

**Schleswig Community School  
"Happenings"  
October 2011**

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

### **Windmill Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**

I don't know how many of you have been familiarizing yourselves with the possibility of the newly constructed windmills being 'TIF'ed. TIF, or Tax Increment Financing, is a public financing method which has been used as a revenue source for redevelopment and community/county/state improvement projects. According to Wikipedia, *"The biggest flaw with TIF is the deliberate misrepresentation municipalities and counties use to pass their plans. Their claims that TIF is a way to have "development pay for itself" or "all of the revenue is generated by the improvements" are false. I am an expert in TIF and I have not seen a single example where that is the case. And even if there are a few exceptions where all of the increased property value and taxes have been a result of the debt and development it is far from how the tool most often works."* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax\\_increment\\_financing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax_increment_financing))

Here is the school's point of view on the whole matter. In theory, if the windmills are not allowed to be 'TIF'ed, the levy rate on property tax used toward school should decrease. At this time, I cannot begin to make an accurate estimate on how much, but they should go down. For further details, please contact me at the school.

At this point in time, my superintendent recommendation for the board is to overwhelmingly accept a TIF by the City of Schleswig but to object to a TIF by Crawford County and also object to a shared TIF by the City and the County.

### **Schleswig Education Foundation**

On September 12, 2011, the Schleswig Education Foundation held its inaugural meeting to officially create The Schleswig Education Foundation. The Schleswig Education Foundation is a non-profit organization. The purpose of the foundation is to collect money that can be used mostly for scholarships for anyone that lives within the current boundaries of the Schleswig Community School District. Other uses could be allowed for academic improvements to the school's education program. All scholarships and other uses would need to be voted on by the SEF board members

Since the SEF was just created, we have minimal funds. As all non-profit organizations we are looking for charitable donations. If you or someone you know would like to make a contribution or would like to know more about SEF, please give me a call at school 676-3313 or send me an email [brianjohnson@schleswig.k12.ia.us](mailto:brianjohnson@schleswig.k12.ia.us) and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks in advance for your support.

### **Can Redemption Collection**

Schleswig Community School District is now accepting pop cans at our new reception location. Redemption cans are now being collected south of the school by the concession stand. The cans will be redeemed and the money will help with student activities, field trips, and technology. Student council members will also come to your house to get cans if you give Mrs. Bower a call at school.

The redemption center was an Eagle Scout project completed by Cody Clausen. The school would like to thank Cody and all businesses that contributed.

## Many Thanks

On behalf of the Schleswig School, I would like to express an enormous thank you to everyone that has volunteered their time to help organize and coach our students this past spring, summer, and fall. Activities such as soccer, softball, baseball, golf, flag football, and tackle football have been offered to area students. Not only do these activities offer students opportunities for new experiences, but they also offer them a chance to stay physically active. Once again to all those that volunteered time out of their busy schedules and sacrificed time away from their jobs and families, THANK YOU!!!!

## Arriving and Leaving School

Safety is always on our minds, especially at school. We are constantly thinking of innovative ways to make travel before school and after school safer. Due to the location of the elementary, there are only two avenues in which to enter and leave. If you have ever seen these two streets, they become quite congested before and after school with buses, cars, and students walking and biking. To continue our record of safety we ask that motorists and students follow entry and dismissal procedures.

With the addition of the local Headstart program, this adds additional challenges. It adds about 20 more students. All of these students are 3-4 years old.

- Obey the One-Way Street going south to north on 7<sup>th</sup> street.
- Students riding bikes need to dismount on 6<sup>th</sup> and Date and walk their bikes down the sidewalk.
- Dropoff/Pick up your student by the west sidewalk. **No cars in the parking lot before or after school.**

Motorists, please remain extra cautious during these busy times of the days as we know that student behavior can sometimes be unpredictable no matter how many precautions are taken.

