line directions; vertical, horizontal, diagonal, line qualities; curly, zigzag, straight, curved, wiggly, colored, light – dark, and line sizes; thick, thin, long, short, thick-thin, were used to create 4"x4" marker tile designs. The students implement a checkered-board pattern using two definite line patterns, 4 one-color tiles, 4 two-color tiles, and 4 four-color tiles. The twelve 4" tiles were employed to create the traditional American quilt design, Water Wheel.

Students used geometric **shapes** and followed a pattern to piece together their own quilts.

The second unit introduced the images of the 1960's Op Art movement. The nonrepresentational designs created during this time focused on using distorted perspective with geometric shapes and optical **color** blending to create optical illusions. Artwork examples by Op artists Victor Vasarely and Bridget Riley were viewed. Students made simple compass design flowers. **Texture** rubbing plates were used to enhance the designs and color was used to demonstrate symmetrical balance.



Students used compass drawn concentric circles of alternating primary colors to demonstrate optical color blending.

The final project focus was on color-wheel **color theory** and traditional color plans. Students divided their composition into 4 quarters by folding paper, 5 circles and 5 lines were drawn in the composition to further divide the **space**. Each quarter panel was assigned a specific color plan and media. Monochromatic color plan focused on creating five **values** of one hue with tempera paint. Tinting, *adding white to a color to lighten the value*, and Shading, *adding black to a hue to darken the value*, was used to achieve the value variation. Watercolor paints were used for the two-color complementary color plan. Markers were used for the triadic color plan. Crayons were used for the four-color, analogous, color plan.

A student art gallery of projects will be available on the school web page.

Level 3, Reid Genuchi

Has had a busy 1st quarter. The students have worked very hard learning their cardinal directions and the 7 main continents of the world. Right now the students are busy learning about the Original 13 Colonies and the American Revolution. The students have been eager learning about where all the people came from, around the world, to make the United States. In the coming weeks we will be comparing what life was like back in the 1700's compared to 2010.

Third Grade, Susan Dieckgrafe

Each morning the Third Graders take this pledge: I Pledge to do my work to the best of my ability. I will be a good listener. I will do what is right and be the best I can be! Third Graders try to do their best inside and outside the classroom. They are challenging themselves to always do what is right. With the arrival of Autumn they are excited about all the activities that come with the change of the season. Many of these young men were involved in football. They can be proud of themselves for the effort they put into the sport and at being the best they could be. They use the same team spirit when helping each other prepare for vocabulary and spelling tests; and when working on other projects together. They have to cooperate with each other, be good listeners and work hard. Throughout October they have worked together to learn systems of the body. They enjoyed listening to their own heart beat through a stethoscope and experimenting with a balloon to show how the lungs work. Come into our classroom and have a good read. These boys have written some pretty scary Halloween stories to share with their peers, parents, and friends. All of us in the third grade at Cook want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!



First Grade, Mrs. Faris



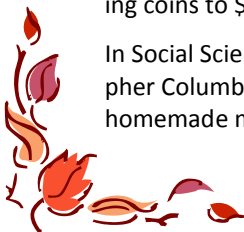
It's the Season for Giving Thanks! We would like to thank the Tecumseh Firefighters for the tour of the fire station and the ride on the fire truck. We also thank the area businesses for providing us with fire safety materials. Also thank you to Belle Terrace, our local care facility, for allowing us to visit three or four times a year to share songs and treats with the residents. And finally, we thank all of our families for helping us with our homework and providing us with all of the school supplies we need each day.

We have a terrific writing activity that we complete for the Thanksgiving holiday. Each of us constructs a turkey out of construction paper. Then we take our turkeys home and have our families help us disguise them. Once we bring them back to school, we write paragraphs about how our disguises will keep our turkeys safe from the Thanksgiving tables. In the years past, we've had turkeys disguised as hunters, ballerinas, leaf piles, Christmas packages, Husker fans, snowmen, flamingos, corn stalks, and more. We have great ideas and write about how these disguises were made or bought, who we are hiding from, and give other choices for Thanksgiving dinner without a turkey. We have so much fun with this project.

We have been reading a variety of books and taking them home to share with our families. We've discussed authors and illustrators, front and back covers, tables of contents, title pages, text, and illustrations. We are finding elements of characters, setting, problems, plots, and solutions in narrative stories. We are also finding topics and facts in informative writing. We've even noticed that some writing is a combination of narrative elements and informative elements.

