

Jack D. Moles
Superintendent
402-335-3330

Rick Lester
High School Principal
402-335-3328

Rich Bacon
Athletic Director
Middle School Principal
402-864-4171

Jon Rother
Elementary Principal
402-335-3320



SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



A grandparent recently visited with me about the school lunch/breakfast program. This person had evidently seen some postings on social media about one of our school lunches and referred to some issues that were brought up. The biggest issue appeared to be the lunch that day: two baked cheese sticks and a cookie. This was for high school and reference about this not being enough for active high school students was made. It sounds like some blamed the kitchen staff, with at least one other person blaming Michelle Obama. I'm fine with the First Lady taking the "blame" for things, but like many issues there is a "rest of the story". I'd like to address some of the "rest of the story" here.

First of all, we ARE bound by federal government guidelines. A move was made four years ago to change how school lunch programs operate. The premise of these moves was the perceived notion that the U.S. has a rising problem with childhood obesity. Michelle Obama was a champion of the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act", but it is not within her powers to create the program requirements. That power falls to Congress, which did pass the act. The general goals of the act were to:

- Ensure students are offered both fruits and vegetables every day of the week
- Substantially increase offerings of whole grain-rich foods
- Offer only fat-free or low-fat milk varieties
- Limit calories based on the age of children being served to ensure proper portion size
- Increase the focus on reducing the amounts of saturated fat, trans-fats, and sodium



The act also for the first time provided for nutrition standards beyond the lunch program, as guidelines for school vending machines were also instituted.

The year the law was passed I was one of three Nebraska Superintendents who were in Washington DC as part of the American Association of School Administrator's Governing Board. During our time there we visited with our U.S. Senators and one of the topics we spoke on was the idea that more active students, especially in high school, needed more calories to meet their needs. We knew that many students who are more active will likely be supplementing what they received at lunch with other foods, many of them not as healthy as was desired.

The easy thing would be to say that a school did not like the new guidelines and choose not to follow them. The problem with that, of course, comes back to money. Our school lunch/breakfast program is around a \$300,000 program. Almost two-thirds of the funding for the program comes from federal government subsidies. We are also able to provide food on a lower cost basis via the federal commodity program. Thus, we are dependent on the federal government for the school lunch/breakfast program.

As a result of the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act" guidelines, the kitchen staff was required to make changes in our offerings. The changes have not been popular with all. I remember Head Cook Jo Gadeken and I having conversations about the changes. They were not necessarily what she would have chosen, but in my opinion she and her staff have done a great job of dealing with the changes. We are audited annually by the Nebraska Department of Education and our program has received very positive reviews over the years.

The changes have not been universally celebrated. For example, some people, and I confess I am included in this group, would prefer white bread over whole grain bread or traditional spaghetti to whole grain spaghetti. However, research does show that the new alternatives to what was previously served are healthier.

Now, back to the meal in question. Remember the two baked cheese sticks and cookie? That is, in fact, what students received on their tray from the cooks that day. I ate school lunch that day as well and that is what I received on my tray. However, there was much more available to students that day. For example, students are free to take what they want from the salad/fruit/vegetable bar, with the only condition that they eat what they take. I remember that day that there were at least four types of fresh fruit available (pears, apples, bananas, and plums). There were also packaged peaches and "out of the can" pears available. There was also a lettuce salad bar with several types of condiments and toppings that could be put on the salad, including tomatoes, beans, onions, spinach, cheese and at least two kinds of dressing. Also that day the kitchen staff put out creamed chicken from the previous day that students could put on bread that was also available. This is not to mention the choice of three flavors of milk (white, chocolate, strawberry) that are available. The cooks do put out a few things for staff each day in the kitchen. Included that day was a rice pudding they make that I enjoy, so I did take that. Otherwise, I had exactly what students had available to them. I remember being stuffed after lunch that day.

Students in middle school also have access to a salad/fruit/vegetable bar. Elementary students have access to a variety of fresh fruits each day.

I am a self-professed expert on eating (not on food or cooking, on eating). I almost always eat school lunch on the days I am not gone for a meeting. I know I have never walked away from lunch less than satisfied. Since being asked about the program I have started conducting visual surveys of what students eat. The more active students that eat school lunch tend to take greater advantage of the salad/fruit/vegetable bar.

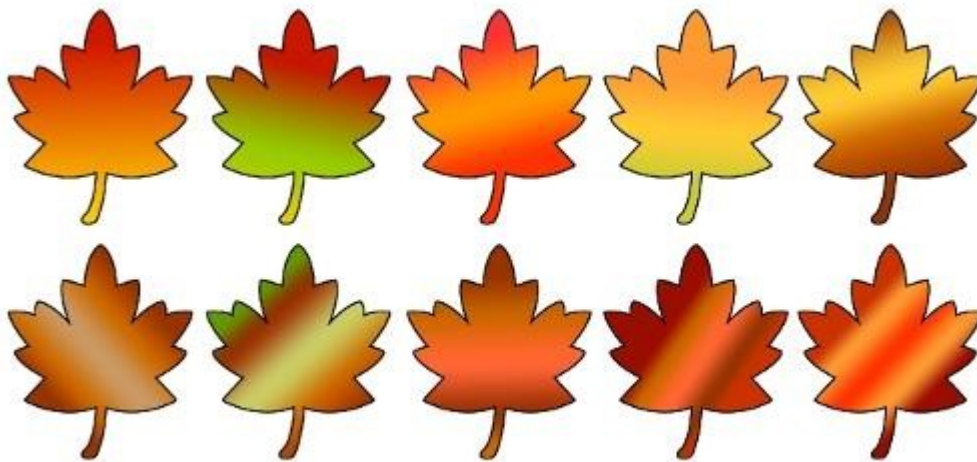
This was a good exercise for me in providing information on questions about how we do things in the school. I am open to providing similar reports in the future. If you have a topic you would like explained please feel free to contact me. I will not necessarily take on every topic that comes up, especially if the question is about specific people.



