

**Schleswig Community School  
"Happenings"  
December 2011 and January 2012**

Please check out the school's website at <http://www.schleswig.k12.ia.us/> for school calendars, bus routes, emergency bus routes and school cancellations.

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

By Mr. Johnson

# Outdoor Classroom



As the new addition was constructed last year and attached the north and the south wings, an empty square was left, enclosed by our building. Therefore, we were able to create not only indoor classrooms, but also an outdoor learning area.

This outdoor learning environment has many things to enhance our science curriculums. For the classes that study weather, weather patterns, and weather related measurements, there is a weather station. This weather station collects data such as precipitation amounts, temperature, and wind speed. This data is then

transmitted wirelessly to a data collection display located inside the building. There are a variety of grasses, plants, and shrubs. These plants will be labeled with a display plaque that identifies their common and scientific names. This vegetation will also show different types of plant reproduction. A variety of insects and birds should also be attracted to these plants. Multiple "garden planters" are also planned. These planters will be used to grow a variety of plants. The planters are planned to have a transparent sidewall that will enable students to see a cross section of the soil and allow them to see the roots of different plants as they grow.

The courtyard also allows for other outdoor learning activities. Currently, there is a rubberized reading mat that student can enjoy listening to a book aloud. There are also benches and a picnic table for students to sit on and study or to just enjoy nature. We are hoping that this area can be used to display some art projects as well.

This educational addition could not have been complete without help. A giant thank you goes out to Ellen Janssen and Wendy Sanders.

These two ladies volunteered their time in order to take care of ALL of the designing, the planting of all the plants, the dispersing the mulch. They are the reason it looks so fantastic. The students would not have this learning environment if it was not for these two ladies. Thank you Ellen! Thank you Wendy!

Local businesses also helped contribute. These contributions purchased the rubberized reading area, multiple benches, the mulch, and some of the shrubbery. This learning environment is just another example of how our school is truly a "community school".



# Holiday Giving

Times are still tough. Money is still tight. The holiday season doesn't make things any easier. The Schleswig Community School is partnering with generous community members to make the financial stress of the holiday season a little easier. For the past several years, complete Christmas meals have been purchased and delivered to families in need. Along with the meals, this year it was decided that we would adopt a family for Christmas. Food will be provided to the family and gifts will be purchased for the family. If you know of a family that might benefit, please let me know. I will also contact or have been contacted by families in need for food, and then deliver meal packages to them on December 24th. The packages include food for breakfast and lunch or supper. For those of you that could use the assistance, please give me a call at school. I am the only one that knows where the food is going. It is a confidential donation and the secret will stay within our circle.

Donations are also being accepted. If you are fortunate to have extra money this holiday season, please share some so that others may enjoy the holidays. If you would like to donate, even a dollar, please call me at school. Thanks for your generosity.

## ***PRINCIPAL'S REPORT***

By Mr. Galvin

### **Being Well this Flu Season Begins With a Healthy Immune System**

The best defense from the seasonal flu is a good offense and your virus-fighting immune system is the star offensive player in this germ game. The better your overall health, the better the fight. When your body is healthy, it can effectively fight and block foreign proteins from entering the body.

### **Exercise**

When you get your heart pumping you are boosting immunity. Walking, aerobics, bicycling or cross-country skiing are great forms of cardiovascular exercise that may not prevent the seasonal flu, but can be the reason it doesn't hit you as hard as it does in non-fit individuals.

### **Boost your immune system this season by:**

- Getting plenty of rest
- Staying physically fit
- Eating a balanced diet
- Managing your stress
- Drinking plenty of fluids
- Avoiding smoking

*To get moving and enjoy some immune boosting activities log onto [www.wellmark.com/communitywellness](http://www.wellmark.com/communitywellness) for local events and resources.*

### **Sleep**

Everything works better when you are well rested. Studies show sleep deprivation has an adverse effect on immune function, leading to a higher risk for infection or catching viruses. Try to get a full eight hours of sleep each night to give your immune system a fighting chance at beating the flu bug.

## **Nutrition**

A well-balanced diet is essential. Build these power foods into your winter diet:

**Yogurt.** It's been shown to stimulate white blood cells.

**Sweet Potatoes.** Chuck full of vitamin A, and their beta-carotene helps you build better skin, a first line of defense against viruses.

**Tea.** Harvard University says sipping on either black or green tea can transform the body's T cells, pumping out 10 times more cold and flu virus-fighting interferon – a protein that fights infection.

**Beef.** The zinc found in beef is essential in building white blood cells. Just 3 ounces provides 30 percent of your daily value.

**Mushrooms.** Shitake and Maitake mushrooms have the greatest impact on the building and strengthening of white blood cells.

For ways to prepare these healthy foods, check out this interactive cookbook with heart healthy recipes from the American Heart Association at [www.deliciousdecisions.org](http://www.deliciousdecisions.org)

## **Performance DVDs**

Winter concerts will be taking place soon. TK-4 is on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December and 5-8 will be performing on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Both concerts will be recorded by the student Technology Club with a video camera. The members of the Technology Club are going to make these performances available on DVD again this year. If you would like a DVD copy of either of the performances, please call Renee at school. Copies of the DVDs will be \$5 each. If you are unable to pick up your DVD, mailing arrangements can be made. The Technology Club will also be making all recorded performances available on the Internet via YouTube. A link will be posted for all recorded performances on the school webpage. Access to these videos on YouTube will be free of charge.

