

Johnson County Central Public Schools

Monthly Newsletter



October 2017

Thunderbirds

VOLUME 11
ISSUE 3

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SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



BUDGET/TAX REQUEST

At the regular Board of Education meeting on Sept. 13, the Board approved the budget for the 2016-17 school year, as well as the Property Tax Request. The General Fund property tax levy request for the coming year was set at \$0.87907. This is a slight drop from last year's levy rate of \$0.887833. . A school district has a combined General Fund and Special Building Fund levy limit of \$1.05. Until last year the combined levy for these two funds had been set at close to \$1.05. Beginning with the 2014-15 budget year, as a result of increasing valuations, the Board and I saw an opportunity to drop the levy below the levy limit and have worked to keep those levies lower. Combining the General Fund and Special Building Fund combined levies have us at \$0.939676 for this year. The following table showing the recent history of our levies:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
GEN-ERAL FUND	1.005051	1.014443	1.013274	0.952736	0.862677	0.887833	0.879070
BOND FUND*	0.141023	0.130569	0.114993	0.098694	0.084629	0.084629	
BUILD-ING FUND	0.040404	0.035506	0.036634	0.030303	0.030303	0.030303	0.060606
JCC TOTAL LEVY**	1.045455	1.049949	1.049908	0.983039	0.89298	0.918136	0.939676
OLD NV TO-TAL LEVY**	1.186478	1.180518	1.164901	1.081733	0.977609	1.002765	0.939676

Some points to highlight in this table include:

- Notice under the 2017-18 "Bond Fund" column there is no number entered. The original Nemaha Valley Bond will be paid off in December. Funds to pay this off were generated via property taxes in the 16-17 budget. Thus, property owners in what was the Nemaha Valley district will see a reduction in their levies for the Bond Fund. The overall result in this can be seen in the bottom two cells under 2017-18.
- Notice that the Building Fund levy for the 2017-18 school year is higher than in previous years. Knowing the projects that we have coming up provides the reason for this move. We must begin on the first phase of the roof projects on the Cook building during the summer of 2018. Other issues we need to address include a restroom renovation project in the high school and a regularly scheduled resurface project on the track.
- In my opinion, the Board of Education has done a good job of ensuring we fund a good product while at the same time keeping taxes down as much as possible.
- For the most part, levies started to drop during this decade due to escalating land valuations, especially ag land valuations. These valuations are entering a phase where I think we will see stabilization, with many predicting lowering, of ag land valuations. With no other factors changing this would cause the Board of Education to consider raising future levies.

THE ROLE OF SPORTS TEAMS

During the second semester of last school year we had a lot of discussions about our athletic program. I have also had a lot of opportunities this fall to talk with various people about high school sports. I have talked with parents, students, my administrative team, and the Board of Education about our programs. I have had many opportunities to talk with administrators from other schools about the state of both our programs and programs state-wide.

In speaking with the groups I mentioned above I have heard numerous theories or “facts” as to why we were not more successful or for why more kids aren’t going out for sports. Some of these theories revolve around themes such as:

- Coaching, whether it be not knowing what they are doing, not caring, expecting either too much or too little, playing favorites, not making connections with kids
- Video games taking over kids’ interest.
- Parents not having higher expectations for their kids or not making them be involved.
- Lack of administrative support for our sports programs.
- Youth programs inducing kids to not like sports or to make choices earlier.
- Not enough community support for our programs.
The school district not having the right focus on what sports are all about.

Like I said, these are theories I have heard from others, not my own thoughts. Even though I do not agree with most of these theories, I do believe there is enough substance in each of them for individual students to use as rationalization as to why they do not participate.

Of the theories, one that caused me a lot of thought was the last one. Does the school district have the right focus on what sports are all about? What I perceived was being conveyed to me when I heard this was that we do not have a high enough emphasis on winning. I struggle with that because I do want us to win—I am justifiably very proud when our kids win. When I was coaching I definitely wanted to win, usually more so than the kids I coached. But, to me, there are more important things that I want out of school sports than winning. For example, it is much more important to me that our kids respect our opponents, respect the game, but more importantly respect ourselves. It is more important to me that our kids unite toward a common positive goal. It is more important to me that our kids learn to deal with adversity. It is more important to me that our kids learn that talent alone will not help them reach a goal, that hard work is just as, if not more, vital. It is important for me that kids learn that through hard work they can get better. It is more important to me that our kids become leaders and positive members of a team. It is more important for me that our kids positively represent the school, the community, their families, and themselves. It is more important to me that our kids respect authority, whether it be in the form of coaches or officials. All of these concepts are much more important in “real life” learning than simply winning. Again, I love to win. That is AN ultimate goal, but to me it cannot be THE only goal.

