



SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles

The Importance of Reading

I have seen the attached graphic at various times in my career, but have never really taken the opportunity to discuss this with our students and parents. Reading is really the key to almost everything we do in schools.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Thunderbirds

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If a student is struggling with reading, they are likely struggling in other areas as well. For this reason, we have taken extra steps over the past several years to accelerate reading instruction in each level of school.

- A few years ago we adopted the Reading Street reading series in the elementary classes. With this program we dedicated a longer block of time for the explicit instruction of reading. Reading Street was chosen for many reasons, among which were the strong approach to dealing with the major components of teaching reading, an ability to provide for ability groupings within the classroom, and a strong technology component. Since the introduction of Reading Street we have seen our Reading scores rise on assessments we give.
- When we combined grade levels at the same site we recognized an ability to dedicate a teacher specifically as a Reading Teacher at the K-3 site in Tecumseh. Being able to use Gail Hutt as a Reading Teacher has expanded our offerings for kids.
- We also added a Reading Teacher position at the Middle School level. Linsey Meints handles reading at that level.
- In the high school we have set aside time in the school day for simply reading. We also started a Literary Concepts class for students who need more help in reading.
- Of course, our SPED and Title I classes help in teaching reading for students who may be struggling.

We have made a concerted effort to improve ourselves in the instruction of Reading. That is a constant focus for Johnson County Central at all grade levels. Our specific school improvement goal is to improve reading comprehension through the teaching of vocabulary. I believe this goal has served to focus us on a proven way of improving the teaching of reading.

One thing we need, though, is help from the home. Students need to be encouraged to read outside of school as well as inside school. This is where parents/guardians come into play. We need your help! The graphic I shared at the beginning of this article highlights where kids who do read a lot are compared to kids who do not choose to read as much.

The US Department of Education developed a list of simple strategies for parents to help create strong readers. For younger children I encourage parents to:

- Invite your child to read with you every day. This seems easy, but I know it can be difficult because of schedules. However it will be really worth it. I personally do not believe a child is ever too young to be read to. Start early.
- Read a child's favorite book over and over again. It may seem monotonous, but it does build a love of reading in your child.
- Discuss new words with your child—make sure they understand what the words means. This helps to build that vocabulary we find so important.
- Stop and ask about the pictures and what is happening in the story.
Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books. This will help to spread their interests.

For older children I encourage some of these strategies:

- Make sure your child reads every day. As shown above, 20 minutes is not too much. Make sure they are not distracted by the TV, though.
- Ask them what they are reading about and discuss it with them.
- Be a good reading example yourself. In the days of increased distractions such as TV, internet, and video games make sure that your child sees you reading.
- Read some of the books that kids your child's age is reading. This will help you to encourage your child in reading these books.
- Don't fall back on the excuse of "I hate to read" either in yourself or in your child. Mark Twain has been credited with saying, "The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read." I believe this statement is very true and provides us with a great view on the importance of reading.



NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Although winter is still around and we've missed a few days because of snow and bitter cold temps, our winter sports are winding down. This means the beginning of spring practices is just around the corner. Also, the start of March begins our first step in preparation for next fall where our students will start pre-registration for fall classes.

What is pre-registration? The students choose their top 8 classes and 2 options. At this time there is no set schedule. Once all pre-registrations are complete we'll plan the class schedule. Every student must sign their pre-registration form and their parent must also sign the form. This gives the parents the opportunity to see their student's class selections and "sign off" on it. Mrs. Moles, the school counselor, is the final signature on every student's pre-registration form. She reviews each student's class selection to verify they are taking appropriate classes which are required for each grade and are meeting their graduation requirements.

All students already have their pre-registration forms. They are due back to my office no later than Friday, February 27. This due date is necessary so that we can plan the class schedule. We try to create a schedule that accommodates the most students with the least amount of conflicts. Once we have the best class schedule created, Mrs. Moles will personally meet with each student who has a class conflict. A student will only have a class schedule conflict if they are unable to get an 8 period class schedule by using their 8 selected classes or 2 options. Mrs. Moles will then aid them in selecting an additional alternate class until we are able to fill their 8 periods with an appropriate schedule.

After we have completed a successful class schedule, I will send out summer pre-registration letters to all students. Around August 1st, each student will receive this letter which will contain their actual class schedule, complete with periods and teachers for every class. If the students and parents are satisfied with this schedule, nothing more needs to be done before the beginning of school next fall. If the students desire to make changes to their class schedule they will have two days (to be announced), to meet with Mrs. Moles to make changes prior to the start of school. Students will also have the first five days of the 2015-2016 school year to change their class schedule.