## ***GUIDANCE***

By Mrs. Bower

### **Middle School Care Packages**

On Wednesday morning, December 21<sup>st</sup>, the Schleswig Middle School students will proudly deliver holiday care packages in Ricketts and Schleswig. Beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m., groups of 3-5 students will deliver packages to residents and spend some time visiting and spreading holiday cheer. If you have gotten a care package in the past, and would like to receive another one please call Mrs. Bower to make sure you are on the list. If you haven't received a delivery in the past but would like one, or if you know someone who would like to receive one, we would like to have your names added to the list. Please contact the school to take part in this community cares project, 676-3313.

## Holiday TAP Drive



On December 5<sup>th</sup> we will kick off our annual TAP holiday food drive. Donations at TAP are reported to be lower this year and a greater number of families are in need of assistance. Students will be able to write their name on a paper ornament to decorate the school Christmas tree for each item they donate to TAP. Canned, boxed, and other non – perishable foods will help ease the food shortage for families in need of caring assistance during the holiday season. Baby supplies and detergent are also welcomed. There will be a collection taken at the elementary music program on December 6<sup>th</sup> and our drive will conclude at the middle school program on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who are able contribute, this is a wonderful opportunity to teach children the importance of helping each other in times of need.

## Eighth Grade Four-Year Plans

The state of Iowa requires all eighth grade students to have a four-year plan for their high school coursework by the end of their eighth grade year. In our eighth grade guidance time, we have been taking interest inventories, identifying a “career path”, and exploring career possibilities to prepare students for choosing their high school coursework. Of course, plans and preferences can change for a student and the coursework plan can be revised. The website, [www.ihaveaplaniowa.com](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.com), will not only guide students through this planning process, but will also serve as a base from which they will be able to apply to colleges and for scholarships, job search, and many other exciting features. Parents of our eighth grade students will see their child’s plan and have an opportunity to approve or revise it during parent-teacher conferences in the spring.

## Thankful for Volunteers at the Schleswig School



In the midst of the holiday season, celebrating and giving thanks, we are thankful for the skilled volunteers that we have coming into the classrooms to work with our students. Our volunteers are Pam Gronau, Bev Peters, Kathy Clausen, Judy Lee, and Janet Lafrentz. The jobs these volunteers do include helping young students complete classroom activities, listening to children read aloud, practicing math facts, small group math activities, small group center activities in several subjects, and computerized learning programs. If this interests you and you’d like to become a volunteer, please call the school at 676-3314, we would love to have you. We appreciate and want to say thank you to our volunteers for the help they give our students and teachers!

## **Schleswig Middle School Student Council**

Members of the Schleswig School Student Council presented local veterans with “Cookies for Courage” after the Veterans Day Program on November 11, 2011. The homemade cookies were a symbol of recognition and gratitude for the sacrifices made by all veterans. Veterans, thank you for your service to our country.



## ***TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN***

By Miss Furne and Mrs. Abbe





Thanksgiving is a special day for everyone. This is what the TK and kindergarten students are thankful for:

- Jacy – "my dog, Josie"
- Natasha – "my friends"
- Alexander- "my school"
- Isabella C. – "being quiet for my teachers:
- Avigail – "my mom and my dad"
- Jesus- "food"
- Randen – "my family"
- Breyana – "my cousin, Melia"
- Elli – "my grandma"
- Brady- "my dad"
- Camille – "my family"
- Shelby – "my sister, Paige"
- Calli - "my grandma"
- Chloe – "my school"
- Carrylee – "helping my sister ride her bike"
- Eryn- " my mom, my brother, and Ms. Furne"
- Gracie – "my sister, Hanna"
- Jorge – "my counting skills"
- Dominic- "my brother Derrick"
- Deserae – "when I get to be the leader"
- Brody – "my mom and dad"
- Cole – "being able to help my dad change the oil in  
the tractor"
- Taylor – "having a hamster"
- Kyleigh- "my bunny"
- Flor – "my brother, Carlos"
- Isabella Z.- "being helpful"
- TJ- "my mom"
- Aaron- "my dad's glasses to help him see."
- Brecken- "blueberries"

This year we are trying to increase our math instruction by grouping our students to better meet their individual needs. Groups meet three times a week for half an hour. Throughout the week groups are given the opportunity to explore, learn something new, practice, then apply their knowledge to meet our math objective for the week. Our most recent unit of study included shapes and patterns. One activity was playing Shape Bingo where the students had to find a shape that was mentioned. Another activity was working with shapes and patterns. Students were engaged by tracing shapes with a partner to extend a pattern. Our last activity was to

classify shapes by different attributes and then they used those shapes to make individual patterned bracelets. Extension activities for this unit included going on a shape hunt, making living shapes with their bodies and making an apple turkey by creating a pattern out of fruit loops and cheerios for the feathers. The finished projects were hung on the wall for everyone to see, worn, or eaten.

December will bring Christmas spirit into our classroom. Students will write letters to Santa, count down the days until Christmas, creatively decorate the classroom and explore with numbers using the smartboard and ipads.

Happy holidays to everyone.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

By Mrs. Abbe, Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Meyer

Where has the first half of the year gone? We are quickly approaching the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester, already! That is very hard to believe. Fortunately, December is always filled with so many exciting events like: TK-4 Christmas concert, writings for the newspaper, an ICN session about Kwanzaa during our multi-cultural holiday unit, and of course our own Christmas party and gift exchange. Although December is so fun-filled, we also have some busy weeks ahead of us learning and assessing. Hopefully the weather stays kind so we can get as much of it in as possible.