As I reflect back on the teams I coached I hope that I kept those ideas in perspective. I think I did. More importantly on a personal level, I hope that I kept those ideas in perspective as a parent of kids who took part in athletics. Again, I think I did. There is a quote that I love that speaks to this: “YOUR KID’S SUCCESS OR LACK OF SUCCESS IN SPORTS DOES NOT INDICATE WHAT KIND OF PARENT YOU ARE. BUT HAVING AN ATHLETE WHO IS COACHABLE, RESPECTFUL, A GREAT TEAMMATE, MENTALLY TOUGH, RESILIENT, AND WHO TRIES HIS/HER BEST IS A DIRECT REFLECTION OF YOUR PARENTING.” I do not know who the author of the quote is, but I do believe it speaks to all parents of kids who participate in athletics.

One thing I do know is that we need to step up our efforts to get more kids involved. Athletics are not necessarily for all kids, but we have many who in my opinion can and should be involved. These efforts obviously start here at school, but we need the help of others. Any help you can provide as a parent, a patron, or a graduate would be greatly appreciated.

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

JCC's 2017 Homecoming game is Friday, October 13, 2017 vs. Wilber at 7:00 p.m. The Homecoming coronation will take place after the football game on the track with the dance to follow in the high school gym which will conclude at 11:30 p.m. We will have the Homecoming parade on Friday, October 13, 2017 starting approximately at 2:15 p.m. The parade will start at the high school and proceed to downtown Tecumseh and go around the square and return to the high school where we will have a pep rally at the football field which is open to the public. Below is a list of the Homecoming week activities and pep rally agenda:

DRESS UP DAYS

Monday, October 9, 2017 Color Wars

Seniors	Black	5 th grade	Purple
Juniors	White	4 th grade	Brown
Sophomores	Blue	3 rd grade	Green
Freshmen	Pink	2 nd grade	Yellow
8 th grade	Neon Yellow	1 st grade	Orange
7 th grade	Neon Orange	Pre-Kind.	Red
6 th grade	Neon Green	All Staff	Tie Dye

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 **Teacher Look Alike** – dress up looking like one of the JCC staff members of your choosing.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 **Decades Day** – Dress up from the 50's, 70's or 80's

Thursday, October 12, 2017 **Hawaiian Day** – Dress up in Hawaiian attire (please be appropriate)

Friday, October 13, 2017 **Spirit Day** – Dress up and show your school spirit!!

****All students are asked to wear appropriate attire!! We want Spirit Week to be fun and enjoyable and the privilege not taken away! Thank you and have a fun Spirit Week!**

Friday, October 13, 2017 Pep Rally Agenda (at football field):

School Song
Crowd Cheer – Hey all you T-Bird Fans
Crowd Cheer – Bump a Rump
Skit from the Teachers/Staff
Kiss the ??? contest – FBLA
Homecoming Attendants – Spoof
Homecoming Candidates – Spoof
Crowd Cheer – Big Cheer
Crowd Cheer – Hail – Hail!
School Song

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE HELP US CELEBRATE HOMECOMING 2017!!

News from Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal and Athletic Director

During the first 2 weeks 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 Thursday, October 19th, and Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on a first come, first served basis on Friday, October 27th from 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will have a 1:00 dismissal on Friday, October 27th. Please make plans to attend conferences to discuss your child's classroom performance with their teachers. There are still a few weeks left in the quarter for students to work on their grades. I encourage all parents to 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 14 boys participating in football, 33 girls playing volleyball and 7 boys and 3 girls 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. The band did an outstanding job during this performance. Their performance and behavior is something that the entire Johnson County Central community can continue to 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



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Thurs. Oct. 5—
Kindergarten Trip to Roca Farms.
- Fri. Oct. 6—Fire Safety & Prevention Day w/ Gary Peters & Fire Truck Rides.
- Mon. Oct. 9—
Homecoming Week!
- Thurs. Oct. 19—End of 1st Quarter.
- Fri. Oct. 27—Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30-8:00 PM.

How's it Look?

Guilty. That's me. Guilty. There are times I want to know that my kid is up to par with the rest of the crew. I also want to see how they stand out. I want things to *look* good. But, at what cost?

Many times, we as the adults, get hung up on the idea of who our children should be. And, in some cases, we have set a standard that they are not ready to attain.

Let's look at grades in school. Should all students get "A's" all the time? Is it "okay" to get a "B"? How about a "C"? A "D"? Heaven forbid, an "F"? Well, that all depends on how you look at grades. If you look at the grade as a judgement on your parenting or on your child, or if you see it as a comparison to their worthiness to other children, then, yeah, anything less than an "A" would be a big shot to the ego. But, if you look at the grade as an actual progress

report, then any of them would be a good reflection of where they currently are, their understanding of content and where they are headed.

Grades are all a part of the learning continuum. As your child works and learns, we can see a rise in those scores. But, remember, we want them to *learn* the material. We don't want them to just get their worksheets filled out.