We have been practicing many phonograms. These are the sounds in the English language. We learned some of these sounds last year in school, but this year we'll learn even more. As we practice the phonograms, we also practice writing neatly. Our neat handwriting is important because we write so many words and sentences in first grade. We use our spelling words in sentences and also write about the concepts we are studying in social science class. Right now, we copy sentences from the board so we learn about nouns, verbs, adjectives, capitalization, punctuation, spacing, and complete sentences. As the year progresses we'll be writing more on our own.

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 the hundreds chart, identify and graph the weather, tell time, count money, count in patterns, and so much more. Then later in the day we have another lesson which may include any of the following skills: counting, writing numbers, adding, identifying ordinal numbers, shapes, greater than and less than, graphing, sorting by attributes, measuring, and the list goes on. As the year goes on, we will be practicing subtraction, number and shape patterns, counting coins to \$1.00, and telling time to the hour and half hour.



In Social Sciences we have studied about our flag, metamorphosis, our five senses, apples, autumn, Christopher Columbus, fire safety, and Halloween. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving and our own feast with homemade muffins and cornbread.

Calendar Events November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8:00 AM Picture Retakes				ACT Registration Deadline SAT Registration Deadline 8:00 AM English IV & Drama to Lied Center	SAT Test Day Junior Class - Dodgeball Tournament
7	8 12:00 AM Football Boys Varsity at FB Playoffs- Quarterfinals - TIME T.B.A. 12:30 PM ECNC Honor Choir @ Yutan 7:00 PM T-Bird Booster Meeting	9	10	11 7:00 PM Education Quest - Financial Aid	12	13 12:00 AM Football Boys Varsity at FB Playoffs- Semifinals - TIME T.B.A. 12:00 AM Volleyball Girls Varsity at State VB Tournament - TIME T.B.A.
14	15 7:00 PM Vocal Music Pie Night	16	17 8:30 AM ECNC One Act Competition - The Loft 8:30 AM American Business Contest	18 NMEA Convention & All State 8:20 AM PLAN Testing - So	19 NMEA Convention & All State All Day NO SCHOOL - Teacher In Service	20 NMEA Convention & All State
21	22	23	24 12:15 PM KG Grandparent Thanksgiving Program - Cook Site 1:00 PM EARLY DISMISSAL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27
28	29	30 4:30 PM Basketball Boys Junior High Johnson County Central vs Syracuse				

As part of the school improvement process and AdvancED accreditation, Johnson County Central Public Schools is asking for your help. JCC wants to know what you think! Please complete the following Patron Survey and return to Shelley Moles, Data Committee member. Results will be used to complete an important part of the Johnson County Central School Profile Report. Thank you in advance for your help! (If you have previously filled out this survey at parent/teacher conferences, thank you, you do not have to complete again.)

**Johnson County Central Public Schools
Patron Survey**

- Patron without children enrolled in Johnson County Central Public Schools.
- Patron/parent with children enrolled in Johnson County Central Public Schools.
(Please indicate "age" of children - mark all that apply.)

_____ Birth to Preschool	_____ Grade K-2	_____ Grade 9-12
_____ Preschool	_____ Grade 3-5	_____ Graduated
	_____ Grade 6-8	

Directions: Please read each question carefully. Mark an X in the appropriate blank.

1. Please mark the rating you would give Johnson County Central in each of the following areas:

3 = Excellent 2 = Satisfactory 1 = Needs Improvement N/A = Does Not Apply

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. School ensures students are able to read effectively. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| b. School ensures students are able to write effectively. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| c. School ensures students are able to do math effectively. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| d. School ensures students are able to listen and speak effectively. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| e. School makes students want to continue learning after graduation. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| f. School is preparing students to succeed in the world of work. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| g. School is preparing students to succeed in college. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| h. School offers a safe and drug-free environment. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| i. School encourages a global perspective and appreciates diversity. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| j. School integrates technology throughout the curriculum. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| k. School prepares students to positively contribute to the community. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| l. School does an effective job communicating with patrons. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |
| m. School administrators provide effective leadership. | ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___ N/A |

2. Which means of communicating are most effective for you? Please check all that apply.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Newsletter | _____ School website | _____ Power School |
| _____ Weekly Bulletin | _____ Alert-Now | _____ E-mail |
| _____ Mail | _____ Phone calls | _____ Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| _____ Newspaper | | |

Thanks, please continue on other side →

3. Rate the educational programs at Johnson County Central. If you choose dissatisfied, please comment as to why you chose that response.