We have enjoyed utilizing the SMART board, clickers, laptops, and I-pads in our classes. We use them in a variety of ways in all sorts of subject areas. We like to use them to enhance skills of where each child is at in their learning. Below you will see some pictures that were taken while utilizing these phenomenal technological resources.

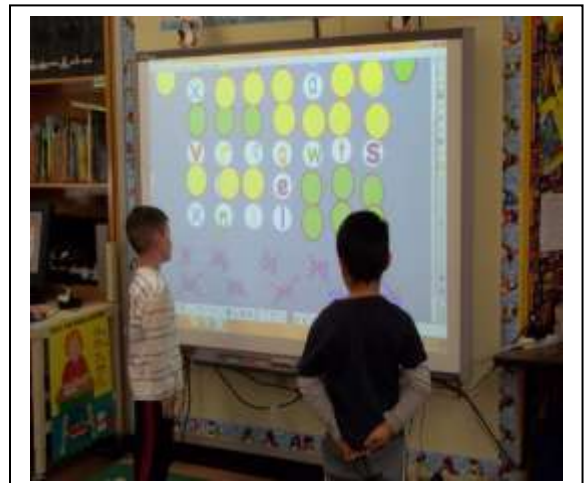
We have wrapped up our Foss kit of Pebbles, Sand, and Silt. We will start a fun-filled unit called Balance and Motion the first part of the month. Things will be flying, wobbling, and spinning for the next few months in 1<sup>st</sup> grade! The children will become familiar with steps that are necessary to make objects balance right off the bat. We cannot wait!

In Math, new facts keep coming at us like crazy. This is a very critical time for students to recognize if a math fact is addition or subtraction so they can eliminate the confusion of doing the opposite. Once they notice the plus or minus sign, they can then remember the tricks that we have rehearsed for each of the kinds of facts. We have also spent some time learning some penny and dime chants in order to remember the values of them. Soon we will learning how to tell time to the hour. The first couple of months seem rather repetitious in math but we certainly start plugging away once November hits. A good skill to practice and rehearse with your first grader is counting by 10's, 5's, and 2's to 100. We already have a very good start!

Spelling has become one of the "fun" things to do during our center time. Students are able to practice the weekly words in many different forms and in ways that help each student discover and master the list of words. Some options include hands on, writing on white boards, smart board activities, working on iPads or just spelling them verbally.



Tavin and Pedro enjoying the different ways to practice spelling words.





On test days the student selects the assessment that will work best for them. They all seem to know which learning style is best for them and this leads to happy first graders.

Stay tuned to your cell phones and email accounts for information regarding the Christmas party along with any announcements necessary for changes in the school day related to weather. Have a wonderful, special Christmas and winter break!!



Nature Center fun from  
November

Mrs. Meyer's class has worked hard  
collecting milk cartons this month to  
create a very unique Christmas tree  
for us to enjoy!



## 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

By Mrs. Sedore

Teachers are tough! That's the opinion of second grade students. Teachers actually expect students to begin sentences with a capital letter and to end them with a punctuation mark. We have been studying grammar and the conventions of sentence writing in Daily Oral Language and then applying that knowledge to writing projects. Even story writing has become a little tricky. Each story needs to be organized with a beginning, middle, and an end. Colorful words need to be added to make it interesting. Writing is fun, but it is hard to remember to do everything correctly when one is trying to be creative.

In Math, second grade students are working on place value. Students are given a number and must identify the tens and ones places and then determine the value of each place. This can be tricky business. If the tens and ones place digits are transposed, the answer is way off. This is all in preparation for learning double-digit addition and subtraction. Of course we are continuing to work on addition and subtraction strategies and facts. Just 5 minutes of practice each night can help to keep a student's skills sharp.

Three times a week the students work on Mountain Math. This program provides for the daily review of basic second grade skills. These skills involve reading number words, place value, time, measurement, fractions, three dimensional shapes, ordinal numbers, money, and double-digit addition and subtraction.

Everything is made of matter. What is matter? It is anything that takes up space and has weight. All matter can be classified into three groups – solids, liquids, and gas. In science, the students have been exploring the properties of solids, liquids, and mixtures. As engineers, students built towers that had to stand a given amount of time and bridges that had to hold weight. Soon they will be separating different sizes of particles using screens. They will also be exploring how solids remain unchanged or dissolve when mixed with water and discover what remains when the water evaporates.

Kelly came from the Nature Center to present a lesson on turkeys. Everyone learned some interesting facts. Here are a few for you to "gobble up."

Did you know that turkeys can run 12 mph and can fly up to 55 mph?

Turkeys like to sleep in trees.

Tom (male) turkeys make one call while hens can make 27 sounds.

The flap of skin hanging to the side of a male turkey's beak is called a snood.

The beard and snood on a turkey indicate its age.

A jake is a male turkey that is not a year old.

A jenny is a young female turkey.

Tom turkeys drag their feathers on the ground to attract a hen.

December finds us in a holiday spirit as we decorate our room, sing holiday songs, and read and write Christmas stories. The holiday theme even finds its way into our math, phonics, and language arts. Happy Holidays to everyone from all of the second grade students!