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Our district has approved and adopted the Marzano instructional model for teachers. The intent is to assist our school in developing and implementing a common language of instruction based on the Marzano model of instruction. We have ten teachers and administrators going through this training by attending two-day workshops. Our goal is to have all staff members go through the Marzano Academy training in the next three years. At the beginning of the school year all staff members received two books that will be used in their Marzano training – this will give all staff members a jump start in their training and help to understand – What is the Marzano instructional model? For the 2016-2017 school year during our teacher workdays we will have meetings and discussions on these two books: 1st semester “The Art and Science of Teaching” and 2nd semester “Becoming a Reflective Teacher”.

We are excited as a district to implement this instructional model in our classrooms. The most important issue with this model is the ability for our students to have the opportunity to become academically successful.



Don't forget!
Parent teacher conferences are going to be held
At both sites:
October 27th & 28th
Thursday, October 27th from 4:00-8:00 pm
Friday, October 28th from 8:00 am-Noon
There will be no school, on Friday, October 28th

News from Middle School Principal Rich Bacon

Seventh and Eighth graders from Johnson County Central attended the Discover Engineering Days at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln on Monday, September 19th. Our students attended workshops highlighting various fields of engineering. Students learned how to make electrical circuits, how to build structures using pipe cleaners, learned about the physics involved in the building of roller coasters and how coding for computer programs works. The day was filled with hands-on activities that applied math, science and creative-thinking skills.

During the month of 2nd week of school all students were administered the Measures of Academic Progress or MAP test. These are computerized adaptive tests that provide teachers information that can be used to improve teaching and learning. Results from these tests provide achievement and growth data that will allow our teachers to develop targeted instructional strategies to improve student learning. Students took two tests a day in the subject areas of Reading, Language Usage, Math, and Science. Information from these assessments can be used to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses for each individual student and also provide our staff with information on where our curriculum may need some improvement.

The first quarter ends on Friday, October 21st, and Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held after school on Thursday, October 27th from 4:00 – 8:00 and Friday, October 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There are still a few weeks left in the quarter for students to work on their grades. Hopefully parents won't wait until conferences to find out how their child has done. I encourage all parents talk to their children about their study habits and academic progress, check out their sons/daughters grades on Power School before the end of the quarter, and encourage your child to finish the quarter strong.

Middle school athletics is in full swing as we are in the heart of the fall sports season. We have 11 boys playing football, 32 girls playing volleyball and 3 boys and 1 girl running cross country during the fall season. These student-athletes are working hard to improve their fundamentals and come together as a team, and are committing a great deal of time and effort to participate. Our coaches do a great job of instilling the lesson of "team" and helping develop and enhance a good work ethic which allows our student-athletes to improve. Once mastered, these lessons will serve our students well for the rest of their life. There are still a few opportunities to watch our teams play at home. Come out and support the Thunderbirds!

The Middle School Band marched at the Richardson County Parade in Humboldt and performed at the Homecoming football game v. Southern on September 16th. The band did an outstanding job during both of these performances. Their performance and behavior is something that the entire Johnson County Central community can take great pride in. Congratulations and a big thank you to the band and Mrs. Fricke. Job Well Done!

Elementary News



J O N R O T H E R
 E M A I L : J O N . R O T H E R @ J C C E N T R A L . O R G
 T W I T T E R : @ J O N R O T H E R



Our Very Different Children

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Fri. October 7—Fire Safety & Prevention Day. Fire truck rides @ 1:00 PM.
- Fri. October 14—NO SCHOOL! Teacher work day.
- Fri. October 21—End 1st Quarter.
- Thurs. October 27—Parent/Teacher Conf. 4-8 PM.
- Fri. October 28—NO SCHOOL! Parent/Teacher Conf. 8 AM-12 PM.

I'm just going to go ahead and say something we all know, "All our children are very different." Just like some children spend a lot of time reading, and have been brought up in environments full of books and reading, and so become very good readers; so too have some children been brought up in very athletic, sports minded environments, nurturing them to be very athletic. Also, there are those that have done well musically. Why? Same thing. The environment they were brought up in and nurtured in was musically focused. Some students are very familiar with, and good at, sitting and identifying pop culture. Some, video games. This is what gives our children strengths in various areas. It is where the majority of the time, and sometimes money, is invested.

It is no different with behavior and rules. Some children grow up in environments that are very strict, where rules and following the rules is of utmost importance. Whereas, other students are raised in a more relaxed environment. Neither way is wrong, however in both, the communication and practice of desired behaviors is critical to the child's overall social and behavioral success outside the home.

Here's what a lot (or most) children do have in common: they all have a want/need to feel wanted and accepted. And, because all our children are very different, they levels to which they need this affirmation will vary. Based on how they are raised, they will value different things and thus, want this appraisal to come from different areas. Some will value the athletic praise more. Some will value the social praise more. Some will value the artistic praise more. Some will value all of it. It is all dependent on the individual.

Here's the question: Is it beneficial or detrimental to praise, reward or recognize exemplary performance in any of these areas? Is it okay for one student to be awarded and not another? Is it bad to celebrate the strengths of our children? Should other students feel bad because someone else received recognition and they did not?