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

By Mr. Galvin

Middle schools students want to show off their academic talents to the community and parents during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Schleswig Middle School Academic Fair on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The presentations will take place at school from 5-7 PM. The format will be different this year than it has been in the past. Each class will still focus on a different academic area, but the work done by students will be shown at a scheduled demonstration time during the night. Projects this year will be a lot more technology intensive to show student learning in "21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills" and using the tools the school has.

The school will also be hosting a free will donation spaghetti supper at this event. Please come out and join our students and staff for some spaghetti and let the students display their academic knowledge.

\*\*\*We need volunteers to help with 30 minute shifts for the spaghetti supper. If you are willing, please call Renee at school 676-3314.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are only a few weeks away. The dates for conferences this fall are Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 3-8pm and Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 3-6:30pm. A message will be sent in the coming weeks via AlertNow asking for your scheduling requests. We will meet as many of these requests as we can. Each family will then receive another AlertNow communication with the scheduled time.

We have one new staff member this year here at Schleswig Community Schools. Katja Wigg is working as a paraeducator with the Early Childhood. She is married with four children and has lived in the community for five years.

## **GUIDANCE**

By Mrs. Bower

### **When Girls Hurt Girls**

Ar-We-Va, Charter Oak-Ute, Maple Valley-Anthon Oto and Schleswig Schools are hosting a free Parent Seminar on relational aggression (emotional bullying) for parents of girls in grades kindergarten through grade 8. Join us on Monday, Oct. 3 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at MVAO High School Commons, 501 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Mapleton, Iowa.

This Parent Seminar is FREE and is for any parent who would like to learn how to guide their daughter through painful friendships. This program, developed by [www.AWayThrough.com](http://www.AWayThrough.com), provides simple tips, powerful tools, and practical advice on coaching girls (grades k – 8) through hurtful friendships, or female bullying. Additional information will be sent out through the AlertNow system.

\*\*\*Register for Parent Seminar by emailing [pryan@mvaoschool.com](mailto:pryan@mvaoschool.com)

### **Student Council**

The 2011-2012 student council has been formed. Students who chose to participate from grades 5-8 were given the opportunity to be elected by their classmates. Congratulations to our new and returning members:

Fifth grade: Jaden Petersen and Jaci Kluender

Sixth grade: Jaden Bruck and Whitney Weiss

Seventh grade: Lukas Bornhoft and Jonna Pingel

Eighth grade: Jena Nahnsen, Sophia Schultz, and Jessica Meseck

Student council members have been asked to assist with Red Ribbon Week activities, updating the weekly activities board, the school-wide recycling program, organizing middle school dances, monthly birthday celebration for students and staff, and many other activities through out the year. To kick off Schleswig's annual Calf Show Days celebration, student council students assisted in organizing a "Kiss the Calf Kickoff". This kickoff event gave all students an opportunity to vote for one staff member to kiss a calf. The elementary students nominated Superintendent Brian Johnson, and the middle school students, Principal David Galvin.



### **Red Ribbon Week**

We will kick off our annual Red Ribbon Week recognition on October 24th, 2011 with "One Goal, Our School Drug Free!" day. The week will include several activities geared toward a healthy and drug free lifestyle and conclude with a fall dance for middle school students on Friday night, October 28th. More information detailing this annual celebration will be sent home with students the week prior so that they might prepare for this year's dress up days and contests. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and children to unite for a healthier tomorrow.

### **Talented and Gifted Education**

The TAG program at Schleswig Community School inspires the minds of learners at each grade level in different ways. Kindergarten, first and second grades are served by TAG as whole class enrichment during one semester of the school year. Lessons are focused on problem solving and the four principles of creative thinking: flexibility, fluency, originality, and elaboration. In third and fourth grade, identified students are served in the regular classroom setting using differentiated instruction, the P.E.T.S. curriculum, and also have the opportunity to work outside of the regular classroom setting on independent learning projects. Students in fifth-eighth grades work outside of the regular classroom weekly to extend their learning in several possible areas including technology, science, critical thinking/problem solving, and history.