Engineers Aidan and Contessa try to construct the tallest tower they can by using and applying the properties of solids.



Kayla and Vivi use what they know about solids to build a tower that is balanced and beautiful.

## **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE**

By Mrs. Larson

Wow! It is hard to believe it is December already! Please help your child remember to bring proper clothing for wintery weather!

We are excited to have a classroom blog to share what's happening in our classroom. I am updating the blog several times a week with tricks for learning in our classroom, neat things we're working on, and other pictures and clips from our classroom. To get to the blog, go to the school website [www.schleswig.k12.ia.us](http://www.schleswig.k12.ia.us). From there, click on the Faculty Directory link towards the top of the page. Then find Third Grade under subjects. You will see a link to the BLOG there. Don't miss out on what's new in third grade!

In math, we continue to review skills including rounding, addition and subtraction facts, and more difficult addition and subtraction problems. We are beginning multiplication, and the

students are picking up on the easier facts quickly. Skip counting by each number is a good way to learn and practice facts. It's also a good way to develop mental math skills. Here are some websites that students can use to practice multiplication facts:

[http://www.internet4classrooms.com/skills\\_3rd\\_math.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/skills_3rd_math.htm)

<http://www.funbrain.com/brain/MathBrain/MathBrain.html>

[http://multiplication.com/interactive\\_games.htm](http://multiplication.com/interactive_games.htm)

Before Thanksgiving, we read some stories about the first Thanksgiving. We also performed a readers' theater called *The ABC's of Thanksgiving* to improve our reading fluency and expressive speaking skills. Check out the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade blog to hear some of the reading!

In social studies we continue to work on map skills as well as learning and practicing the continents and oceans of our Earth. We have moved into our 2<sup>nd</sup> science unit this quarter, and we continue to study plants and animals. We are focusing on their habitats, life cycles, and uses. By now the students should be at least half-way to their 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter AR goal. We are focusing on improving comprehension, so each of the students has a goal of at least 80% for accuracy. Most students should also have around 13 points. Please continue to encourage them to read at home **each night**.

We have been lucky to have Kelly visit from the Nature Center the past few months. In October she shared information about bats including adaptations they have to survive. In November she shared lots of turkey info. The kids had a chance to observe turkey parts up close and personal as well as create turkey calls.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

By Mrs. Petersen

We have completed the book *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The students have learned many new vocabulary words and the differences of life between the Little House days and today. There are several students that are reading more of the Little House books. We had an ICN session about Prairie life that was very interesting. Ask your child to tell you what they made soap out of or what they used to burn at their campfires years ago. We have started our next Literature Circle book called *Santa Paws*. It is about a homeless puppy trying to survive in the dead of winter, cold and alone. After that book, the students will be

reading another Santa Paws book titled, Santa Paws on Christmas Island. Ask your child more about these books.

The students continue to practice their basic math facts with apps on the ipads, classroom math games, paper & pencil, and different websites games. They have come a long ways since the beginning of the school year but we still need to keep practicing those facts so that they do not forget them. In January we will be moving on to harder problems that require the students to know all of their basic facts. Our first total CRUNCH pro was Austin Korner. Congratulations Austin!!!



We sent our first Pen Pal letters to the students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Odebolt. The students were so excited to find out who their Pen Pals were! The students are excited to be Pen Pals with them throughout the year and then to be able to meet their Pen Pal face to face at the end of the year. We will have a picnic in May with them at our school this year.

In Iowa History, we have been working on our Historical site reports. Students picked a Historical site that they would like to do research about. We used a variety of resources, such as: the encyclopedia, Iowa books, and some different Internet sites with important factual information in them. This will be the first time students have taken notes from different sources. It is sometimes tough for them to take short, brief notes instead of copying down entire sentences. Once the students completed their notes, then they wrote their final report in complete sentences using their notes to help them. Finally, they presented their reports to the class. We played Guess My Historical Site as a review game and took a quiz the next day.

The Human Body is the unit we are working on in Science. Students carefully viewed enlarged bone diagrams of four different parts of our body: the head, arm, torso, and leg. They counted how many bones were in each part and added them up to determine how many total bones we have in our bodies. Many students were close to the actual number we have in our bodies – 206 bones! Students put together their own puzzle of Mr. Bones and then put together a puzzle of Mr. Bones on the computer. A couple of tricky parts were the neck, lower back, arm,

and leg bones. Sometimes students had a bone or two upside down but after reevaluating their puzzle, students were able to get Mr. Bones put together correctly. ☺ We have also worked with joints and limited use of joints by doing some different activities.

Happy holidays and travel safely if you are traveling. Enjoy some precious and valuable time with your families!

## **ART**

By Mrs. Godbersen

Featured in this issue are student artists deciding, analyzing, interpreting, and judging. Artists have to think of possibilities during this problem solving process.

**Transitional Kindergarten** – students have painted their square of white paper to make the colors of green, orange, and purple. A leaf shape was traced and cut out for a “leaf in a basket” composition. Students will be weaving brown paper to fashion a market basket. Pictured are: Brady Lutz, Dominic Rauch, TJ Koch, Breckan Webers, Aaron Hennings, Kyleigh Beeck, and Alexander Correa.

**First Grade Artists** – are making an ear of corn painting to demonstrate their use of warm and cool colors. Tempera paint, as well as oil pastels, is the mixed media used. Pictured are: Sadie Blackman, Christina Martinson, Kayla Neddermeyer, Ashley Rosener, and Timberlen Koch.