Within any of these arenas, there will be those that do well, those that do very well and those that have more difficulty. Because someone is not as good at a task or skill as another, does not make them any less valuable, important or needed. When students are met with a disappointment, I don't believe the right thing to do is to take away what is hard for them or to change the rules. We can teach them about what it takes to achieve a goal, and that if the goal is that important, that we may need to invest a little more (sometimes a lot more) to meet that goal. This is where pride comes from: investment. This is something we, as parents, will need to continually support our children with as they are met with these situations. We can also teach our children how to be happy for others who are successful and how to celebrate with them.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are not only a time to get your child's report card and find out how they are doing academically, but they are also a great opportunity to learn from another adult how your child interacts socially outside the home. What is being taught in the various curriculum at school can be out of a parent's control. However, how our children behave and how they are taught to behave, can be totally

within our grasp. At conferences, we can get an understanding of our student's work ethic and diligence. We can get an idea of how they do when they face adversity. How do they handle social interactions with the other students, as well as the adults at school? These then are areas for great discussion with our children. Sometimes, we may learn things about our children we don't want to hear.

But, if we go in with open minds and a listening ear, we can help our children achieve immense growth.



NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Ms. Olivia Puffer

EducationQuest Apply 2 College Day and Financial Aid Presentation

On Wednesday, October 5th, all seniors who have not yet applied to a college or university will have the opportunity to get help with this process during the school day in the counselor's office from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Students who apply to college that day or who can show proof that they have already applied to or been accepted at a college or university will receive a free college t-shirt. At 2:30 PM, that same day, a representative from EducationQuest will visit our school to talk to all seniors and parents of seniors (who are able to attend) about the process of applying for financial aid and filling out the FAFSA. After the presentation, assistance will be provided to students and parents in creating FSA IDs. It is required that both the student and one parent have an FSA ID before filling out the FAFSA. This year, for the first time, students may begin filling out the FAFSA on October 1st. Students entering college in the fall of 2017, will use 2015 tax information to fill out the FAFSA, which their parents should already have. This is new, I really encourage parents to attend our financial aid presentation with their senior if they are at all able to.

EducationQuest Financial Aid Program Scholarship

Seniors who attend the financial aid program on October 5th will be eligible to register for a \$500 scholarship from the EducationQuest foundation. After attending the financial aid program, students can register for this scholarship by visiting eqf.org/FAPscholarship

Creating An FSA ID

All students who fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) need to have an FSA ID. Also, one of their parents must have one as well. After a student and one of his or her parents have created an FSA ID, make sure to write these IDs down or save them somewhere where you can easily access them when it is time to fill out the FAFSA. Creating an FSA ID is not difficult and can be done online. To create an ID, students and parents should go to <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

PSAT Test- October 19th

Sophomores or Juniors may sign up to take the PSAT test on Wednesday, October 19th here at Johnson County Central. The test costs \$15 and takes approximately three hours to complete. There are many benefits to taking the PSAT test. These benefits include: 1) Receiving feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for being successful in college. 2) Seeing how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college. 3) Becoming more prepared for college entrance exams such as the ACT and the SAT. 4) Being entered into the competition for National Merit Scholarships. Students who want to sign up should talk to Miss Puffer by Friday, October 15th.

Scholarship Quest Nebraska Scholarship Search

High school juniors and seniors are encouraged to use the Scholarship Quest scholarship search tool provided by Education Quest. After a student puts in their basic information and answer a variety of questions, Scholarship Quest searches through over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships to see which ones the student qualifies for. To access this tool to help find money for college, visit <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/scholarshipquest/>

Nebraska State College System Month

The month of October is Nebraska State College System (NSCS) Month. To help celebrate this special month, students who visit Chadron, Peru or Wayne State Colleges and take a campus tour during NSCS Month in October will be eligible for bookstore gift certificates. Three students, one at each college, will receive \$500 bookstore gift certificates.

Campus tours can be scheduled through the Admissions Offices via phone or web at:

--Chadron State: 1-800-242-3766 or www.csc.edu/admissions

--Peru State: 1-800-742-4412 or www.peru.edu/admissions

--Wayne State: 1-866-WSC-CATS or www.wsc.edu/admission

The Nebraska State College System Advantage

The Nebraska State College System Advantage offers a way for the Nebraska State College System to serve students, area communities and the state of Nebraska. The NSCS Advantage guarantees that first-time freshmen students who receive federal Pell Grants will pay no tuition at Chadron, Peru, or Wayne State College. The award is renewable from year to year. To receive the NSCS Advantage, a student must be:

- A resident of Nebraska
- A federal Pell Grant recipient
- Enrolled in at least 12 on-campus credit hours

The award is limited to a maximum of 16 credit hours per semester. Additional limitations are in place for the award of any remissions for online courses taken in addition to the 12 on-campus credit hours.

College Bound Nebraska

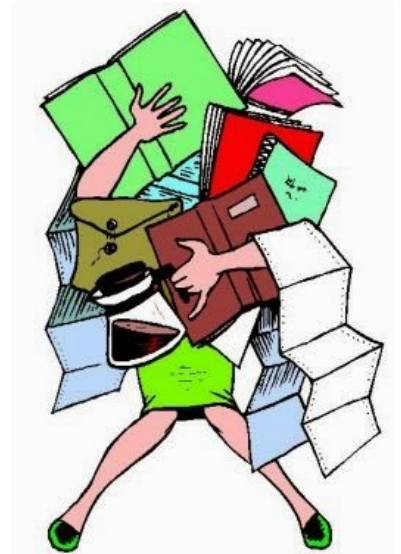
College Bound Nebraska is a program where Nebraska residents who attend either the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, the University of Nebraska- Omaha, or the University of Nebraska- Kearney attend tuition-free if they begin college the fall after their senior year, are enrolled in at least twelve credit hours each semester as an undergraduate student, receive a Pell Grant, and maintain a 2.5 grade point average.