Middle school students that qualified for services for the 2011-2012 school year are in the process of identifying individual goals and beginning their first research/presentation topic for this year. Elementary students are being challenged in their thinking skills through the integration of technology in their classroom TAG lessons. Programming goals are set to meet the individual needs and interests of identified students. Please address any questions about the gifted education program to Mrs. Bower by calling the school (712) 676-3313.

### **Back to School Bash**

The students and staff of Schleswig School would like to thank Suzi Aikman and her crew of volunteers for kicking off the 2011-2012 school year with an outstanding Back to School Bash celebration on August 11th. Families enjoyed the "Minute to Win It" theme games. Thanks Suzi!!



## **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN**

By Miss Furne and Mrs. Abbe

According to our students, these are the top 30 reasons why "School is Cool!"

Isabella C.	"eating lunch"
Chloe	"snack time"
Gracie	"playing with Calli"
Alexander	"putting puzzles together"
Taylor	"recess"
Carrylee	"free play"
Isabella Z.	"going to the library"
Brady	"recess"
Randen	"going to P.E."
Jacy	"playing with my friends."
Calli	"playing with Gracie"
Dominic	"outside recess"
Cole	"going to music"
Camille	"lunch"
Deserae	"free play"
Kyleigh	"show and share"
Shelby	"guided reading"
Elli	"library"
Natasha	"P.E."
Eryn	"inside free play"
Avigail	"recess"
Flor	"free play"
TJ	"computers"
Jorge	"snack time"
Brody	"P.E."
Chandler	"inside free play"
Jesus	"to color"
Brecken	"riding the bus"
Aaron	"free play"
Teachers	"the uniqueness of each child."

Recently, TK-4h grade students took a field trip to the Neal Moeller Nature Center in Denison, where we all enjoyed a day outside exploring and discovering about the natural world around us. Students had the opportunity to listen and learn about owls, play a guessing game to identify good and bad chemicals, go on a trail hike, go fishing off the dock, give archery a try, watch a movie about honey bees, and create a nature scrapbook. We had beautiful weather to work cooperatively in multi-aged groups and learn together.

Upcoming events in October will include:

- ❖ a fall walk
- ❖ a ride on the fire truck to the Schleswig Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week,
- ❖ participating in activities during Red Ribbon Week
- ❖ parent-teacher conferences
- ❖ our first class party on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>



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

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

What a fast moving month this has been! The children are becoming well adapted to their new 1<sup>st</sup> grade environments, teachers, and friends. We have some new faces in both 1<sup>st</sup> grade sections. We welcome these new families into our district and are so happy to have new students among us.

With a lot of review behind us, we are now able to dig into new skills in all subject areas. Some changes that are evident in 1<sup>st</sup> grade are: homework, daily math, no rest time, Raz Kids, and spelling. We are also learning many important strategies in our Guided Reading and writing lessons, most in which are small group. We believe in differentiating our reading groups so that children are working on text that is matched with their readability. If text is too hard or too easy, there is no instructional value. Connecting that with writing, students come into 1<sup>st</sup> grade at all different levels being able to write words and produce thoughts clearly with ideal spacing, capitalization, and punctuation. We believe this process should be scaffolded rather than expected. We like to call this Guided Writing – strategies are taught and monitored with assistance before being expected.

In Math, we have learned ordinal positioning, shape review, number formation, and counting and comparing. Soon, we will begin learning math facts. This is an exciting time for 1<sup>st</sup> graders! Don't be surprised when they come home and bellow "The Doubles Rap" to you!

In Science, we have been exploring rocks through many partner and small group investigations. We have sorted rocks into groups, found rocks outside of the school, and have even practiced separating rock materials by size using screens. This is always a fun unit that the children really love to experience. Our end of the year field trip is a grand finale of our curiosity of rock material.