I am encouraging every parent to work with your student to help them plan the best and most challenging class schedule and to get their pre-registration forms back to school before the February 27th deadline. Thank you for your cooperation, and your students will thank you too.

Middle School News by Rich Bacon

The Third Quarter ends on March 12 and the 2nd Trimester ended on February 20. Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 26th from 4:00-8:00 & and Friday, March 27th from 8:00-12:00. Middle school conferences will be held in the old gym at the middle school on a first come first serve basis. Parent-Teacher Conferences is an ideal time for parents and teachers to have detailed conversations about their students' current grades, the effort that is being given by their child, the student's classroom behavior and other issues that are relevant to student learning. Parent-Teacher Conferences also provides your child's teachers with an opportunity to share classroom work or share some of the many positives that your child has done. The dialogue generated at Parent-Teacher Conferences is an important element in a student's learning process that is beneficial to all and I hope all parents will take advantage of this opportunity. We hope to see you on March 26th or 27th.

The month of March is also the beginning of round 2 of state assessment time. Students will be taking a number of Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments starting in late March through the middle of April. Eighth graders started the testing cycle on January 21st with the NeSA-Writing Assessment. In addition to the writing assessment, Middle school students will be taking the NeSA Assessments in reading, math and science. These assessments are very important for our students and the district. Results from these assessments provide data which help guide curriculum decisions for our district. Results from these assessments are also used to help determine a student's placement in particular classes.

The Johnson County Spelling Contest was held on Saturday, February 14. Earning the right to represent Johnson County Central Middle School were 8th graders Sarai Ares, Dakota Cook, Connor Bartels, and Simon Rother. Seventh grade representatives of JCC were Carrie Beethe, Greg McGinnis and Jacob Wolter. Sixth grade representatives of JCC were Edwin Aguirre, Calvin Antholz, Cheshire Burger, and Saylor Rother. Johnson County Central spellers did well again this year, claiming the top two overall places. Congratulations to the following Middle School medal winners!

<u>Overall Winners</u>	<u>6th Grade Division</u>	<u>7th Grade Division</u>	<u>8th Grade Division</u>
2 nd Place-Greg McGinnis	1 st Place – Saylor Rother	1 st Place – Greg McGinnis	1 st Place – Simon Rother
3 rd Place – Simon Rother	2 nd Place – Cheshire Burger	3 rd Place – Jacob Wolter	2 nd Place – Connor Bartels
			3 rd Place – Dakota Cook

Congratulations to all JCC medalists and participants!

The 7th & 8th grade band and chorus and 6th grade band and chorus will perform on two occasions in March. On Tuesday, March 17th, there will be an instrumental concert following a baked potato bar fundraiser beginning at 5:30. On Friday, March 20th, the 6th grade and 7th & 8th grade choirs and bands will be participating in the Malcolm Music Competition.

The 6th grade science fair will be held on Thursday, March 6th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Students in Mrs. Bohling's 6th grade science class will have their experiments on display and be on hand ready to explain their observations, hypothesis and what they learned from the experiment. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Johnson County Central is hosting the ECNC Junior High Quiz Bowl on Wednesday, March 18. Seventh and Eighth graders from the 12 conference schools will come to the Middle School for the day-long quiz bowl competition. Due to the quiz bowl competition grades 4-8 will not have school on the 18th.

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

Talking with Children about the importance of their education



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Fri. March 6—K-3 Students attending Peru State College Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration , 1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.
- Thurs. March 12—End of 3rd Quarter.
- Fri. March 13—NO SCHOOL!
- Mon. March 16—NO SCHOOL!
- Tues. March 17—4th Grade Field Trip to Capitol Building in Lincoln and Pinnacle Bank Arena.
- Thurs. March 26—Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- Fri. March 27—NO SCHOOL! Parent-Teacher Conferences 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Fri. April 3—NO SCHOOL!
- Monday, April 6—NO SCHOOL!

Children sometimes don't like it takes forever. However, understand why they must the skills learned and knowledge go to school and why some acquired can have a great impact subjects should be important on the rest of their lives. It is not to them. As parents and educators, we must continuously stress the importance of acquiring a deep and broad education to our children. The more they know and can do, the more opportunities will be open to them later in life.

It is important that when we talk to our children about school, that we also speak with our children about the connection to life after school. By this, I mean what our children's goals are for themselves. What kind of career would they like to pursue? And it is important that we continue to talk with our children about their educational years. The time in school can seem

taught at school and are reinforced at home and practiced in the outside world. The students also get to practice their social/emotional skills at school to get a sense for what it is like to be a contributing member of a community.