Some homework goes home and it comes back immaculate! Wow! They must really be understanding the content. Unbeknownst to the teacher, someone gave the student an *extreme* amount of help, gave answers or even did it for them. Unfortunately, we all know this happens to varying degrees. However, this only serves to cripple the student. Sure, the grades *look* good, but the student is not learning. Not only that, they are learning that the learning is not

the most important thing. They are learning that the grade only needs to *look* good. Furthermore, the teacher is misled into thinking the child "gets it" only to find out on quizzes or a test that they actually don't. And sure, when you average in the homework with the quizzes and tests, things can still *look* good. And, we can chalk up the poor quiz and test scores to "not being a good test-taker" or "not knowing for sure what was going to be on the test". Then, they take their state standardized tests, or the PSAT, or the ACT and realize they really haven't *learned* what they needed to.

Continued on next page...

Homecoming 2017 October 9-13

Monday, October 9

Color Wars!
Preschool & Kindergarten—RED
1st Grade—ORANGE
2nd Grade—YELLOW
3rd Grade—GREEN
4th Grade—BROWN
5th Grade—PURPLE

Tuesday, October 10

Teacher Look Alike!

Dress up as your favorite JCC staff person.

Wednesday, October 11

Decades Day!
- Dress up from the 50's, 70's or 80's.

Thursday, October 12

Hawaiian Day!

Friday, October 13

Spirit Day!

- Dress up and show your school spirit!

Parade—begins at 2:15 p.m. in front of the Tecumseh site buildings, travels around the square in Tecumseh and concludes at the football field for the pep rally.



Continued...

So, what can be done? Several factors can go into improving student knowledge. The first is their own motivation to do better. It won't matter how much you and I want it to improve. If the child is not motivated, it probably won't happen. And, motivating your child is a whole article in itself.

Another is the child's ability to work. We all know attention spans vary, but is the child willing to put in the time and effort when things get tough, or are they going to look for someone to lower the bar or take away the burden? (Both of which are extremely detrimental to the child.) Do they understand that failure is the path to success? Some kids think, and are unfortunately taught, that failure is the end. Some children think that if they fail, they should no longer do the activity, or that it should be altered for their success. (This is also extremely detrimental.)

Work ethic, grit and failure are also extensive topics to cover.

Talk with your child's teacher or teachers. What do they see? Is your student paying attention in class to the right things? Are they working hard? What is their attitude like in school? The classroom teachers can give you some great insight into your child.

I can tell you this, and it is something children tell me and something I see, when we as adults put the pressure on for our children to achieve a certain status, it stresses them out when they know they haven't developed to same level that we expect.

Here's an example of bad parenting. When my son was a freshman, there were 14 young men on the entire football team (give or take a few depending on the week). He was going to play varsity football as a freshman, whether he wanted to or not. This can be a scary thought as a

parent and as an athlete. I remember telling him to "quit playing like a freshman". Yup. I can still remember the stale look in his eyes when I would say it. He had to be wondering what in the wide, wide world of sports I was talking about. How can you expect a kid who is a freshman to *not* play like a freshman?! Were my expectations of him a little high? Maybe. Okay. Probably. I just didn't want him to get hurt. Okay, okay. It was that I just didn't want to be embarrassed as his father. It's much the same when we tell our children that they must have straight "A's" all the time. This can really stress them out, especially when they know they're "not there yet" as a learner. That's not to say that we shouldn't have expectations, because we should. And they should be high. But there is a difference between an expectation and a standard to be met. If the expectation is that they pay attention, give their best effort work hard and have a good attitude, then *usually* the rest will

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 27

1:30-8:00 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR Ms. Olivia Reuter

EducationQuest Financial Aid Program For Seniors and Parents- October 11th

A representative from EducationQuest will be coming to Johnson County Central to help seniors and their parents learn more about financial aid for college and how to apply for the FAFSA. All seniors who attend this presentation are eligible to apply for a \$500 college scholarship. Seniors with last names A-K will attend a presentation from 1:15- 2:15 and seniors with the last names L-W will attend a presentation from 2:15- 3:15 PM. Parents are invited and strongly encouraged to attend a presentation and stay for help with the FAFSA. From 3:15- 4:30 PM, students and parents who want help applying for the FAFSA can get help from our EducationQuest representative in the high school computer lab. Please bring your 2016 Tax information with you. It would also help if the student and one parent creates an FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>. To do this, you need your full legal name, your social security number, and a non-school email address. An FSA ID for the student and one parent is required to apply for the FAFSA and will really speed up the process when you go to apply. It is a great idea to apply for the FAFSA as soon as you can. This is a great opportunity to get some help!!!

Start Applying to College Now

Seniors should start applying to colleges and universities now. Students should apply to at least their top two or three colleges and universities. Most all colleges and universities have options for students to apply online and many also have application fee waivers for students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch programs at their schools. If students have questions or need help applying to college, they can come see me anytime at school and I'd be glad to help them.