**Fourth Grade Artists** – have studied the artists Pablo Picasso and George Braque as the developers of the “collage.” Collage is referred to as the media where paper is glued to another surface. Fourth graders studied the artwork, “The Three Musicians” and are now placing themselves playing a musical instrument, including a piece of sheet music. Pictured are: Kaydee Meseck, Keenan Beeck, Robert Jepsen, Ivan Zamago, and ViViana Alanis.



## **5<sup>TH</sup> /6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

By Mrs. Pritchard and Miss Surprenant

### **Math**

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy multiplying decimals! We have been using [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) to practice their skills. They have their own username and password and can be using this at home as well as at school.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are dividing decimals. We have learned short cuts when dividing by 10, 100, 1000, ect. (just move the decimal to the left). They also have a username and password for [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) so that they can be practicing these skills at home.

### **Reading**

We have been continuing to learn and practice new strategies. I have been meeting with the students on an individual basis to learn and practice these strategies to help them become better readers. A few of the comprehension strategies we've been practicing are: check for understanding, back up and reread, monitor and fix-up, and mental imagining. Take a moment to ask your child what strategy they are practicing while reading their AR books.

AR has had a new face this quarter. While we were creating goals before the quarter, the students seemed very excited that they didn't need a certain number of points but a certain number of books. However, several students have fallen behind on their goals. Please encourage your child to read their book every night at home. Not only will the reading time help them meet their AR goal but will also give them an opportunity to practice the strategies we are learning/practicing in the classroom.

### **Social Studies**

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about the migration and immigration of people into America and the United States and the order in which the immigrants arrived. While in the process of learning about the migration from Europe in the early 1900's, we learned about Ellis and Angel Island. Both places are where immigrants traveled through to enter the United States. The class was very surprised at the process the early immigrants needed to follow and the amount of people that migrated to the United States during those years.

6<sup>th</sup> graders have been reviewing and learning how to use different types of maps. We have been reviewing the parts of map, how to use the key, and what different kinds of maps look like. While learning the map skills, students have also been able to take a glance at the physical features of other countries. They've noticed how most of Australia is desert, the longest mountain range is in South America, and the Sahara Desert is a comparable size to the United States.

### **Language Arts**

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are still getting used to the new spelling program that they have started. Since their words are individualized they need to work really hard to practice them often in order to master them in order to know how to spell them for the next test.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders produced an Animoto presentation to help them remember how to spell some tough words! By pronouncing the word correctly by its syllables they can think about each chunk and spell it correctly. The presentation is posted on their Edmodo account. Ask them to share it with you!

### **Science**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been doing lots of experimenting with lifeboats, airplanes, and flipper. There was actually a day that the students were *allowed* to make paper airplanes and fly them during class! They were ecstatic!



5<sup>th</sup> grade class flying their airplanes!



Jaden, Conner, and Lyndsy are following their directions and working together to make their paper airplanes.

## Technology

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been working on [www.learning.com](http://www.learning.com) in order to practice their typing skills. These skills are needed in order to type stories, papers, spelling tests, ect. Just like anything else, practice makes perfect! We will continue to practice in school, but if they would like to practice at home here are some websites to check out.

- <http://www.onlytypinggames.com>
- <http://www.freetypinggame.net>

6<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy creating interactive Voki's and Glogster pages. Voki is an online program where the students can create their own character (avatar) and also create what the avatar says. We have used these to share summaries of books and also share information about a project in social studies. Glogster is another online program that allows students to make an interactive poster. Students can link websites, embed videos and sounds, and many other things to present their information. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are in the process of creating a Glog for an AR book, have your child show you their amazing work.



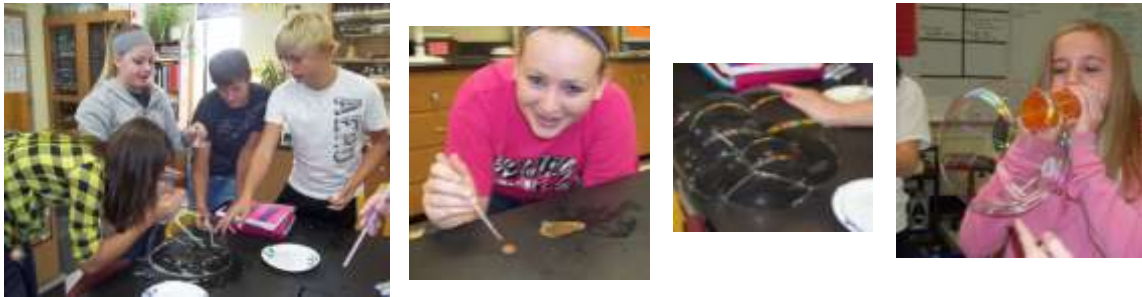
## 7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH/SCIENCE

By Mrs. Stoppel

*"The endless wonder of science is that the more we know,  
the more there is to know." – Stephen Budiansky*

One of the common goals of the teachers here at Schleswig is to stimulate lifelong learning among our students. Science is an excellent venue for developing inquiries and formulating hypotheses which lead to even more questions. Tapping into the complex thinking realms of students is evidenced daily in the questions and activities that take place in our classrooms. I often like to follow up students' answers with "so then what?" in order to make them think beyond the basics.