Talking with our children about all the situations that they deal with, and that they have yet to deal with, helps them to prepare to take on some of the challenges of life. As situation arise, and as our children get older, we will want them to be comfortable coming to us for guidance and advice. I know for my part, I will want that advice coming from myself or my wife.

January Thunderbirds!

Kindergarten—Hayleigh Daniels, Harrison Bacon, Trever Bohling, Evan Jamison, Amelia Britt, Monica Jimenez, A.J. Rautenbach, Lane Robeson, Erik Prado

1st Grade—Chloe Smith, Eli Buggi, Harley Lubben, Madisen See, Robert Schmiegelow, Gabriel Bernadt, Ezekiel Burki, Wyatt Case, Ricardo Castor, Kaiden Dorn, Trevin Huskey, Danny Kongmanyvong, Marisol Mandl, Josie McDonald, Levi Othmer, Saige Rother, Wes Swanson, Madison VanLangingham, Catherine Wendt, Maria Maya-Soto

2nd Grade—David Campos, Salena Conley, Kali Drake, Jersey Graham, Jennifer Hernandez, Jocelyn Prado, Dawn Sejkora, Treven Tams, Joel Chavez Acosta, Avery Houseman,

Madison Jansen, Maecee Neemann, Lexi Robeson, Nolan Wellensiek

3rd Grade—Arelly Cabrales, Priscila Cabrales, Jadeyn Grobler, Nathaly Martinez, Bailee Sterup, Kyle Bartels, Ava Buggi, Jovany Cabrales, Cameron Daniels, Wyatt Ludemann, Kaitlynn Plager, Sunnie Rother

4th Grade—Mazzie Benedict, Erika Cabrales, Karen Canseco, Kaylin Smith, Rita Ceballos, Hayden Huskey, Jacob Liscomb, Melissa Lowther, Chayce Oenbring, Daisy Ortiz, Cole Robeson

5th Grade—Madelyn Harrifield, Kobe Wilken, Jordan Albrecht, Ava Berkebile, Jazmin Cabrales, Ailine Gonzalez, Saydee Hardesty

Dylan Henderson, Matthew Jansen, Vanessa Jimenez, Dakotah Ludemann, Emma Straka, Carson Tenney, Isabella Wolter, Fransisco Xayaphonesongkham



Counselor News by Shelley Moles

“Dedicated to encouraging a Journey of excellence Creating lifelong learners and Citizens for tomorrow.”

NeSA READING, MATH, AND SCIENCE TESTING FOR JUNIORS:

Juniors will be taking the statewide NeSA Reading tests on March 31, the NeSA Math tests on April 1, and the NeSA Science test on April 15. The tests will be an online test for most students – some students will take a paper/pencil test.

The results will be used to help schools measure student progress in meeting the state reading, math, and science standards. Students will be scored as advanced, proficient or beginning.

At school, students have prepared for this assessment by studying diligently in reading, math, and science and by taking practice tests, Check4Learning assessments and classroom quizzes and tests.

The Statewide NeSA tests are a standardized test used to sample how well students have learned the Nebraska high school standards in writing, reading, math, and science and provide valuable information about how well students are doing. Any student enrolled at Johnson County Central during the testing window will take these assessments.

If you have any questions, please contact your school counselor, principal, or classroom teachers.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAREER EXPLORATION EVENT: The BHECN High School Ambassador Conference on April 10-11, 2015, is accepting applications from rural high school juniors and seniors interested in behavioral health careers. The Friday evening through Saturday program focuses on a variety of careers and topics. The conference (including lodging on Friday and meals) is FREE but students are responsible for their transportation to and from the conference center in Kearney.

The Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) Ambassador Program recruits and mentors students from rural high schools to college, professional school and into practice as behavioral health professionals. This mentoring is hoped to increase the number of behavioral health professionals in rural and under-served communities.

Students who are interested in attending must complete an application, short essay and submit a letter of recommendation by February 13, 2015. Students will be notified of their selection by February 27. Please see Mrs. Moles for application and registration information.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

2015 Bryan College of Health Sciences Health Career Camp: Offered by Bryan College of Health Sciences, 5035 Everett Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, on two dates, June 6-10 OR July 20-24, 2015. Participating students will explore careers in the healthcare field and have opportunities to job shadow with health care providers. Camp is Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Applications must be completed and returned with a \$50 non-refundable deposit by April 24. Qualified applicants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The cost of \$350 includes lunches, scrub uniforms, supplies, transportation to field trips and bowling and pizza social activity. See Mrs. Moles for an application packet!