RHOP, KHOP, and RLOP at Wayne State, Chadron State, and Peru State Colleges and the University of Nebraska- Kearney

Students from high schools in rural areas who are interested in a future career in a medical field should look into applying for the RHOP program at Peru State, Wayne State, or Chadron State or the KHOP program at the University of Nebraska- Kearney. This program guarantees students who meet all requirements of the program that they will have a seat save for them at UNMC after they complete their undergraduate work. Students interested in a future career in law should look into applying for the RLOP (Rural Law Opportunities Program) at Wayne State, UNK, or Chadron State. Completion of this program and all requirements guarantee students a spot in the UNL Law School after they complete their undergraduate work. To learn more about RHOP and apply, visit <https://www.unmc.edu/student-services/rse/enrichment/rural-health-enrichment-programs/rhop/index.html>. To learn more about KHOP and apply, visit http://www.unk.edu/academics/health_sciences/scholarshipprograms.php. To learn more about RLOP and apply, visit <http://law.unl.edu/RLOP/>.



Meet the JCC Class of 2018

Here are four more profiles of JCC's senior class of 2017-2018.

Maddie Moran



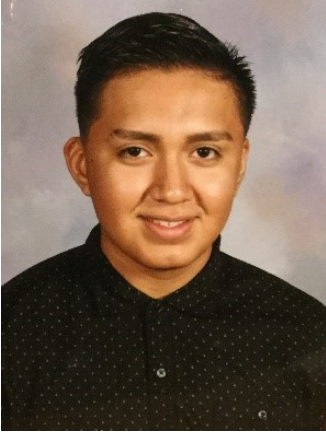
Maddie Moran is the daughter of Eric and Janelle Moran. She has one sister, Morgan, who is 14 years old. Maddie is involved in volleyball, basketball, and track in high school and her favorite classes are her science classes. She is planning to major in exercise science and participate in track at either Nebraska Wesleyan University or Hastings College after high school. Maddie is proud of qualifying for the state track meet each year of high school and medaling and being offered a four-year full tuition scholarship from Hastings College. In ten years, Maddie sees herself with a family and either coaching or being an athletic trainer for a high school or college sports team. Maddie's advice to underclassmen is, "If you're going to do something do it right, don't do anything half way!"

Hannah Swanda



Hannah Swanda is the daughter of Kathy Swanda and Jerry and Danielle Swanda. She has a sister, Emma, who is 13 years old, a step-sister, Madi, who is 16 years old, and a step-brother, Nelson, who is 13 years old. Hannah participates in concert, marching, pep, and jazz band, one act, speech, spring play, NHS, CAN. She is also a class officer, secretary of the SENCA Advisory Board, and a member of Region V's youth action board. In the future, Hannah plans to major in special education specializing in communication disorders and learning to help those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Hannah's favorite high school class is Intro to Education/ Experience in Teaching and her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. The accomplishment in high school that Hannah is most proud of is being the teacher's assistant for Mrs. Benson during her junior year. Mrs. Benson gave her the opportunity to teach her class sign language. Hannah was very proud of how fast the students learned. In ten years, Hannah hopes to have graduated college and have a job in the deaf education field. Her dream is to work at the Iowa School for the Deaf. Hannah's advice to younger students is, "Don't be afraid to try new things. A lot of people refuse to join a club or group because it's not the cool thing to do. If you want to try acting, for example, don't let anyone stop you. You might end up loving it."

Adrian Luevanos Rojas



Adrian lives in Tecumseh and is the son of Jose Rojas and Adriana Luevanos Gutierrez. He has two brothers, Juan who is 20 and Sebastian who is 15, and one sister, Arlet, who is 12. Adrian's favorite class in school is welding. He hopes to make a career of welding in the future and is interested in attending a community college in Kansas to continue his education after high school. Adrian's favorite school lunch is pizza. He is very proud of learning to speak, read, and write the English language better while in high school. Adrian sees himself living in Florida and having established himself in a welding career ten years from now. His advice to younger students is, "Be a good person. Go to school, study as much as possible, and work hard."

Macey Pietzyk



Macey Pietzyk is the daughter of Kristi Beethe and Kris Pietzyk. She has one brother, Trevor, who is 10. She participates in FFA, volleyball, track, FBLA, student council, and is a class officer. Her favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken bowl. Macey is looking into majoring in Business or entering into a dental assisting program after high school. Right now, she is thinking about attending either Southeast Community College, Wayne State College, or Central Community College. Macey is proud of making the honor roll and being a leader during her high school years. Ten years from now, Macey sees herself graduated from college and possibly working as a dental hygienist somewhere in Nebraska. Macey's advice to underclassmen is, "Don't ever give up. It may seem hard now but it'll be worth it in the long run."