There is no separate application to apply for this program. Students who are eligible are identified automatically after they fill out the FAFSA application. To learn more about this program, visit <http://collegeboundnebraska.com/>



+++++

There is no school on Friday, October 14.
It is a teacher workday.



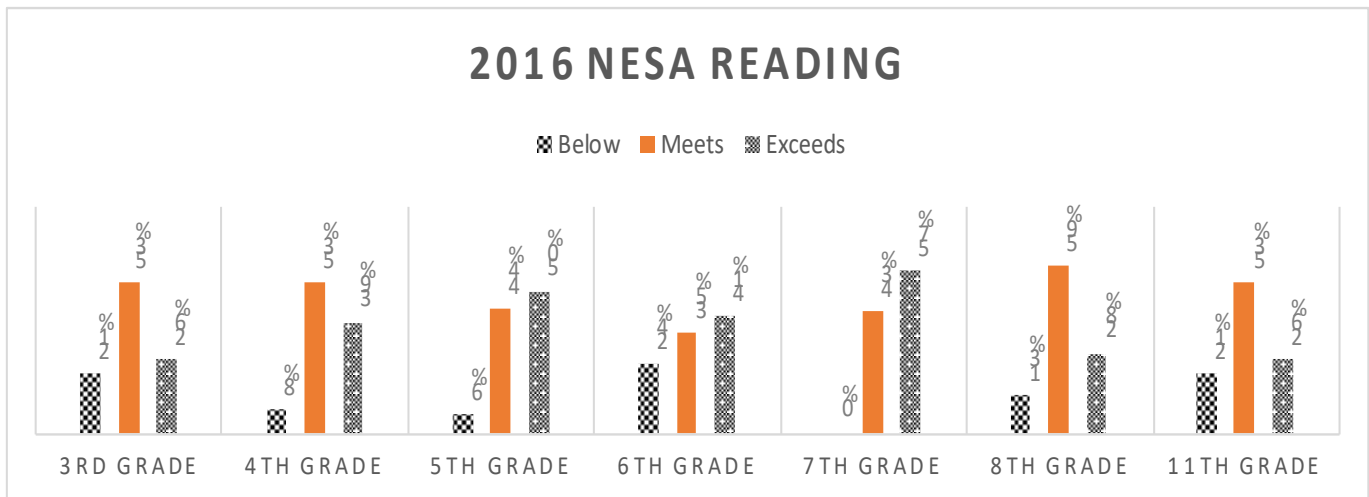
Johnson County Central NeSA Results

Submitted by Mr. Rother, Mrs. Bacon, and Ms. Puffer

The 2015-2016 NeSA results were released to the public on September 19, 2016. NeSA assessments are state-developed tests in the subjects of reading, mathematics, science, and writing. The tests measure selected Nebraska state standards and student learning on those standards.

Mathematics and reading standards are tested in grades 3-8, and 11, science in grades 5, 8, and 11 and writing in grades 4, 8 and 11. All JCC students in the selected grades were tested.

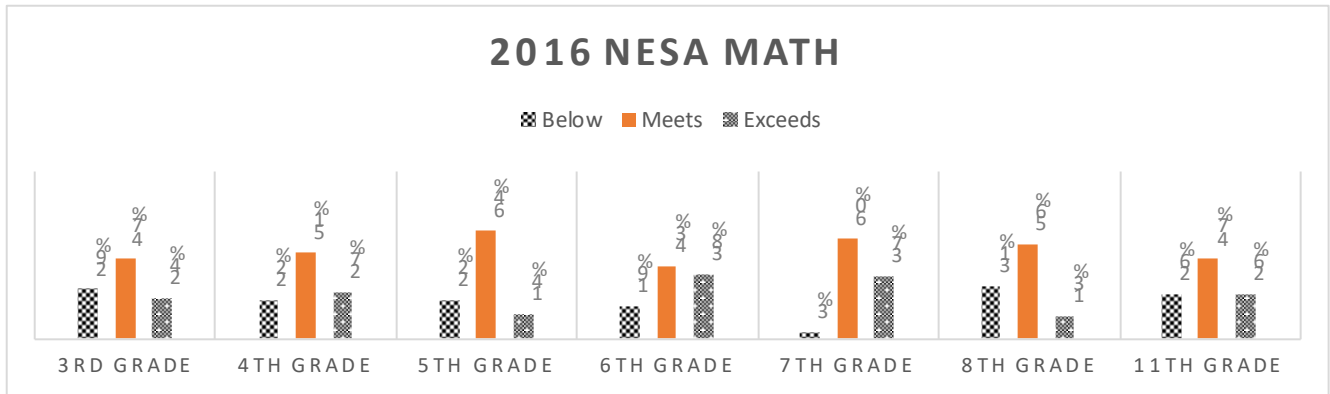
The NeSA assessment results have been a useful tool for our district to determine individual needs of students and have helped to drive district curricular and academic decisions and course-offerings. The following charts show the percent of tests scored achieving “Below Standards”, “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations”. Scale scores for reading, math, and science ranged from 0-200. Students who received a scale score of 85 or higher are reported in the “Meets” or “Exceeds” category; students receiving 84 or lower are reported in the “Below Standards” category.