2015 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute: The 2015 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) is a 5-day conference for high school juniors and seniors to learn about career opportunities within agriculture. This year NAYI will be held July 6-10, 2015, on UNL East Campus. This year's theme is “Planting Dreams, Growing Legacies.” Engaging speakers, workshops and panels, agriculture education, professional development, leadership experience, fun and new friends and networking with peers and industry leaders are highlights for this year.

Interested juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply. Selection of delegates will be based on leadership skills, interest, and involvement in agriculture. All meals, lodging, and conference fees during the NAYI are provided for the selected delegates. (FREE!) Apply on-line at www.nda.nebraska.gov or see Mrs. Moles for a paper application. Applications are due April 15, 2015.

Camp OK Counselor 2015: Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis District sponsors Camp Olympia Kiwanis (OK) with a goal of providing an educational camp experience for deserving 5th and 6th grade children from NE and IA. Counselors must be 16 or older, willing to attend training and stay at camp the entire week, act as positive role models, lead camping activities for groups of students and be in charge of a cabin each night. Camp will be held at the Y Camp in Boone, IA from June 7 to June 12. Camp counselor training will be held Saturday, June 6th and Sunday, June 7th. Students may earn over 100 hours of volunteer service and learn valuable leadership and teamwork skills! Interested students may access more information and an application for Camp OK counselor at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dGxQUXB3YmFmS2lBN0xFRVgyeEI2SEE6MQ>

Career Exploration: Architecture, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture June 7-13, 2015 and Discover Landscape Architecture June 14-June 19, 2015: These high school workshops are held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. The workshops provide learning opportunities in the form of design studio explorations, seminars and discussions, field trips and film presentations. As part of the workshops, students will visit professional offices, learn about various career opportunities, and develop fundamental skills necessary for the study of design. The programs are designed for young men and women who have completed 2 year or more years of their high school education and are interested in pursuing architecture, landscape or interior design. The fee of \$585/participant includes studio supplies, program fees, meals and lodging. Application form, recommendations and essay are due April 6, 2015. There is reserved space for 36 students in the Career Exploration Workshop and 15 students in the Discover Landscape Architecture Workshop. See Mrs. Moles for additional information and application form.

Automotive Summer Camp: This workshop is for any high school students interested in Automotive careers. It will be held on the Southeast Community College-Milford campus on June 12 and 13, 2015. Bright students who would like the opportunity to experience what it would be like to pursue a career in the automotive field are encouraged to apply. This will be strictly a hands-on camp with about a 3-to-1 student-to-instructor ratio. Registration deadline is June 1, 2015. The cost of \$29 per participant includes tools, meals, housing and tour transportation. Participants must be 16 years of age. Please see Mrs. Moles for an application. For more information contact Rick Morphey, SCC-Milford Campus, 600 State Street, Milford, NE 68405-8498 or call 1-800-933-7223 Ext. 8317 or e-mail rmorphey@southeast.edu. Registration is limited to 60 participants and registrations are ordered by date received.

2015 Big Red Academic Camps These career exploration camps are a chance for students to explore the UNL campus, meet people from across the country, spend time investigating an interest or potential career and have lots of fun. The camps will be held June 7-12, 2015 (except as noted) and are intended for students entering grades 10-12 in the fall 2015. (Students who graduate in May 2015 are also welcome to attend.) The camps available for 2015 and the tuition costs (if submitted by April 1st) are: Animal Science (\$450), Crop Science (June 7-10, \$400), Culinary Arts and Food Science (\$600), Digital Arts (\$550), Education (\$600), Engineering (\$500), Filmmaking (\$600), Outdoor Nebraska (\$500), Unicameral Youth Legislature (\$350), Veterinary Science (\$600) and Weather & Climate Science (\$500). Camps are residential camps - all food and housing will be provided for all participants throughout the duration of the camp. Online registration is available at bigred-camps.unl.edu. For any questions, contact Peggy Jeffries by e-mail pjeffries1@unl.edu or calling 402-472-2805.

SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS IN KEARNEY, OMAHA AND LINCOLN:

These events are great ways for students - especially juniors and sophomores - to start the college search process.

Kearney Area College Fair Sunday, March 8, 1-3 p.m., at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Nebraskan Student Union

Omaha Area College Fair Sunday, March 29, 1-3 p.m., at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Sapp Fieldhouse

Lincoln Area College Fair Sunday, April 19, 1-3 p.m., at Southeast Community College-Lincoln

Students should register for a barcode at **NebraskaCollegeFairs.org**, print the barcode and take it to the college fair so that college representatives can scan their demographic information. If students already have a barcode from the fall college fairs, they may use it for the spring fairs.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:

Johnson County Central High School will hold its National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Monday evening, April 13, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school. Teachers, friends and family are invited to attend.