The last few weeks, elementary students have been learning the Rules for Listening, how to Focus in the classroom, and how to use Self-Talk. These are all Skills for Learning. Students in Kindergarten and grade 1 learned the four rules for Listening: Eyes are Watching, Voices are Quiet, Body is Calm and Ears are Listening. These four rules help students to ready themselves for their teacher's lesson and learn the information he or she is sharing.



Listen

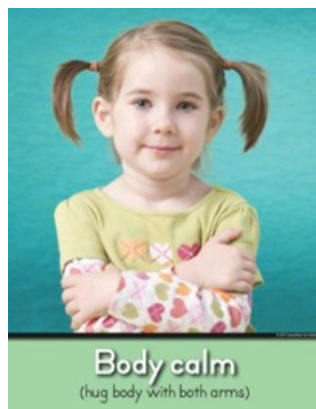
- Focus on the speaker
- Wait your turn to speak
- Remember what you hear
 - Think of questions

Students in grades 2 and 3 have also been working on listening skills. In addition to following directions, these students are expected to be able to repeat what the speaker shared and think of questions with the information that was presented. Self-Talk is another tool students can use to be successful. Self-Talk means talking to yourself in a quiet voice or in your head. It can help students stay focused, on task and handle distractions. Self-Talk was introduced to all students K-3. We encourage our learners to use Self-Talk in class as well as other situations in which they need to remember information and stay focused.

These Skills for Learning will help your child be successful in the classroom as well as other avenues in life. Please encourage them to be Good Listeners and to use Self Talk at home as well.



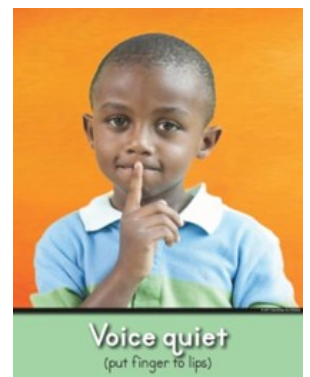
Ears listening
(cup ears with hands)



Body calm
(hug body with both arms)



Eyes watching
(point to corners of eyes)



Voice quiet
(put finger to lips)

Hello from Mrs. Benson's First Grade Class.

First grade is busy in learning our routine through our daily schedule.

Our morning is all about our reading curriculum. We practice learning new phonograms and that helps us to read fluently. We are able to understand what we are reading about and can retell the story in our own words. We are also working on learning about an author's job, what an illustrator does, and that every story has a plot. Some stories are make believe or fiction and others are real facts or nonfiction.

Our afternoon is full of many lessons and activities. We work on math skills to help us in everyday situations. We are learning about the temperature, numbers, patterns, and counting coins, especially pennies. We love working with the geoboards and connecting the tower cubes to form different numbers.

We love taking a break and going to music or library and P.E classes. When we return we work really hard with understanding written communication in our writers workshop. We work with nouns, verbs, simple sentences, journals, and put it all together to create our own first grade books.

We have been rereading our One School One Book, The World According To Humphrey. We listen to an adult read the chapter at home and come back the next day to hear the chapter again to catch any new information that might have been missed the first time. We write a sentence and illustrate each chapter. Our class thinks it would be fun to have a real pet hamster in our classroom. Mrs. Benson agrees with Mrs. Brisbane, probably NOT!!!!

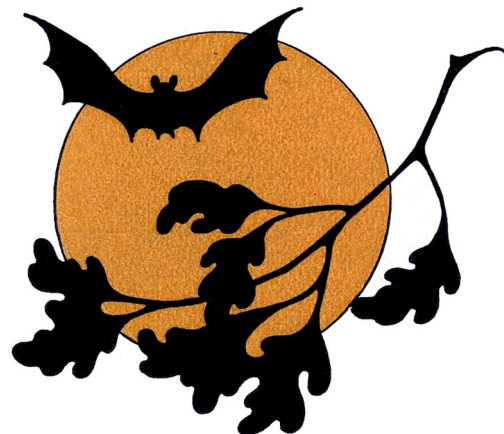
The last part of our day is spent with sharing our personal world through sharing and milk break time. We get to bring something to school and tell about it. This part really helps our class practice talking to an audience and listening to a speaker.

Social Sciences are integrated throughout our day. We begin to understand our world through reading, writing, and daily math skills. It can be fun to learn about topics, such as, the five senses, the American flag, apples, and the season of fall. All these things go together to help shape our minds and grow together in first grade.

First grade is a very busy classroom. We are going to learn all we can and try to make Thunderbird choices along the way. Our goal for the day is to be respectful, responsible, safe, and a learner from the beginning of the day to the end.

Thanks for letting us share about our day here at school. Have a wonderful autumn season and enjoy the color changes

From Mrs. Benson's First Grade Class



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.