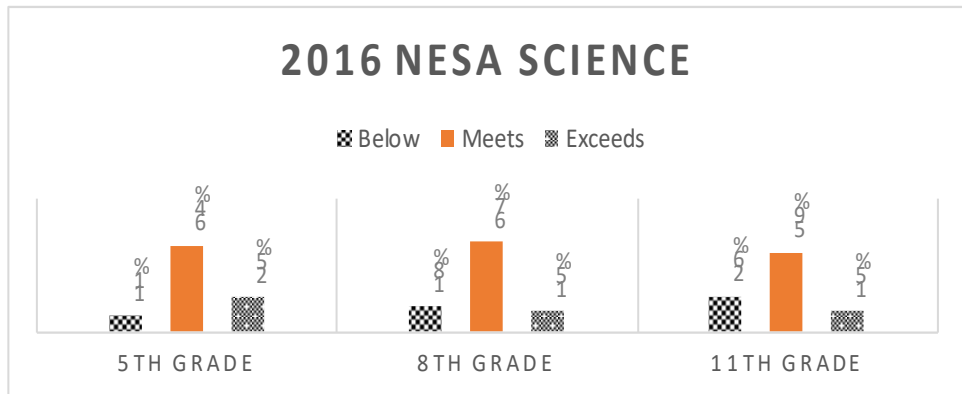
The NeSA individual and grades assessment results, along with data from other testing assessments, are used to help direct district wide decisions. The Johnson County Central district is making great strides to reinforce the language arts curriculum and increase opportunities for student learning. The elementary continues to use the reading series, “Reading Street” for preschool through 6th grade. Reading Street is a hands-on curriculum that incorporates technology and engaged teaching to help students learn. Promethean boards are used with daily instruction to enhance instruction using varied mediums. In addition, specialized reading teachers provide for small group instruction in grades K-8. These instructors work with small groups using varied instruction to help students read and comprehend the materials that fit each individual reading level. Grades K-5 continue to utilize Accelerated Reading (AR) which matches students with appropriate reading materials based on their reading abilities. JCC’s elementary will add Accelerated Math to the curriculum to support the math curriculum. A major area of concern for the elementary is in writing. JCC’s elementary staff will be revisiting the state writing standards, our teaching methods of writing and our writing curriculum.

The middle school and high school also made changes to help students improve reading and writing skills. The middle school continues to provide StaR (Study and Read) time. During this time, students are encouraged to read literature of their choice for 15 minutes. Many teachers had students keep reading logs to share thoughts and ideas from their books. In addition, the middle school’s Reading program for grades 6, 7, and 8 provides explicit reading instruction in addition to Language Arts classes. Mrs. Cheryl Grove will continue to provide reading instruction to students in grade 6. The reading curriculum will be utilizing the Accelerated Reading Program to provide reading opportunities for middle school students. The high school offers learning opportunities in language arts for students including Speech, Foreign Language, Journalism, and Applied Literary Concepts. The high school also incorporates reading time into the schedule with DEAR (Drop Everything And Read). The Applied Literacy Concepts class for high school students who are identified by MAP testing as having a need for additional reading instruction, continues to provide support for students. There is currently one full section of this course in the High School schedule. All teachers in grades K-12 have continued to develop a list of core vocabulary terms to improve reading comprehension through direct vocabulary instruction.

Improving reading comprehension has been a goal of Johnson County Central’s for the last four years. As a result of added measures towards improving reading instruction, JCC scored higher than the state average in grades 5, 7-8 and 11. In addition, JCC’s students were 87% proficient in reading, an increase in 1 percentage point from 2015 and 4 percentage points from 2014.

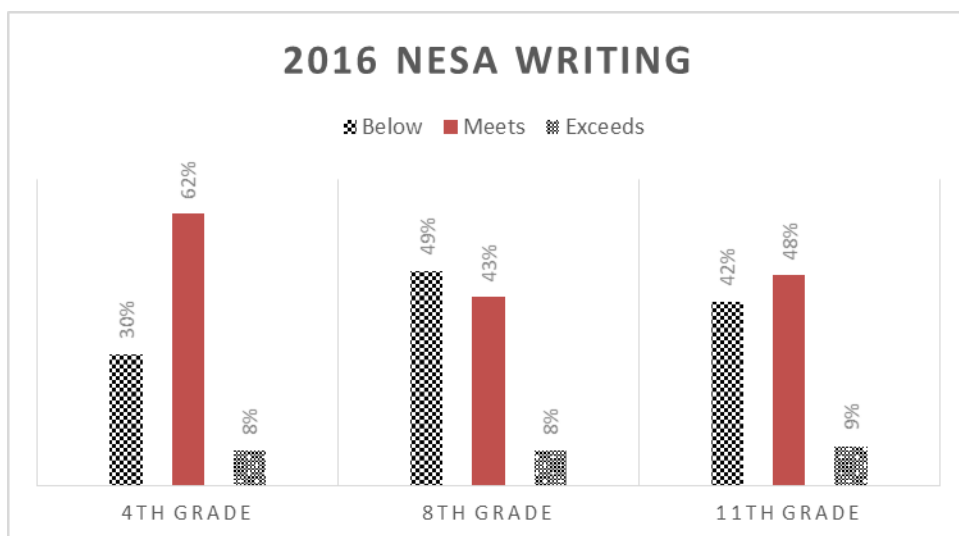


In Math, JCC’s students were 78% proficient in 2016 compared to 81% in 2015. In Science, JCC students were 82% proficient in 2016, up one percentage point from 2015.



Student writing in grades 4, 8 and 11 was evaluated using the analytic writing rubric introduced by the State Board of Education in 2012. JCC adopted the new analytical writing rubric for the 2011-2012 school year. Students in grades 8 and 11 completed the test online in a one-day testing period. Students in grade 4 completed the paper/pencil test in a two-day testing period. Student writing was scored in four areas: 1) ideas/content, 2) organization, 3) voice/word choice, and 4) sentence fluency/conventions. Writing scores of 70-55 were labeled as “Exceeds Standards,” 54-40 as “Met Standards,” and 39-0 as “Below Standards.”

The 4th, 8th and 11th grade NeSA Writing assessment results are depicted in the graph below.