During our recent study of sound, light, and the basics of the electromagnetic spectrum, students did small investigations to help deepen the understanding gained by question/answer sessions. They explored with tuning forks, PVC pipes, water, bubbles, and color wheels to explore and analyze various properties and behaviors of sound and light. Those activities, paired with learning via technology resources, aided student understanding and inspired more questions, strengthening their lifelong learning traits.



Students are also expected to use their complex thinking skills in math class and apply their learning to real-life situations. The big concept being covered in seventh grade right now deals with ratios, proportions, and percents. What are some ways you personally use those concepts in the real world? If you know a seventh grader, enlighten them with your knowledge of real-life applications of your math skills next time you talk to him/her.

The pre-algebra section of eighth grade has also been challenged to determine how and when to use certain operations in the real world. By making connections between math skills and their uses in everyday life, students strengthen their lifelong learning habits as well. How does an automotive technician use math? How does a farmer use math? How does a chef use math? How about you – what are ways you use your math skills? Chances are you've become so accustomed to estimating and figuring things that you don't even realize you're using your math skills.

In eighth grade algebra, the students have been solving complex multi-step equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign. Before the quarter comes to an end, they will be using some of the same strategies to solve systems of equations. Some of the problems they'll be solving are as follows: "Sam's dad is 25 years older than Sam. Sam's mother is 23 years older than Sam. The combined age of the three people is 93. How old is each person?"... "Elise had \$15 more than Joseph. Julian had \$10 less than Joseph. Martha had \$23 more than Joseph. Together they had \$108, how much money did each person have?" With the guess and check method, it will likely take several tries to get everything figured out. The algebra students will write equations based on the information and solve using substitution. By using the equation method to get the answers it would only take one try instead of wasting time guessing and checking. As lifelong learners, they'll be able to use this problem solving, time saving strategy in the future. (answers: Sam = 15, Mom = 38, Dad = 40... Elise = \$35, Joseph = \$20, Julian = \$10, Martha = \$43)

# **7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS/READING/SOCIAL STUDIES**

By Mr. Boelter

## **7th Grade**

The seventh grade students have been studying the countries of South America. They have learned about the physical and human geography of the region. Items of discussion have included: vertical trading, land distribution, favelas, development of industry and infrastructure, and agriculture. The class has learned the countries and their capitals and a brief history of each nation.

Reading class has focused on the book *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen. This is a story of how three teenagers save endangered owls and the environment. We have been working with vocabulary, synonyms, antonyms, characterization, and plot. The students have learned the parts of a plot line and are currently finding examples in the story. The story is both entertaining and humorous.

In language arts, the students are still working on the basics of usage, mechanics, grammar, and writing. The class has been doing a lot of work with words that often confused.

## **8th Grade**

The students are currently working on reading *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. The story is a fantasy that deals with the obstacles faced by the main character, Bilbo Baggins. Bilbo overcomes great odds and many dangers. He gains self-confidence as he faces and overcomes his fear. The students are enjoying the book and the occasional viewing of selected scenes from the films from *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. The films help them to understand the history behind the book. They are also learning how this book reflects the troubles faced by the world during World War I and World War II. The students are also spending a great deal of time recognizing the themes and motifs used by the author.

In language arts, the eighth grade students will be working on persuasive writing techniques. The class will work to write effective opinion statements. Then they have to find good supporting details and evidence to help their opinion statement have strength. Finally, they will begin crafting good conclusion statements for their writing. The goal will be to work toward a persuasive essay that has strength.

The social studies class has just completed two detailed units on the events leading up to the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War. They looked at the major players in the war and the events that lead to an American victory.

The class is now looking at the events that led to the shaping of our government. The first unit deals with the Articles of Confederation. We study how the Articles were created, the compromises that had to be made, and the reasons why the Articles failed. Then the students will look at the reasons for the creation of the Constitution of the United States. The goals will be for the students to see why the Constitution was needed, how the Constitution works, and why it is such an important document. The students will also learn about the three branches of our government, the powers of each branch, and the system of checks and balances that keep one branch from having full control of the country. Finally, the students will learn about the number of seats each state has for representation in our congress, how the number of seats is decided, and how this effects voting.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE READING**

By Mrs. Kuhlmann

The unit this quarter is based on people with disabilities and differences. Some of the students have had the opportunity to experience having a disability to learn some of the difficulties individuals have if they have a disability. The students will "become" disabled for a school day and write about the experience. They will also create a program to teach younger students about disabilities and differences. We will try to understand what we can do to help eliminate this problem in our school, our community and our nation.

We have finished reading our book "Freak the Mighty" and will start on "The Outsiders" on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. While "Freak" discussed people with disabilities, "The Outsiders" will teach us about differences in groups. One group comes from the poverty, poorer part of town and has a variety of family situations; while the other group is from the wealthier side of town. The students continue reading other books about differences and disabilities.

We are continuing with our pop tab projects, so please continue to save them and send them to school. We also have collection cans at Cheeto's and The Chrome Spur. If you have a large amount, we would appreciate it if you would bring them to the school. Currently the total we have is 92,100. We have a long way to go!