Title 1 – Mrs. Judi Borrenpohl

Happy fall everyone! We had a terrific turnout for our Title 1 Pumpkin and Tailgate night on Sept. 22nd! After a short meeting explaining our Title 1 program, the children that attended decorated over 100 pumpkins. We served many hot dogs, cold drinks, and chips. It was a wonderful evening of fun and football!

Title 1 is a government funded program that we are very fortunate to have in place for our students in grades Kindergarten through Eighth grade at JCC. In my classroom, I help students in Kindergarten through Third grade. I may help teachers with small reading groups or have students come in for a special *Sidewalks Reading* program. The students are able to practice their reading fluency, phonics, spelling and comprehension in small groups of no more than 6 students.

Students may also come and work with me for extra practice with their mathematic skills. The students may work on math facts, time, money, and/or any skill that they are working on in their classrooms. The students have an opportunity to work on *Accelerated Math* through the Renaissance Learning. The *Accelerated Math* program is designed to allow students to master math skills at their own pace. Renaissance Learning also allows the students to practice their math facts fluency with a program called *Math Facts in a Flash*.

Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions about our program or how your student is progressing.



Discover the Treasure in Learning!

The 2030 Kindergarten class have been very excited about starting school! All 18 boys and girls in Mrs. Grotrian's class are busy learning about school and rules and getting used to a full day of learning and fun! On the first day the students went on a "Pete the Cat" Hunt and explored all the new places in our school building. We found the Music Room, the Nurse's office, the Lunchroom, Library, and the Computer Lab! It was fun tour! "Treasures" was our theme for the first week of school. The students brought some of their special treasures to school and then we learned lots about each other by seeing what is special to us. This year we will explore Reading, discover Science, master Math, dig into Writing, hunt for History as we find the treasure in learning! We had a different "Treasure Hunt" every day to find special things. On Friday, we became 'Pirates' and used a map that we followed to find our special treasure. We are very happy and excited about starting our educational adventure called *School!*

By Kathie Grotrian



ELL News...

The new focus in the ELL room is on setting learning goals. Students in Middle and High School have been working with both the English Language Arts and English Language Proficiency standards and making them into their own learning goals that we will work on throughout the year. Students are re-writing the goals in their own words, and then we are measuring their progress on achieving these goals. The students and I am very excited about using this new way to view the importance of our learning and looking for ways for everyone to improve and succeed in learning the English language.

We have also started using Writer's Conferences to help improve in writing. At the writer's conference, the student meets with the teacher to discuss their writing. The student and the teacher get a chance to evaluate the piece of writing and then talk about what they are seeing. Students are using this discussion to help them set one or two goals for improving their writing. Before the next writing assignment, students are reviewing their personal goals to help them focus on improving. The students are excited about this method, and I have already seen improvement in their writing. I am excited to see how much each student grows this year in their writing ability.

Finally, I want to welcome my new students. This year we have four new students joining our program. I am always excited when I receive new students because this is an excellent opportunity for my other students to be leaders. Our JCC students are always willing to help show new students around, explain things, and get them acclimated to the new environment. In addition to four new students, I also have a new aide in my classroom, Mrs. Lada. The students are looking forward to getting to work with Mrs. Lada throughout the year.

-Mrs. Weber



By Cheryl Panko

Our beginning of the year started with a great journey! On Orientation Night we had a scavenger hunt to explore the preschool room. We have also been getting to know each other through our “Show and Share” time by bringing in family pictures and completing an “All About Me” poster. The students were very excited to be able to use the microphone when they were telling us about their families and themselves. We have been very busy exploring through discovery in our centers: math, science, blocks, dramatic play, library, as well as art, writing and others. Circle time includes learning the Pledge of Allegiance, details of the calendar, as well as learning how to be a “Thunderbird”. The students really like using technology in the classroom while taking turns using the Mimio Board to manipulate the calendar activities. We are looking forward to beginning our writing of the alphabet, learning the sounds letters make and building on our math concepts. Fall is quickly approaching which will bring us into new areas of learning about pumpkins, fire safety, and hibernation.

Junior High Volleyball 2017

There are thirty-three girls out for Junior High Volleyball this year. The girls have been working hard on learning the game of volleyball. Our focus this year is serving well and learning our rotations. I think the girls have been improving over the season.

Members of the team this year are:

8th Grade: Jordan Albrecht, Marie Ascherman, Ava Berkebile, Esperanza Cardoza, Jennifer Cruz, Stephanie Cruz, Gina Golden, Makayla deHaan, Saydee Hardesty, Madelyn Harrifeld, Vanessa Jimenez, Vicky Pinedo, Madison Pingel, Geraldine Rojas, Trinity Ross, Emma Straka, Shayla Thompson and Emma Walters

7th Grade: Kate Beethe, Mazzie Benedict, Erika Cabrales, Karen Canseco, Kinze Gordon, Sierra Hergrader, Makala Kilmer, Melissa Lowther, Jailine Manriquez, Chayce Oenbring, Kim Orozco, Daisy Ortiz, Anzel duPreez, Christina Serrano and Allie Swanson

Coaches are Karen Hunzeker, Casey Fricke and Jen Straka. There are four student managers as well. They also work hard in practice helping shag and condition. They are Arely Cabrales, Priscila Cabrales, Briana Robeson and Maya Straka.