JCC continues to make district wide decisions based on the needs of individual students. Although NeSA assessments are one tool used to identify student needs other important tools include: Reading Street benchmark and baseline assessments, MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments, Accelerated Reading, Accelerated Math, weekly classroom reading assessments in the elementary, classroom projects, tests, and learning activities. The JCC staff takes pride in the quality of education and opportunities available to students in our district.

Individual results for students who participated in the spring 2016 NeSA testing were mailed or sent home after September 23, 2016.



High School English by Wendi Buggi

English I has just finished reading our first book of the year, *The Outsiders*. As part of the unit, the students were required to design objects from the novel, i.e. representations of the characters' identities, relationships, important settings, or relics of the era, to be included in a Time Capsule Project. The students were encouraged to draw, make, or collect items to be presented to the class as a whole in an oral presentation explaining the items' significance. I was very impressed with the creativity and wide selection of the items the students presented! We will conclude the unit with a free write on what the students feel will happen next in the lives of the characters.

English II is getting to the heart of the novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. They have just concluded a small group project researching true criminal cases where a convicted criminal was found innocent and acquitted of all charges. This was to prepare them for the wrongful accusation that Tom Robinson faces in the novel.

Students interested in One-Act will meet on Friday, September 30 and tryouts will begin immediately. Our ECNC competition is set for Tuesday, November 15th at the Loft Theatre in Manley and our NSAA district competition is November 28th, in Columbus at Central Community College. The One-Act comedy they will be performing is "You're Driving Me Crazy", by Todd Wallinger. It consists of four short plays about eager potential drivers facing the challenge of meeting the expectations of the driving examiner. One driver brings along her entire family to cheer her on and another driver must take the road test with his ex-girlfriend. I'm truly excited to see our student actors shine in this play! Please come and cheer on the JCC drama team at the competitions! We would love to see you there!



OCTOBER 7, 2016
FAMILY FUN
NIGHT/TAILGATE
PARTY/PUMPKIN
DECORATING

******Must attend an informational Title 1 meeting in the high school cafeteria at 5:15 p.m. *******

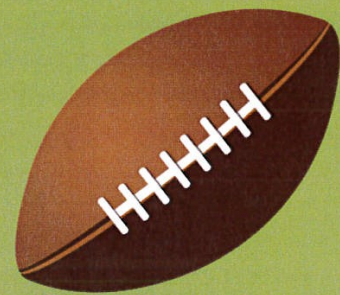
After the meeting everyone will receive a stamp on his/her hand allowing them to attend the fun at 5:30 p.m. on the JCC Tecumseh site playground.

**Free Admission to
JCC's Football
game!**

**Free Pumpkin to
decorate!**

**Free Hot Dog,
Chips and Pop!**

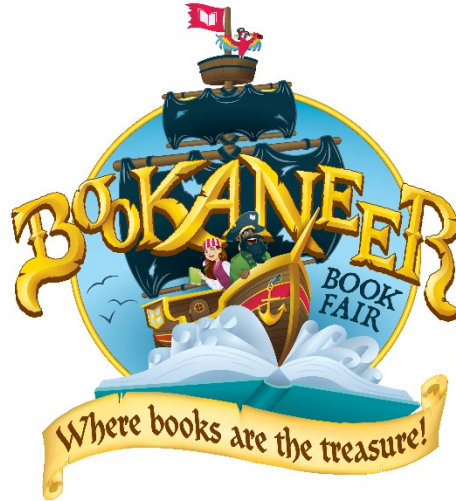
**Learn about the
Title 1 program at
JCC!**



**JOHNSON COUNTY
CENTRAL SCHOOLS**
High School Cafeteria

Friday, October 7, 2016

5:15p.m.



ARRRGH You Ready for the Johnson County Central Public Schools Scholastic Book Fair?

Johnson County Central Elementary and Middle School will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on October 24-28, 2016. Families, faculty, and the community are welcome to come be a bookaneer! Funds will help purchase books for the elementary and middle school libraries. It's sure to be an event that will help inspire children to become lifelong readers.

The Book Fairs will feature a special family event on Thursday, October 27 from 4-8 p.m. and on Friday, October 28 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Parents can bring their children to put their names in the free book drawing. Ten free books will be given to lucky winners at each school.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open Monday, October 24 through Wednesday, October 26 from 3:45-4:30 p.m. and throughout Parent/Teachers conferences on Thursday and Friday as stated above.

In Tecumseh the book fair will be located at the elementary library and in Cook the book fair will be located in the distance learning room, which is part of the middle school library.

The book fair always offers specially priced books and educational products, including popular series, award-winning titles, new releases, reference books and other fun reads.

We hope you can come to the Scholastic Book Fair, where books are the treasure!

On September 20th, 14 students attended the Nebraska Construction Career day at the Southeast **Community Campus at Milford**. The students had the opportunity to visit some of the departments with hands on activities for them. Students had opportunities in concrete, Masonry, commercial and residential construction, ag. and diesel equipment, welding, and others. This was a great opportunity for the students to see educational opportunities for their future.



Above: Michael and Tevin are listening to instruction for concrete, Levi is using the break on duct work, Collin and Rylee are practicing soldering and Juan is waiting his turn to fold the dust work.

By Delwinn Novell, Industrial Arts Teacher



What is the Student Assistance Team?

At Johnson County Central Schools we have a team in place to support teachers working with students that have academic or behavioral concerns. This team is called the Student Assistance Team or S.A.T. At the Tecumseh site, in the elementary building, the team consists of Mr. Jon Rother (Principal), Mrs. Kayleen Doeden (Reading Teacher), Mrs. Judi Borrenpohl (Title I Reading and Math), Mrs. Karla Benson (1st Grade Teacher/504 Leader), Michelle Borrenpohl (Kindergarten Teacher) and myself, Mrs. Robyn Faris (Team Leader).