The purpose of the Johnson County Central High School Chapter of NHS is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in students. Selection is based on character, leadership, scholarship, and service.

To read more about National Honor Society at Johnson County Central High School, please refer to the February newsletter.

State Academic Decathlon by Tina Richardson



February 20-21 the Johnson County Central Academic Decathlon team competed at State Academic Decathlon at the University of Omaha. Grant Moles competed in the honors category where he placed 2nd in Math and Interview. Bryan Murphy competed at the scholastic level and received a bronze for Speech. Annika McDonald competed at the alternate scholastic level where she received a silver in Fine Arts and bronze in Soft Science. The JCC Super Quiz team tied for third place. The members include Grant Moles, Kaycee Bartels, Bryce Sahs, Sara Kettelhake, Bryan Murphy, Courtney Klaasmeyer, Sloan Pollard and Mariah Trew. In many of the contests, students were very close to medaling. Grant was 4th in Lang/Lit and Science. Kaycee was 4th in Essay with a score of 902 out of 1000, which was a new JCC record. Courtney was 5th in Lang/Lit. Sara placed 4th in Speech. Bryan was 5th in Interview. Mariah speech placed 6th. Grant set two new school records for Math and total score.

Science News – Dr. Boone

Last fall, all students in grades five through twelve at Johnson County Central competed for a chance to send an experiment to the International Space Station. One experiment from JCC is among 25 selected nationally for astronauts to conduct on orbit this summer. A \$10,000 grant from NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium and a \$9,000 grant from the Sherwood Foundation enabled JCC's participation in the project, part of the national Student Space Flight Experiments Program (SSEP).

The winning project was "*Germinating Red Clover (Trifolium pratense L)*" by Rudy Pooch, Isaac Buss, Spencer Dougherty, Keelee McClintock, Natalie Roddy and Mason Waring. This experiment looks at the interrelationship between *Rhizobium* (a bacteria found in soil that fixes nitrogen) and a legume such as red clover. Previous space experiments have looked at the germination of seeds in space but none have looked at this symbiotic relationship, and whether it is affected by microgravity. Nitrogen fixation in the soil will be important if humans wish to eventually grow food in space or on other planets. The experiment will use locally grown seed and soil from a clover field in Johnson County. Honorable mention went to "The Effect of Microgravity on the Cellular Structure of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*" by Michael Purcell, Omar Arellano, Michael Clark and Lindsay Weber and to "Growth of *Artemia* NYOS in Microgravity" by Schyler DeFreece, Sara Kettelhake, Courtney Klaasmeyer and Sopha Kongmanyvong and Karina Martinez.

In other news, we are now offering two science courses as dual credit through Peru State College. Juniors and seniors can earn college credit for Physiology as Anatomy 210, and Biology II is offered as Zoology 102. A highlight for both classes this semester was a field trip to the cadaver lab at Doane College in January. Students had a chance to examine a real cadaver and attend a college biology class. They also talked with Drew Case, director of Doane's Area Health Education Center (AHEC), about what it takes to be successful in college and took a tour of the campus. In physiology students have covered tissues, skin, bone, muscle and the nervous system. We are currently working on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and will cover endocrine, digestive and reproductive systems next quarter. Biology II students have reviewed evolution, cell composition and genetics and are studying the various vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Tenth grade biology students covered the cell, photosynthesis, respiration, fermentation, DNA and genetics last semester. They are finishing up evolution this quarter and moving on to ecology next quarter.

In Health, students have covered a wide variety of topics. One of the highlights this semester has been doing a seatbelt safety video that was entered into the statewide contest. Students have also done posters, videos and projects on diverse topics including good nutrition, physical fitness, avoiding drugs and alcohol, teen pregnancy and a number of different diseases.

MS Reading Linsey Meints

After a great start to the school year students are continuing with a great finish. We started the year learning and reading about fiction, short stories, and nonfiction. The 7th grade will finish the year with poetry, drama, and themes in oral tradition. The 8th grade will finish the year with poetry, drama, and themes in American stories.

Each quarter during the school year students have AR points due. They are expected to read at home as well as the time they are given at school. They choose the books they want to read to earn their assigned points.

The 7th grade read and did a unit on “Bridge to Terrabithia” as a class. This was a great experience for students to read a book that they had always seen but had not read to find that you cannot judge a book by its cover. The 8th grade will also have a similar opportunity later this semester.