High School English, Wendi Buggi

English I is about to wrap up the novel, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Students have been creating time capsules as their final class project. Students are to choose twelve to fifteen items to represent relationships, locations, or symbols within the novel. They can construct, draw, assemble, or collect items to present to the class with an explanation of the item's significance. They will be presenting their capsules the week of September 25th. We will then be concluding the unit with a showing of *The Outsiders*, the movie. We really get into the spirit of 'movie day' by allowing students to bring in snacks to enjoy during the film and reap the benefits of their dedication and hard work.

English II is in the middle of *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Students recently completed research and slide presentations over cases of wrongfully convicted people. This is in preparation for us reading about Atticus Finch taking on Tom Robinson's assault case in the novel. Students reflected upon their research and how our judicial system is sometimes flawed, thus establishing a connection to our loss of innocence and injustice themes.

Practice for this fall's One Act has begun! *It's Not You, It's Me* by Don Zolidis is about several high school couples breaking up. We have an interesting cast of characters: a habitual liar, an extreme sports fan, one lovesick teen with an impressive back tattoo, and many hilarious others.

Performances are as follows:

Conference competition Tuesday, Nov. 14th at the Loft Theatre in Manley,
Public Pop & Popcorn Night Friday, Nov. 17th at 7pm in Elem. Auditorium at Tecumseh,
Elem. Showing Monday, Nov. 20th at 2:45pm in the Elem. Aud at Tecumseh.
District competition Wednesday, Nov. 29th at Midland University, Fremont.
State competition Thursday, Dec. 7th at Norfolk High School (Jonny Carson Theater)

One Act cast members are as follows: Simon Rother, Hannah Swanda, TJae Roesener, Dylan Robinson, Sarai Ares, Brady Clements, Micaela Francisco, Katelyn Alexander, Haley Beethe, Eli Waring, Levi Dorsey, Genevie Allen, Chloe Curry, Kylie Kleespies, Andruw Stafford, Joseph Rodriguez, Saylor Rother, Aldo Reyes, Boston Bailey, Jordyn Dorsey, and Sebastian Rojas. Crew members are Carly Broadfoot, Hailey Clark, Kole Kleespies, Cheshire Burger, Zadie Plager, Jayden Behrends, Erika Cruz, Savana Mallard, Autumn Nolte, Kathia Castor, Cassidy Parks, Emalee North, Macee North, Sam Buss, Joachim Boog, and Aleisha McDonald. Mr. Matt Dierking is assisting us again this year.

Our cast and crew are excited to attend Doane University's drama conference on October 9th. Students will have the opportunity to attend several acting workshops and also get to see the university's performance of *Peter the Starcatcher*.

Also, remember that our elementary auditorium received an incredible makeover this past summer. Come check out the new theater and enjoy a night out filled with laughs!

Vocal Music Notes

Mr. Doran

The Thunderbird singers, our high school choir, have been rehearsing hard for upcoming concerts and honor choirs. We have 43 total singers in this year's high school choir: 12 Sopranos, 12 Altos, 7 Tenors, & 12 Basses. They can be broken down into the following grade levels: 11 Seniors, 9 Juniors, 13 Sophomores, & 10 Freshmen. We graduated 11 seniors from last year and had 1 student move. Interestingly only 24 of the 33 upper classmen were in the Thunderbird Choir last year. There were 9 students who sang last year and weren't able to fit choir into their schedule this year.

The singers have elected their peers into leadership positions within the choir and this year's officers include: President – Simon Rother, Vice President – Johnny Kongmanyvong, Secretary – Hollie Gartner, Treasurer – Katey Alexander, and Reporter – Aleisha McDonald! Congratulations to our officers!

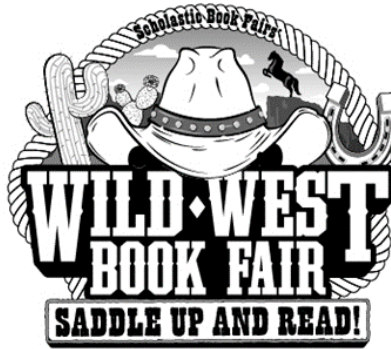
Students auditioning for the Nebraska All-State Honor Choir are Jenifer Acosta, Haley Beethe, Aleisha McDonald, & Simon Rother. They have been working on the music since school started. If they make the auditions they travel to Lincoln during November 16-18 to participate with 450 other vocalists in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

Our annual candle sales will take place October 16 – 27. Students needing a new Music Polo will be able to use proceeds from their candle sales to offset the cost of the polo. The rest of the proceeds will go into individual student accounts to help with their Music in the Parks competition in May at Worlds of Fun. 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 October 26 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 A-K are asked to bring 1 pie to be served at the nights function.