## **MUSIC**

By Mrs. Rosener

A very patriotic ceremony was held in honor of our veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Every grade sang and/or recited a poem. The students, all dressed in red, white, and blue, looked and sounded wonderful! Once again, thanks to everyone who helped make the Veteran's Day program a success. *(Look for pictures of the program on the next page)!*

Christmas is just around the corner and music is in the air! All of the students have been working very hard to perfect their upcoming performances. The TK-4 Christmas concert will be held in the gym on **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** This year's 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade operetta is entitled, "Santa's Rockin' Christmas Eve." It's a cute show that you don't want to miss!

The middle school Christmas concert is scheduled for **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Both band and chorus will be performing a variety of sacred and secular Christmas pieces. These students are filled with anticipation for the big event! Students should be there at 6:30 to tune their instruments, line up in riser order, etc.

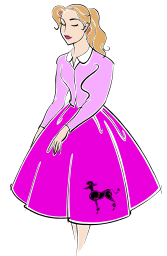
We hope to see you there to share in the sounds of the season!

### **UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS**

**Tuesday, December 6**=TK-4<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas concert at 7:00 p.m. in the gym

**Thursday, December 15**=5-8<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas concert at 7:00 p.m. in the gym

**The 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be having a "1950's" theme for their spring concert. If you have any poodle skirts or other items from that era that you are willing to let us borrow, please contact Mrs. Rosener. Thank you!**



Jena & Jessica, two 8<sup>th</sup> grade clarinet players, were selected to perform at the SWIBA honor band festival held at Lewis Central on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to these fine musicians!

# Become a School Music Patron!

The Schleswig Music Department has organized a "School Music Patron" campaign. At this time, we are promoting the "Red-White-Blue Club," with a "Silver-Gold Club" available to exceptional donors. Individuals, families, as well as businesses are all encouraged to donate. These donations will be used for various music department expenses which include: costumes and props for the concerts, sheet music, honor choir and band fees, music equipment, and more.

Becoming a School Music Patron is easy. Just choose the desired patron level and return this form with your check to Mrs. Rosener. Your tax deductible donation will help provide funds for many music activities in the district and your name will be listed in the programs of each concert for the 2011-2012 school year.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Schleswig Music Department!

.....  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes! I wish to become a Music Patron for the 2011-2012 school year

## School Music Patron Donation Form

<u>Donation Amount</u>	<u>Club</u>
\$1.00--\$10.00	Red
\$11.00--\$25.00	White
\$26.00--\$50.00	Blue
\$51.00--\$100.00	Silver
\$101.00 and up	Gold

**Amount of Donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** (as printed on programs) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Schleswig Community School and return to Mrs. Rosener OR mail to:

Music Booster Patron  
c/o Angie Rosener  
Schleswig Community School  
714 Date Street  
Schleswig, IA 51461

**Thank you for your support!**

# Elementary Christmas Concert Dinner

Come enjoy a hot meal and support the  
Schleswig music program.

Tuesday December 6th, 2011  
(Before the concert)

4:30- 6:30 p.m.

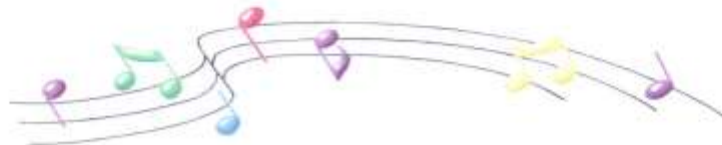
Schleswig Multi- Purpose Room



Serving:  
Hot Ham  
Cheesy Potatoes  
Corn  
Dessert

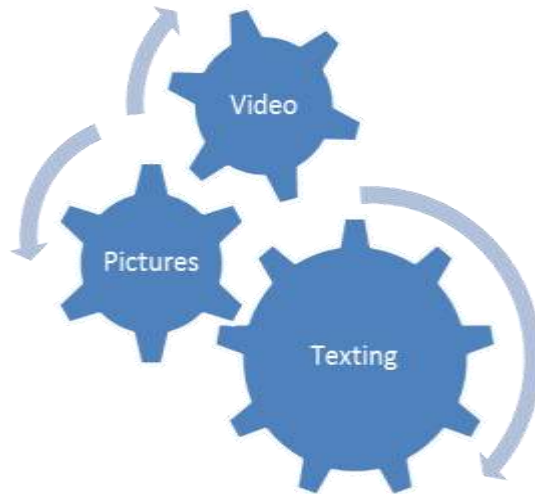


Free Will Donation



# Community Education Opportunity

– training provided by the Middle School Tech  
Club



**When:**

January 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00

**Where:**

ICN Room at the Schleswig School

**Topics Covered Include:**

Texting, taking and sending pictures  
and video with your cell phone

Please call the school at 676-3314 with  
questions.