March 2015

Kindergarten-Mrs. Borrenpohl

The kindergarten students have had a busy third semester! They celebrated the 100th day of school on Jan. 29th. The students brought a collection of 100 items to be counted, wrote their numbers to 100, wrote about what they would want 100 of, what they wouldn't want 100 of, what they would like to do in 100 years, and what they would like to spend 100 dollars on. They had some very creative answers!

If you were visiting the kindergarten classrooms on February 12th, you may have been surprised to see the clock was turned back to the fifties. The three classrooms celebrated Valentine's Day with a special "Sock Hop". They danced to 50's music, had bubble gum blowing contests, raced match box cars, hula-hooped, etc, and exchanged Valentines. It was a fun way to enjoy the holiday!

The kindergarteners are learning new words everyday in the reading class and enjoy being able to read books all by themselves. In math, they are learning addition and subtraction, telling time and counting money. In social sciences, they have learned about our famous past presidents, penguins and dental health care. The students and their teacher are looking forward to spring and the nice weather that goes with it!



Mrs. Borrenpohl's Kindergarten on the 100th day of school.

Middle School Math by Karen Hunzeker

In seventh grade math they just finished a chapter on different ways of displaying data. When talked about displaying data in bar graphs, line plots, box and whisker plots, circle graphs and stem and leaf plots. We learned how to read each display and also how to create one of our own. We are currently learning about probability. We are studying simple probability, experimental probability and theoretic probability. We will also explore compound probability.

In Pre-Algebra we just ended our chapter on linear equations. We talked about how to write linear equations and how to graph linear equations. We also touched on graphing linear inequalities. Our next topic will be learning about square roots and how they can be used in many different ways.

Algebra is wrapping up their chapter on factoring. We factored using greatest common factor, we factored trinomials and polynomials and also learned how to solve them once they were factored. Our next chapter will be working with quadratic equations. We will be solving them, graphing them and learning what they mean.

In 7th grade math topics we have been working on models. The students had to select something they wanted to scale down and make a model of. The students have really enjoyed this project. I had students select to scale down the Titanic, the Sears Tower, the White House, the weight room in the middle school, a classroom, a students bathroom, the playgrounds outside the middle school, the Empire State Building and the Eiffel Tower. This has been a great learning experience using math and getting to create with their hands.



Attention!

**Parents with Middle School and High School Students
TALL Truth, a presentation to educate parents about their teenagers on love
and relationships.**

Johnson County Central High School Gymnasium

March 3, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Presenter: Shelly Donahue

Sponsored by the Johnson County Coalition

How To Be An Amazing Math Student

by Ben Swanson

While searching for instructional materials on one of the numerous math education web sites, I ran across a classroom poster with a wonderful message. I have since posted this message in my room, and also given copies it to my students. I found it at the www.kutasoftware.com site, and I believe that the tips it provides could be extended to other classes besides mathematics.

How To Be An Amazing Math Student

1. **Come to class everyday.** Math builds on itself like a story. Missing something can have negative consequences for a long time.
2. **Always do all of your homework.** Math skills are like basketball skills or baseball skills. You can be out of practice. The more you practice, the better, faster, and more accurate you will be. This will make it easier to learn new, harder things. You'll also remember it for longer and will perform better under pressure, such as on a quiz or test.
3. **Check your answers (if given) as you do your homework** If you get a question wrong, then go back and solve it until you get it right. Be sure to understand what your mistake was.
4. **Always show your work.** Organized work leads to organized thinking. Plus, if you get a question wrong, you can go back and see why.

I especially see the significance of point number one. Students who frequently miss class, for whatever reason, often struggle to put all the pieces together. More advanced topics that require an understanding of a fundamental fact that was never learned become much more difficult to master.

Point number four is also a focal point in my classroom. Students are persistently encouraged to show their work and calculations for their homework problems. Often mistakes are the result of something as simple as sloppy handwriting. While mental calculations are also encouraged, it is also a good idea to periodically write down the step you are on as you proceed through a multiple step problem. Organized work does lead to organized thinking, and furthermore, leads to better understanding.

Second Grade News by Mrs. Hemmingsen

The year is flying by and we are working hard and learning many things in second grade this semester.

To celebrate the 100th day of school, we read several different poetry selections, did some creative writing about the number 100, and did some counting activities to 100. Second graders decided 100 was a pretty big number, especially if they could live to be 100!