Upcoming Vocal Music Events

October	6-7	Fri-Sat	All State Vocal Auditions Due – High School
	13	Friday	Singing Youth Auditions due (7 th , 8 th , & 9 th Grade)
	16-27	2 Weeks	Candle Sales (6 th – 12 th Grade)
	26	Thursday	Pie Night in Tecumseh – (6 th – 12 th Grade)
November	6	Monday	ECNC Honor Choir – Freeman (6 th – 12 th Grade)
	16-18	Th-Sat	NMEA Conference/All State Groups Perform – High School



Howdy Pardners!

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

Set the example. Let children see you read.
Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.
Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Come to the Wild West Book Fair at:
Johnson County Central's Elementary and Middle School libraries.
October 23-27, 2017
Monday-Thursday 3:35-4:00 p.m.
Friday during P/T conferences 1:00-8:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair at scholastic.com/fair.

We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair and remember, all purchases benefit our school's libraries.

Saddle Up and Read!



Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Thai Meatball Fried Rice Bowl Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Pork Steak w/ Bread Stick Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Philly Steak / WG Hoagie Hot Veggie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Turkey Cheese Wrap L & T Corn Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Cheese Pizza Crunchy Jell-O Fruit Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Columbus Day Stromboli Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chefs Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Nuggets B & B Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Pulled Pork WG Bun Potato Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Pizza Cake Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
WG Dinner Roll Meat Loaf Cheesy Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Hot Dog WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Alfredo Corn Muffin Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Sloppy Joe WG Bun SP Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	No School Teacher Work Day		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Chicken Tenders Corn Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Cheeseburger/wg Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potat/ Gravyo Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chefs Choice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Chicken Teriyake Fried Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk		
29	30	31	<p>Menu is subject to change with out notice This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider"</p>			
Beef Sticks Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Cookie Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	Halloween Mac N Cheese / Ham Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk				



October 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	C Team, JV, V VB @ JCC HS 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 pm JH FB @ JCC HS 4:00 pm JV FB @ JCC HS 6:00 pm	StrivU Fall Conference @ Lincoln Striv Office 8:30 am V XC @ Tecumseh Country Club 4:00 pm JH VB @ JCC MS 4:30 pm	District Land Judging @ Bedrice 9:00 am Districts Golf Bedrice Area Post - Secondary College Fair @ SCC Bedrice 9:15 am	Kindergarten Field Trip JH, V Cross Country @ Falls City Country Club C Team, JV, V VB @ JCC HS 5, 6, 7:30 pm	SENCA Smart (8th Grade) @ JCC MS Gym 9:00 am V FB @ Palmyra HS 7:00 pm	C Team VB Invite @ JCC MS 9:00 am JH VB @ Pawnee City HS 9:00 am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Doane College Drama Conference 9:00 am 1st Grade Tour of Fire Station 12:00 pm V VB ECNC Tourney JH VB @ Southern 4:30 pm JH FB @ Southern 4:30 pm JV FB @ JCC HS 6:30 pm	V VB ECNC Tourney	HS PSAT Testing @ HS Gym 8:00 am Financial Aid Presentation For Seniors @ HS Computer Lab 1:20 pm FAFSA Help for Seniors @ HS Comp. Lab 3:30 pm	V District Cross Country V VB ECNC Tourney	Homecoming Parade @ 2:15 Pep Rally @ HS FB Field 3:00 pm V FB @ JCC HS 7:00 pm Homecoming	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	C Team, JV VB @ Syracuse HS 6:00 & 7:00 pm JV FB @ JCC HS 6:30 pm	Project Response Assembly for HS @ HS Gym 9:30 am		End of 1st Quarter 4th Grade Field Trip JV, V VB @ JCC HS 6:00 & 7:00 pm	NO SCHOOL Teacher Workday V State Cross Country @ Kearney Country Club V FB @ Malcolm HS 7:00 pm	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	C Team, JV VB @ Weeping Water	V VB @ Yutan 5:00 pm	National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis, IN	National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis, IN @ Vocal Music Pie Night @ HS Gym 6:30 pm	Early Dismissal @ 1:00 p/t Conferences @ Both Sites 1:30-8:00 pm National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis, IN	National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis, IN HS Band @ Peru Homecoming Parade 10:00 am
29	30	31				
	V VB Sub districts	College Visit To Nebraska Wesleyan Univ.				



Johnson County Central Public Schools

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402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh
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402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook
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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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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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 27, 1:30-8:00 pm at Both Sites
School Dismissed at 1:00 pm on that day

Parent
Teacher
Conferences
Behavior
Teamwork
Grades
Progress
Goals
Achieve
Communication
Homework