We have been reviewing the consonant letters of the alphabet as well as their sounds, and have studied short "A" sound words. Students have been exploring new words with the short sound as well as rhyming words, not only by hearing the rhyme but visually as well. Now we will be ready to start our new unit on short "E" words. These words will have "exercise energy".

Along with learning parts of words we have come to learn about the words you just have to know, Sight Words. These words cannot be said slowly and they are words a person just has to see and read, like memory words, or elephant words.

Just as a reminder, Spelling tests are on Fridays. Students are practicing during the day at school but need nightly review as well.

Reading groups are up and going and the students are reading many different levels of books. Each student is reading at his or her own level of difficulty. Students read the books, do a little writing activity and soon the books are ready to go home. Some books have made their way home many times; these have become favorites of the students.

Conferences and the Halloween party/costume parade will be held at the end of October. You will be asked to notify us with a time and day that works best to schedule your conference. Please refer to the October calendar for specific dates for in-service and no-school.

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

By Mrs. Sedore

Eighteen bright and enthusiastic students have entered second grade ready to begin a fun filled new year. We have spent the first month getting into our new routine, learning classroom rules, and discovering how to use our new i-pads.

The Accelerated Reader program is very exciting at the second grade level. The students are making individual goals, reading books independently, and following up with a comprehension test on the computer. We are earning points toward our yearly goal and are off to a good start. Keep reading those books at home!

Guided Reading is a large part of our daily reading routine. The purpose of guided reading is to help the students develop strategies that will help them to solve unknown words and sentence structures without compromising comprehension. The teacher introduces a new book to a small group of children and works on one or two teaching points at that group's particular level.

We have been practicing addition facts and working on strategies that will strengthen fact recognition. We have worked on doubles, doubles plus one, and sums of 10. Please work on these addition facts at home. The students are getting quicker at this, but it requires a great deal of repetition.

Science has been full of surprises! We have started a colony of mealworms and a colony of monarch butterflies in order to study their life cycles. Each goes through a complete metamorphosis that includes four stages – egg, larva, pupa, and adult. It has been exciting to witness the mealworms becoming darkling beetles and the caterpillars becoming monarch butterflies. Some interesting facts that we have learned about monarch butterflies include:

- Monarch butterflies lay only one egg under a milkweed leaf.
- A monarch butterfly's first meal is its egg case.
- Caterpillars hang upside down in the shape of a "J" just before making a chrysalis.
- Monarchs migrate up to 2,500 miles to winter in Mexico.
- Tens of thousands may roost on one tree and even break a branch
- It takes 3 or 4 generations of monarchs to reach Mexico.

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

By Mrs. Larson

Third grade is off to a great start this year! We have 25 bright, shiny faces in our classroom ready to learn new information and develop new skills each day!

In reading we have been busy learning routines and expectations for the Daily 5 and Café reading. There are five dailies that the students work on each day to develop reading and writing skills: read to self, work on writing, listen to reading, read with someone, and word work. We have spent several weeks building our independence and stamina for each of the dailies. The Café part of our reading is a menu of strategies for the students to work on to improve their reading skills. The Café is based on strategies for comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanding vocabulary. We are using the Daily 5 and Café along with Guided Reading and AR to build our reading skills.

Math time has been filled with reviewing skills learned last year and building on those to expand their knowledge. We have been working on addition and subtraction, rounding or estimating, and place value. We are also completing activities to develop logical thinking skills. I try to present the skills in a variety of ways including computer time, iPads, learning games at center time, and utilizing our interactive whiteboard in the classroom. Not only do the students need to know the basics, but they also must apply the knowledge in problem solving applications. Some of the websites we like to use are:

[www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm)

[www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)

[www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)

[www.learning.com](http://www.learning.com)

Just a reminder that we take a spelling pretest on Fridays to determine which words each student will have on their list for the next week. We take the final test on Thursdays. On review weeks your child will receive a list of words using the spelling rules we've practiced the weeks before. We do several activities using the words and practicing the spelling rules each week, but the students benefit greatly from practice at home as well. Two of the spelling websites we utilize at school are:

[www.eduplace.com/kids/sv/books/gr3/](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/sv/books/gr3/)

[www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

In social studies we are working on map skills. We are practicing using the cardinal and intermediate directions. We are also reviewing and expanding our knowledge of continents and oceans.