This team meets monthly with each grade level teacher to discuss student concerns. The concerns are documented and the team discusses strategies that the teacher can implement to help the student. It is during these meetings that other school resources are discussed for the students such as Title I Reading and/or Math, Special Education services with Mrs. Rebecca Kling or Mrs. Ashley Juilfs, English Language Learners services with Mrs. Lisa Weber, or assistance from the guidance counselor, Mrs. Marsha Bacon.

Student success is our goal, and we work very hard to give students the tools they need to achieve to their ability. But even more importantly, we want to team up with you, the family, to make the best decisions for your children. Your child's teacher will inform you if he or she feels that the Student Assistance Team should meet to discuss ways to support your child.

Vocal Music Notes

Mr. Doran

What a great start to the new school year. Our students have been rehearsing hard for upcoming concerts and honor choirs. We have 43 total singers in this year's high school choir: 14 Sopranos, 10 Altos, 5 Tenors, & 14 Basses. They can be broken down into the following grade levels: 12 Seniors, 11 Juniors, 14 Sophomores, & 6 Freshmen.

The singers have elected their peers into leadership positions within the choir and this year's officers include: President – Sopha Kongmanyvong, Vice President – Simon Rother, Secretary – Marissa Borrenpohl, Treasurer – Hollie Gartner, and Reporter – Lexi Graham. Congratulations to our officer!

Students auditioning for the Nebraska All-State Honor Choir are Sopha Kongmanyvong, Aleisha McDonald, & Simon Rother. They have been working on the music since school started. If they make the auditions they travel to Lincoln during November 16-18 to participate with 450 other vocalists in one of the best honor choirs in the nation! Wish them good luck!

Our annual candle sales will take place October 17 – 28. Students needing a new Music Polo will be able to use proceeds from their candle sales to offset the cost of the polo. We will set the rest of the proceeds aside to help purchase new electric piano for the Cook site. This piano would be similar to the one we use at the Tecumseh site and gives Mr. Doran the capabilities to record all of the music being rehearsed in choir. It's like having a full time accompanist at your side. The features of this piano allow us to recording songs so students can take their music home to practice. Thank you to all who have contributed to our music students. We are an active music department and your assistance is greatly appreciated!

The annual JCC Vocal Music Pie Night will take place November 3 in Tecumseh. Middle school & high school vocal students will be performing their fall songs in the auditorium and then you get to eat pie in the cafeteria. Families of students with last names L-Z are asked to bring 1 pie to be served at the nights function.

ELL NEWS...

The goal of the English Language Learner Program is for all students in Kindergarten thru 12th grade to improve their skills in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking in English.

The High School students are busy learning about Puritan literature. We have been studying poems from this time period. Students have been working to identify persuasive techniques and the use of allusion. Soon students will have chance to read part of The Crucible. Middle School students have already been reading a variety of different stories. The focus of the middle school lessons have been on understanding the characteristics of narrative writing. We have also spent a lot of time working to increase our vocabulary. In the elementary, we will continue to use our Reading Street series during ELL time.

Finally, I would like to welcome our five Newcomers to the program. It is always exciting when we have new students, especially students who come from different countries and speak different languages. This is a great opportunity for all students to learn about life in other countries, learn empathy, and make some new friends.

-Mrs. Weber

Hello from Mrs. Benson's 1st grade class,

School is definitely in motion and 20 first graders are in learning mode.

We are all done with our fall MAP testing and are working to improve our scores to show growth for this spring.

We are learning that new sounds are called phonograms. These sounds help with reading words that are new and hard to figure out. Our class will be learning and practicing these new sounds all year. Our goal will be to improve vocabulary, fluency, and reading for meaning and enjoyment.

We are working on new vocabulary in math to help understand numbers, sequence, patterns, tools, coins, temperature, and ordinal numbers. We will start learning math facts and practicing these throughout the year.

In our class, Social Sciences help us learn more about our world. We know that we use five senses to understand our environment. We see, feel, hear, smell, and taste to learn in school and at home.

We will look forward to learning about our country's flag, fire prevention, autumn, and important people in history.

We will continue working on making good choices and following the Thunderbird Way to build our character in first grade. Our goal is to grow and develop in social skills, problem solving, decision making, independency, and self control.

Reading, math, and writing are so important in growing up that our class will do their best and continue to grow , develop, and learn all we can.

Thanks, Mrs. Benson's Class



7 Ways Parents Can Help with Reading

By Rebecca Kling
Elementary Resource Teacher

Reading is such a vital skill, every day we are required to read something. Just think about it, while driving, you must know how to read signs. If you are cooking a meal, you must know how to read a recipe or directions on packages. These are only two ways in which reading is used, there are many more examples. I often have parents ask what they can do to help their children learn how to read better. These are just a few ideas that I have found for promoting reading.

1. Let your child see you reading. This shows your children the importance of reading and that it is a lifelong skill. Have magazines, newspapers, and books in your home.
2. Read books to your child starting at birth. Reading to children helps to build their listening skills, vocabulary, and comprehension. Ask younger children, to point to items on the page and then increase this concept as they get older to asking questions about the book. They can also predict what will happen next or tell you the characters, setting of the story.
3. Set aside a time and place for your child to read- like a comfy chair and a reading light in a quiet place. Younger children can look at books in this area until they are able to read. If they have an older sibling in school, have them read out loud to their younger siblings.
4. Encourage your child to write-letters, thank you notes, emails, texts, lists, journals, etc. Writing also helps to build reading skills.
5. Children can draw pictures about what happens in the story that is read to them or that they read on their own. Have them draw their favorite character or part of the book.
6. Visit your public library often. Look for books together and show them some of your favorite books when you were a child. Attend special activities at your library such as summer reading programs, story time, etc.
7. Is there a movie version based on a book? Read the book together first, then watch the movie. Talk about which you like better.