3 = Satisfied 2 = Neutral 1 = Dissatisfied N/A = Does Not Apply

a. Classroom teaching	3	2	1	N/A
b. Classroom grading practices	3	2	1	N/A
c. Number/types of tests	3	2	1	N/A
d. Rules/regulations regarding students	3	2	1	N/A
e. Additional Facilities (library, science labs, computers)	3	2	1	N/A
f. Help for students with special learning needs	3	2	1	N/A
g. Programs for talented and gifted students	3	2	1	N/A
h. Science classes	3	2	1	N/A
i. Math classes	3	2	1	N/A
j. Language arts / Reading classes	3	2	1	N/A
k. Social Studies classes	3	2	1	N/A
l. PE /Health classes	3	2	1	N/A
m. Foreign Language classes	3	2	1	N/A
n. Music classes	3	2	1	N/A
o. Computer classes	3	2	1	N/A
p. Industrial Arts classes	3	2	1	N/A
q. Art classes	3	2	1	N/A
r. Business classes	3	2	1	N/A
s. Agriculture classes	3	2	1	N/A
t. Online/Distance Learning classes	3	2	1	N/A
u. Guidance program	3	2	1	N/A
v. Educational College/Career Planning	3	2	1	N/A
w. Variety of subjects offered in the high school	3	2	1	N/A

Comments:

Thank you for your responses!

**Please return by November 15 to: Johnson County Central Public Schools,
Attn: Mrs. Shelley Moles, 358 N. 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450**



JCC Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 Corn Dog Baked Beans Waffle Fries Fruit Milk AC Corn Dog	2 Br. Beef Patty/Bun Tri Tater Jell-O /Fruit Brownie Milk Ac Br. Beef Patty	3 BBQ Meat- balls/Bun Mash. Potato Casse- role Veggie Milk Fruit AC Meatball Sub	4 Sausage Gravy Pizza Peaches Applesauce Muffin TEC. Milk Egg Omelet Apple- sauce Hash Browns Muffin Milk COOK	5 Ham & Scal. Pota- toes Veggie Fruit B&B Milk AC Ham & Potatoes	6	
7	8 Sloppy Joes/Bun Chips Veggie Fruit Milk AC Sloppy Joe	9 Chicken Nuggets Curly Fries Apple Bread Stick Tec + Cake Jell-O Milk AC Nuggets Mrs. Heidemann' s 3 rd grade Class	10 Spaghetti /Alfredo Sauce Lettuce Fruit Dinner roll Milk AC Spaghetti	11 Veterans Day Creamed Turkey / Biscuit Peas Fruit Cookie Milk AC Creamed Chicken	12 Cheese Sticks Carrots / Celery Fruit Dessert Milk AC Cheese Sticks	13	
14	15 Br. Pork Patty/ Bun Straz Hash Browns Fruit Cookie Milk AC Br. Pork Patty	16 Cheeseburger French Fries Veggie Fruit Milk AC Cheeseburger	17 Turkey Mash Potatoes/Gravy Corn Dessert Milk AC Turkey	18 Sausage Pizza Lettuce Fruit Garlic Bread Milk AC Pizza	19 NO SCHOOL	20	
21	22 Br. Chicken Patt/ Bun Fruit Mac & Cheese Green Beans Milk Ac Chicken Patty/Bun	23 Hot Ham & Cheese Tri Tater Fruit Cookie Milk AC Ham & Cheese	24 Sloppy Nacho's Smiley Fries Carrots & Celery Mandarin Oranges Cinn. Rolls Tec. Milk Mrs. Crotty's 3 rd grade Class	25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	26 NO SCHOOL	27	
28	29 Feistada Veggie Fruit B&B Milk AC Fiestada	30 Toasty Dog Cheesy Potatoes Fruit Cookie Milk AC Toasty Dog	November 2010				

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
Tecumseh, NE 68450

PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

Phone: 402 335-3320 Superintendent @ Tecumseh
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

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

NO SCHOOL! Friday, Nov. 19th
(Previously scheduled as 1:00 Dismissal)

(Thanksgiving Break)

1:00 PM Dismissal Wed., Nov. 24th

NO SCHOOL! Thurs., Nov. 25th

NO SCHOOL! Fri, Nov. 26th