Science seems to be a highlight of our days right now. We are currently working on our structures of life FOSS unit. We are using hydroponics to grow bush beans without any soil. The students are measuring and charting growth as they observe the plants to experience the plant life cycle. We are hoping to have some fruit growing over the next month or so! Our classroom is also currently home to crayfish and Bess beetles. The students are studying their structures and behaviors to learn about their habitats and territory. They will also be comparing and contrasting the organisms. The students love to get up close and personal with all of the organisms!

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

By Mrs. Petersen

We are off and running in 4th grade. We have 16 students in our classroom this year with one new student. We are happy to have James Wayland with us from Des Moines. Below is a run down of some of the things we are doing in 4th grade.

Our spelling routine is as follows: we take our pretest on Monday, so you should see your child's pretest at home that afternoon. On Tuesday, we do some practice pages and Wednesday we do dictation. Thursday is a favorite day when we do a spelling game and then we finish our week with the spelling test on Friday. The students really need to practice these words each week. They get to pick out something fun on Friday if they bring back their spelling pretest signed by the person who helped them study their words.

For reading, we have started Literature Circles. The first class book we read was Stone Fox. They really enjoyed it but it had an unexpected ending. Ask your child what this book was about and what happened at the end. The students also watched the video and made some comparisons between the book and the video. There were quite a few differences between the two. After Stone Fox, the students read a book with a partner in their reading level. Now we are reading another class book. We are doing the FRAME with this class book where the students read a chapter with a partner and write down a few main ideas about that chapter. Then they read the next chapter with a different partner and write down the main ideas of that chapter and so on until the book is finished. Since we are busy reading class books, doing jobs, and working on skills, there is not a whole lot of time for the students to read their AR books during school. So, please read with your child at home so that they can reach their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter AR goal.

In Math, we are hitting our CRUNCH time very hard. CRUNCH time is a 5-minute addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, or combination test with 100 facts given on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Please help your child practice these facts. They shouldn't have to use their fingers to calculate the answers. They should know them automatically. The sooner they know these facts, the easier it will make the rest of the skills we will be working on this year.

In English, the students have been working on different types of nouns, such as: singular & plural nouns, common & proper nouns, etc. We needed a review on these skills. Some of these things have been forgotten about over the summer.

We have been studying magnets and electricity in Science. The students were surprised how magnetism could be induced into another object to create a temporary magnet. If you have a magnet at home, have them show you how to do this. Ask your child to explain to how to light a light bulb with a D-cell, one wire, and a light bulb. The students have done an excellent job with our experiments and new challenges!

In Social Studies we have begun our Iowa History scrapbooks. The kids are so excited to begin working on these. Your child should have brought home a list of ten categories about Iowa History. Please put it on the refrigerator to keep handy. Have your family and friends keep their eyes open to help look for any pictures that our 4<sup>th</sup> graders could put in their Iowa History scrapbooks. The students have until the beginning of May to complete their scrapbook. But please do not procrastinate and wait until April to work on this. 😊

## **TITLE I MATH**

By Miss Behrens

Hello! Miss Behrens here to bring you some exciting news about Title I Math! I have been working hard with the classroom teachers in the building and we are creating lessons to help our students practice their math skills! Instead of pulling students out of the classroom this year, I have been going into different classrooms and working with different groups of students. We are also trying to incorporate technology as much as we can which includes: iPads, Smart Boards, Smart Table, and our mobile labs! We are looking forward to an exciting year in Title I Math ☺

## **ART**

By Mrs. Godbersen

### Visual Art Department Happenings

New pencils, markers, crayons, artist's posters, and a Smart board have arrived in the Schleswig Art room. Students have been excited for a very good beginning to the 2011-2012 school year. Following are the grade Art lessons:

**Transitional Kindergarten** – have seen themselves in a mirror and have colored their facial features. Next will come their hair and an added mask to conceal their identity.