“Love is . . . “ was a writing topic the month of February. To a second grader love could mean many things including: help with homework, taking care of a hurt friend, having a mommy and daddy, getting kissed good-bye, getting to stay up late, or hugs and kisses, just to name a few. It was interesting to see what great ideas they came up with.

Our current unit in reading is “Our Changing World”. We are reading about day- to -day changes, environmental changes, and changes all around us. We are reading every day to improve our reading skills.

In social science we read the story, “Martin Luther King Day”. It is a biography about Martin Luther King, Jr. We learned many things about the civil rights movement. Presently we are studying two of the most famous presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We are going to finish our study by each reporting on another president and sharing facts about him. We will also write letters to President Obama and thank him for all he does for our country.

In math we are regrouping 2-digit addition problems and learning our subtraction facts. We are constantly reviewing and working on memorizing our addition facts. We are playing a game, Make 20, to help us with that.

We continue to read for the Accelerated Reading Program. We have earned several rewards because we are reading, reading, reading!! Reading has been so contagious this year!! It’s wonderful! Keep reading Second Grade.



Kindergarten Eligibility

Kindergarten Round-Up will be on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the Tecumseh site Elementary School. Parents of students who are of age to attend Kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year will receive a letter with more details inviting them and their child to the Round-Up.

In accordance with state law, Kindergarteners must be 5 years of age on or before July 31. However, parents may request early entry into Kindergarten. The following are the criteria for early entry into Kindergarten:

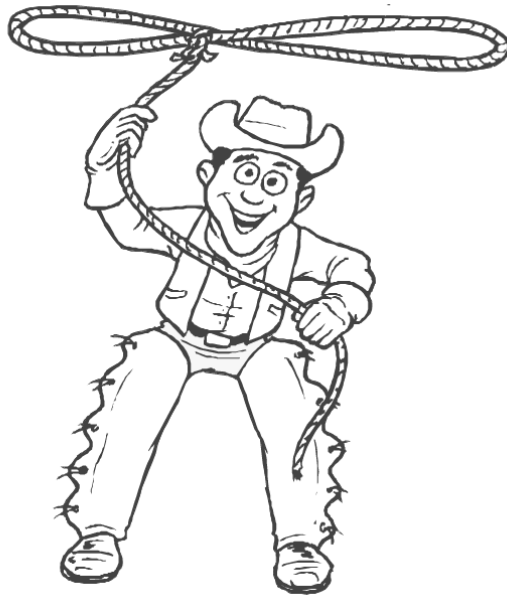
- Will turn 5 years of age between August 1 and October 15;
- Fill out the “Parent Questionnaire for Early Kindergarten Admission”;
- Submitted by: **March 20th, 2015.**
- Are deemed by the parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement;
- Achieve an average score or greater on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (4th Edition), the Social Skills Improvement System and/or Teaching Strategies GOLD.
- Pay \$50 assessment fee.

Other information collected from the parent questionnaire and the student’s pre-school teacher will also be considered in determining whether the child is eligible for early admission to Kindergarten.

If you have any questions regarding Johnson County Central’s Kindergarten eligibility policy or the criteria for early entry into Kindergarten, please feel free to call the school.

Jon H. Rother
Elementary Principal

Kindergarten Round-Up



WHEN: Tuesday, April 14, 2015
9:00-11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Johnson County Central Elementary Building in Tecumseh.

WHO: Children residing in the Johnson County Central school district who are, or will be, age 5 on or before July 31, 2015.

Individual letters will be sent in April to the parents of all Kindergarten ready students residing in Johnson County Central's school district. If you do not receive a letter, please call the school and let us know that you will be attending the 2015 Kindergarten Round-Up.

If applying for early registration (child will be 5 years old on or after August 1 and on or before October 15), JCC must have received your written request by March 20, 2015.

Some Dates to be aware of...

March 13th & 16th–No School-Spring Break
March 18th-No School for 4th-8th Grade
March 26th & 27th-Parent/Teacher Conferences
(4:00-8:00 pm on the 26th, 8:00 am-12:00 pm on the 27th)
March 27th-No School (P/T Conferences)

April 3rd & 6th-No School (Easter Break)
April 17th-1:00 Dismissal (Teacher Workday)
April 23rd-No School (District Music @ JCC)

May 9th-Graduation
May 22nd-Last day of School (Early Dismissal)
May 26th-Teacher Workday

High School Science by Nicole Justesen

The science department has been really busy this year, and I can hardly believe we are almost done with 3rd quarter. This year the science department participated in the SSEP program that allowed students to compete for an opportunity to get their project recognized and sent into space. This project allowed students to design an experiment, do research, and submit their project. The flight experiment was designed to reflect how real science is done.