JCC Title I (K-3) Mrs. Judi Borrenpohl

Happy fall from the Title I Reading and Math classroom (K-3)! Title I is a federally funded program. JCC is very fortunate because we have a program offered in Tecumseh for Kindergarten through Third Grade and programs offered for students that attend school at our Cook site, Fourth through Eighth Grade.

This is our second year of implementing Accelerated Math (A.M.) in elementary. A.M. is a math program that is individualized according to the student's needs. It is similar to Accelerated Reader, but instead of reading the students complete math equations and problems. The students are able to proceed at their own pace.

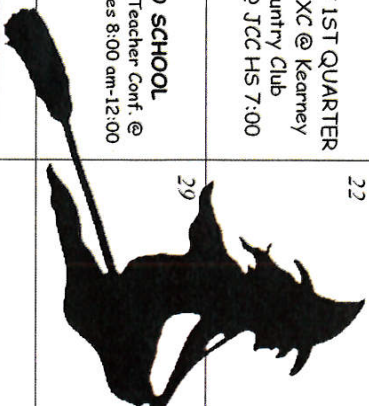

If you would like to find out more about our Title I program, please plan on attending the following:

JCC Title I is sponsoring a Family Fun Night/Tailgate Party on Friday, Oct. 7, 2016. It is open to all K-5th grade students and their families. Parents and students must attend an informational Title I meeting at 5:15 in the High School cafeteria. After the meeting, we will have pumpkins to decorate, free hot dogs, chips and pop, plus families will also get free admission to the football game! Come and enjoy the evening with us and learn about our Title I program at JCC!





October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 HS Band @ Harvest of Harmony Grand Island V VB @ JCC MS & HS 9:00 am
2	3 JH FB @ Palmyra HS 4:30 VB @ Madcolin 5, 6, 7:30 pm JV FB @ Conestoga 6:00 pm	4 Educ. Planning/College Fair @ SCC Beatrice V Golf @ Woodland Hills 9:00 am Striv Fall Conf. @ Mauerdeck XC @ Bronched Oak Lake JH VB @ Freeman HS 4:30 pm	5 Apply 2 College @ HS Comp Lab 8:30 am District Land Judging @ Nemaha County	6 K @ Roca Berry Farm XC @ Falls City 4:30 pm VB @ Auburn HS 5, 6, & 7:00 pm	7 Fire Safety Presentation Elem. Fire Truck Rides Title I Pumpkin Dec. 5:00 V FB @ JCC HS 7:00 pm	8 C Team VB @ JCC MS 9:00 am JH VB @ Pawnee City 9:00 am
9	10 V Golf Districts ECNC V VB 1st Grade Tour Fire Station 12:00 pm JH VB @ JCC HS 4:00 pm JHFB @ JCC HS 4:30 pm	11 District Golf ECNC V VB	12 Board of Education Meeting @ Tecumseh 7:30 pm	13 District XC ECNC V VB	14 NO SCHOOL Teacher Workday V FB @ Wilber-Clatonia 7:00 pm	15
16	17 JV FB @ JCC HS 6:00 pm C Team VB @ JCC HS 6:00 JV VB @ JCC HS 7:15	18 CAN Meeting @ HS Computer Lab 8:30 am Anatomy/Phys. To UNMC	19 PSAT Testing @ HS Computer Lab 8:15 am	20 C Team, JV, & V VB @ Conestoga HS 5, 6, & 7:30 pm	21 END OF 1ST QUARTER State XC @ Kearney Country Club V FB @ JCC HS 7:00	22
23	24 Scholastic Book Fair All week long C team & JV VB @ JCC HS 6:00 & 7:00 pm	25 V VB @ JCC HS 5:00 pm	26 Get Smart About Credit Presentation @ HS Cafeteria 1:30	27 Parent/Teacher Conferences @ Both Sites 4—8 pm	28 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conf. @ Both Sites 8:00 am-12:00	29 
30	31 Sub Districts V VB					

Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Chicken Nugget Calico beans Fruit & Veggie Bar	4 Pepperoni Crescents Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	5 PB Jelly T Elem Phillies Fruit & Veggie Bar Savory Rice Milk	6 Cheese Crunchy Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	7 Ch. Burger / WG Bun Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8
9	10 Stromboli Green beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11 Meat Loaf Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar WG Dinner Roll Milk	12 Turkey & Cheese Wrap Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	13 Chicken Tenders Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	14 NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORK DAY	15
16	17 Taco Salad Black Bean Salsa fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18 Hot dog WG Bun Pataoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	20 Pulled Pork WG Bun Mac & Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	21 Pizza Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	22
23	24 Chefs Chioce	25 Sloppy Joe WG Bun SP Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 BBQ Meatballs Mashed Potato Casserole Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	27 Chicken Patty WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Dessert Milk	28 Spaghetti / Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29
30	31 Happy Hal- loween!! Chicken Tetrzini Peas Bread Stick Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Important Reminders: Menu is subject to change				
"This Institution Is A Equal Opportunity Provider"						

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.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3
Cook, NE 68329
ECRWS
ECRWS

POSTAL PATRON

Non-Discrimination

It shall be the policy of Johnson County Central Public Schools to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for discrimination concerns. Inquiries concerning any of the above, or Title IX and Rehabilitation Act Regulations (504) should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68329; (402)335-3320.

Child find

Children that are birth to 5 years old who are experiencing problems with speech language, cognitive, emotional and/or physical development or have a disability can receive services through Early Childhood Education Services. If interested or in need of more information please contact Rebecca Kling, Special Education Coordinator or Jack Moles, Superintendent at 402-335-3320.