**Kindergarten** – are making a tissue paper collage that will feature a fish below the water surface. Triangle shapes will serve as fish scales.

**First Grade** – have worked with a new media of colored, gummed, paper tape in a variety of colors. Students are familiar with the shapes of lines, squares, and rectangles but are not familiar with putting these shapes together to compose a non-objective artwork.

**Second Grade** – took advantage of the nice weather and went outside to project their hand shadow onto a sheet of white paper. Inside, the students outlined their pencil line with a wide blue, painted line. Positive areas were filled with blue and orange tempera paint in a mottled fashion.

**Third Grade** – have learned a variety of architectural terms to design a building. The question was what type of door, window, roofline, and surface will my building have? Crayons and cut paper were used.

**Fourth Grade** – have been observant to watercolor a cattail picture. Students "double loaded" their brush to show which direction the light source was coming from.

**Fifth Grade** – have studied the abstract sculptures of David Smith. Students designed their sculpture with dissolving packing peanuts. Structure pieces joined with the use of a very small amount of water.

**Sixth Grade** – have studied landscape artist Thomas Eakins. They have drawn a landscape from a vacation picture, will use colored pencils, and will do metal tooling on aluminum for half of the composition.

**Seventh Grade** – have studied the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky. Students had to design with Kandinsky's favorite shapes of: straight line, curved line, angle, circle, and a semicircle. Their design will be painted on a ceramic tile with the use of "Glossies" paint.

**Eighth Grade** – have studied various artists and will design an altered book from a discarded library book. Students were to have found 10 words within this book for which they will illustrate.

## ***NEW SCHOOL LIBRARY WEBSITE***

By Mrs. Paulsen

It's a "Work In Progress" but we have a new library website up and running for students, parents, teachers and the community to make connections with our library and information resources. The new website includes, or will include:

- Links to the AEA Online resources which you can access 24/7 from home or at school (user ID:5832wig, password:nwaea)
- Links to the websites of the nominations of the best books of the year for various age levels in various categories
- Information on the "Hit the Books" AR incentive for the 2011-12 school year
- Schleswig Community School AR Quiz List
- A link to the Schleswig Public Library
- Information on upcoming Scholastic Book Fairs
- Pictures and information from special events at school promoting literacy
- School Library Mission Statement
- New Book Reviews

As was stated, this website is a "Work in Progress". Not all resources are linked yet, and more links will continually be added and changed, all with the intention of sharing valuable information, policies and practices.

## ***SCHLESWIG SCHOOL TEAMS UP WITH OMAHA STORM CHASERS FOR "HIT THE BOOKS: AR PROGRAM FOR 2011-2012"***

By Mrs. Paulsen

Schleswig School has teamed up with the Omaha Storm Chasers for an exciting "Hit the Books" reading program for the 2011-2012 school year. This program will be used for our annual AR incentive that we use to motivate students to read. We all know that good reading skills are essential to succeeding in today's world. We set goals and offer incentives to reach these goals. This has proven to be successful in our school in getting our kids to read, to keep them reading, and to keep them excited about reading. With all the new books we have in the library, there should be plenty of fresh new reading material to keep them motivated. This year we will run the program a little differently. Instead of each student in the class having the same goal, the teacher will set individual goals for each student, while really concentrating on comprehension percentages. The goals we set will coordinate with bases....with the Storm Chasers providing small prizes along the way for each base earned. Of course, each student will want to get a Home Run and attend an Omaha Storm Chasers day game....in brand new Werner Park .....in late April! The Storm Chasers will provide a Hotdog/Soda voucher for each student who gets a "Home Run" and also a mini baseball. And to add to the excitement leading up to the big game, the Storm Chasers mascot, Stormy, will make an appearance at our school in March! As in the past, students are asked to pay \$5 or bring in 100 soda cans to help defray the cost of the trip. We're off to a good start. The students are super excited to earn a trip to this ballgame. I'm already hearing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" being sung out in the hall!