Gen Science

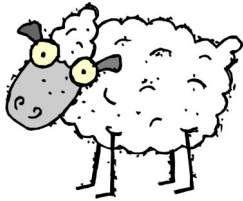
The General Science classes have just finished studying the periodic table and study of atoms. The holidays are fast approaching, but we are jumping right into “motion and momentum” series. We will also be periodically including food science so students can see how chemistry impacts our everyday life and importance of making smart food choices.

Chemistry

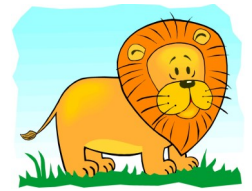
The Chemistry class is just finishing up ionic and covalent bonds and basic balancing equations. The students will get an opportunity to practice balancing equations and applying the knowledge to virtual games and creating power point. The video is a great opportunity for students to incorporate their chemistry knowledge with technology. ”.






Physics

The Physics class has just finished working with Newton’s three laws of motion in one dimension. They are currently learning to apply Newton's three laws in two dimensions. Students will utilize previous knowledge in trigonometry and calculus to tackle these problems. The student’s major project was to design an experiment that incorporated projectile in two dimension concepts and formulas. The five Physics student successful build a projectile launcher that could hit a falling target. The Physics class will took a slight detour to discuss the “physics of food”. I hope the students will enjoy learning how science and food go hand and hand.






March 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 V B BB District Finals	3 FFA @ Career Development SCC Beatrice JH G BB @ JCC MS 5:00 Abstinence Education Assembly for Parents @ HS Gym 7:00 pm	4 Abstinence Education Assembly for Students @ HS Gym 9:00 am	5 FBLA @ American Business Comp UNL JH Wrestling @	6 Johnson County Coalition Meeting @ JCC HS Library 8:30 am Dr. Seuss B-Day Celebration @ PSC 6th Grade Science Fair @	7 JH Wrestling @ Norris HS 9:30 am
8 	9 Freshmore Clinic	10	11 5th Grade @ Water Celebration Peru Board of Education Meeting @ Cook	12 End of 3rd Quarter Regional Coalition Mtg. JH W @ JCC MS	13 NO SCHOOL 	14 JH W @ Nebr. City HS 9:00 am
15	16 NO SCHOOL 	17 District Speech @ HTRS MS Concert &	18 NO SCHOOL 4th—8th Grade JH ECNC Quiz Bowl @ JCC MS	19 V G & B Soccer @ Doane College	20 JH Music Contest @ Malcolm 	21 V Track @ Wesleyan 9:30 am
22	23 ECNC Quiz Bowl @ Conestoga JV/V G Soccer @ Platteview HS	24 MUDECAS Music @ Sacred Heart, Falls City	25 ECNC Art Workshop MUDECAS Quiz Bowl @ SCC Be-	26 Legislative Day @ State Capitol P/T Conferences @ Both Sites 4-8 pm	27 NO SCHOOL P/T Conferences Both sites	28 HS All State Band @ Kearney HS Cheerleader Tryouts 8:30 am
29	30 Aca Deca Field Trip G Soccer @ NE City 5 & 7 pm B Soccer @ Norris 5 & 7 pm	31 7,8 & 11 Grade NeSA Testing				

March 2015

“THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Goulash Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 BBQ Shredded Pork WG Bun Tater Tots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4 Popcorn Chicken Corn\ Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	5 Taco Salad Fruit & Veggie Bar Garlic Bread Milk	6 Cheese Pizza Broccoli Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	7
8	9 Asian Chicken Fried rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	10 Hamburger WG Bun Fruit & Veggies Rice Crispy Bar Milk	11 Breakfast for Lunch	12 Corn Dogs Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	13 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK :)	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK :)	17 Chefs Choice 	18 NO MID. SCHOOL Meatball Sub Sun Chips Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19 Chicken Tender Wrap Fruit & Veggie Bar Pudding Milk	20 Cheese Calzonette Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	21
22	23 Meat Lovers Stromboli Fruit & Veggie Bar Brownie	24 Chicken Patty/ WG Bun Carrots Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	25 Br. Cheese Stick / Sauce Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	26 Chefs Choice	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	31 Turkey & Cheese WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk				

Johnson County Central Public Schools

PO Box 338
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PO Box 255
Cook, NE 68329

Phone: 402 335-3320 Superintendent @ Tecumseh
402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh
402 864-2024 Elementary Office @ Cook
402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook
402 864-4181 MS Office @ Cook
Web Site www.jccentral.org

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

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

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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