# December 2011- Breakfast and Lunch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 French Toast Sticks, Sausage Patty  Shrimp Mates or Chicken Strips, Potato Wedges, Pears	2 Honey Bun, Cereal  Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Applesauce	3
4	5 Apple Muffin, Cereal  Grilled or Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Potato Rounds, Peaches	6 Pancake & Sausage on Stick  Breaded Pork Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Mandarin Oranges	7 Bagel, Cereal  Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Pineapple	8 Cinnamon Roll, Cereal  Tomato Basil or Chicken Noodle Soup, Egg Salad Sandwich, Peas, Apple Slices	9 Breakfast Pizza  Chili Crispito or Pizza Dipper, Tator Tots, Fruit Cocktail	10
11	12 Blueberry Muffin, Cereal  Creamed Chicken over Mashed Potatoes or Biscuits, Corn, Pears	13 Biscuits & Gravy  Beef Fingers or Mozzarella Sticks, French Fries, Applesauce	14 Toast, Cereal  <b>Christmas Dinner</b> Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet & Sage Dressing, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Cranberries, Pumpkin Dessert	15 Apple Strudel Stick, Cereal  Ms. Ribb or Pizza Burger on Bun, Potato Wedges, Peaches	16 Waffle, Ham  Meatball Sub or Grilled Cheese, Baked Beans, Mandarin Oranges	17
18	19 Chocolate Chip Muffin, Cereal  Hot Dog or Chili Dog, Potato Rounds, Pineapple	20 Scrambled Eggs, Toast  Hamburger Steak or Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Apple Slices	21 Pancake, Bacon  Chili or Wisconsin Cheese Soup, Egg Salad Sandwich, Peas, Fruit Cocktail	22  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	23  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	24
25	26  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	30  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	31

# January 2012- Breakfast and Lunch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	3 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	4 Cheese Omelet, Toast  Hamburger or Cheeseburger, French Fries, Pears	5 Banana Muffin, Cereal  Pepperoni Pizza, Corn, Applesauce	6 French Toast Sticks, Sausage Patty  Mac-n-Cheese or Goulash, Carrots, Peaches	7
8	9 Apple Muffin, Cereal  Polish Dog or Corn Dog, Baked Beans, Mandarin Oranges	10 Pancake & Sausage on Stick  BBQ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Pineapple	11 Cinnamon Biscuit, Cereal  Taco Bites or Shrimp Mates, Tator Tots, Apple Slices	12 Breakfast Pizza  Lazy Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Mixed Veggies, Fruit Cocktail	13 Biscuits & Gravy  Turkey Sub or Ham & Cheese Melt, Potato Wedges, Pears	14
15	16 Blueberry Muffin, Cereal  Grilled or Breaded Chicken Breast, Potato Rounds, Applesauce	17 Cake Donut, Cereal  Potato-n-Ham or Chicken Noodle Soup, Ham Salad Sandwich, Green Beans, Peaches	18 Scrambled Eggs, Toast  BBQ Pork or Tavern, French Fries, Mandarin Oranges	19 Cinnamon Roll, Cereal  Soft Shell Tacos, Lettuce, Cheese, Spanish Rice, Corn, Pineapple	20 Waffle & Ham  Sausage Pizza, Peas, Apple Slices	21
22	23 Banana Muffin, Cereal  Creamed Chicken over Mashed Potatoes or Biscuits, Carrots, Fruit Cocktail	24 French Toast Sticks, Sausage Patty  Chili Crispito or Pizza Dipper, Tator Tots, Pears	25 Apple Turnover, Cereal  Ravioli, Garlic Bread, Mixed Veggies, Applesauce	26 Bagel, Cereal  Shrimp Mates or Chicken Strips, Potato Wedges, Peaches	27 Biscuits & Gravy  Turkey Tetrizzini, Green Beans, Mandarin Oranges	28
29	30 Chocolate Chip Muffin, Cereal  Hot Dog or Chili Dog, Potato Rounds, Pineapple	31 Cheese Omelet, Toast  Chili or Beef Barley Soup, Grilled Cheese, Peas, Apple Slices				

# December 2011- Activity and Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4:00 GBB vs Boyer Valley 4:00 BBB @ Dow City  7:00 Foundation Brd. Mtg @ School  Community Club Sacking Supper @ CB	2 4:00 GBB @ Sloan 4:00 BBB vs Westwood	3 Santa Claus Day @ CB
4	5 Enterprise Steak Supper @ CB	6 7:00 TK-4 Winter Concert	7 2:00 Early Dismissal	8 3:45 GBB @ Westside 3:45 GBB vs Ar-We-Va	9	10
11	12 4:00 BBB @ St. Michaels	13 4:00 BBB vs East Sac	14 2:00 Early Dismissal	15 7:00 5-8 Christmas Concert	16 3:45 BBB @ Charter Oak	17
18	19 3:45 7 <sup>th</sup> Girls & Boys BB @ Odebolt  6:30 School Board Mtg.	20 4:00 BBB vs Boyer Valley 4:00 GBB @ Dow City	21 9-1 Care Package Delivery  2:00 Early Dismissal	22 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	23 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	24
25	26 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	30 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	31

# January 2012 – Activity and Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	3 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	4 2:00 Early Dismissal	5 4:00 GBB vs St. Michaels	6	7 9-1 Youth BB @ Schleswig  7:00 Wrestling @ CB
8	9 4:00 GBB vs East Sac 4:00 BBB @ Sloan  Daisies & Brownies Mtg @ BB	10 3:45 GBB vs Ar-We-Va 3:45 BBB @ Westside	11 2:00 Early Dismissal  Basic Fund Mtg @ BB	12 6:00-7:00 Community Education(Texting) @ School  7:00 Community Club Mtg @ CB	13	14 9-1 Youth BB @ Schleswig
15	16 Bloodmobile @ CB  6:00 School Board Mtg	17 HEARING TESTS  GBB at St. Michaels	18 HEARING TESTS  2:00 Early Dismissal	19 4:00 GBB vs Westwood	20	21 9-1 Youth BB @ Schleswig
22	23 Daisies & Brownies Mtg @ BB	24	25 2:00 Early Dismissal	26	27	28 9-1 Youth BB @ Charter Oak
29	30	31				