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

By Mrs. Pritchard and Miss Surprenant

Welcome back! This year Mrs. Pritchard is teaching math, science, and language arts. Miss Surprenant is teaching reading, writing, and social studies. Both teachers teach technology throughout the week and students also have a period a week with Mrs Gurney for keyboarding.

We have five new students to welcome to Schleswig this year. Israel Zamago, Bailee Olshefski, Julie Ballinger and AJ Wayland have joined our fifth grade class. In sixth grade we have one new student whose name is Israel Ballinger. We are glad these students have joined our classes and wish them a great year.

The planners this year are new to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. These planners help students stay organized and parents can also help out with keeping their child(ren) on track. At the end of every day, assignments from that day are written down before students are dismissed. Please take a look at their planner often to help remind them of upcoming assignments.

### **Technology**

As stated above, Mrs. Gurney is helping with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade technology this year. She is working with the students on the progress of their typing skills so that we can spend our technology time integrating our lessons by creating word documents and Powerpoints as well as [www.learning.com](http://www.learning.com) and other interactive websites.

### **Science**

Our first unit this year is FOSS: Landforms. So far this quarter we have enjoyed creating stream tables in order to see how water and flooding affects the land. We placed different items, houses and other landforms, along the stream and learned how they were affected by erosion. More recently we have learned about topographical maps and made a model of Mount Shasta to show the elevation. I have created flashcards on [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) in order for the students to have a way of practicing our vocabulary from this unit. To study these at home the students can go to their email from the link on the school's website and then click on the email from me which contains a link to the cards. There are also a couple fun games that they can play to practice these words!

### **Math**

Fifth graders have been reviewing place value. We just started to learn about the decimal place values. In this unit we will round numbers to the different place values and then begin to estimate, add and subtract decimal numbers. We have gotten a chance to do some fun learning centers in order to practice place value! Some of these centers included internet games on the laptops and apps on the iPads. The students couldn't wait to get their hands on the electronics!

Sixth graders are progressing quickly. We reviewed decimal place value. They were differentiated by readiness and therefore were able to have students working on different activities at a time. All of these students also had a chance to work with the iPads at least once during our first unit. Now we are working on multiplying decimal numbers. This unit is also being differentiated on readiness. If a student has already shown me that they have mastered this concept we will sit down and make out an individual plan for him/her.

### **Language Arts**

Your child's spelling program may be different from the spelling program they had last year. Instead of weekly lists of words to memorize for the Friday Test, this program emphasizes the learning of important words for a lifetime of spelling in the real world. Take-Home Tasks will be sent home regularly for you and your child to work on together. A list of words to learn will also be sent home to be studied often. This list is of the words that your child has not yet mastered.

Along with spelling, so far this year we have covered nouns and verbs. The students came up with a list of nouns and then we used the laptops to create a Wordle. A Wordle is a word collage that can be made at [www.wordle.com](http://www.wordle.com). The students enjoyed being creative and producing a product that looked unique!

### **Reading**

The fifth and sixth grades are starting a new style of reading program this year. It is called The Daily 5 and CAFÉ. The Daily 5 consist of 5 activities that students will eventually get to pick from and do on a daily basis. There is Read to Self, Work on Writing, Read to Someone, Word Work, and Listen to Reading. Not all of these areas have been introduced and practiced yet, but as we build stamina in certain areas we will add in new activities. The CAFÉ board is basically a board of strategies that students will get to pick from to use during their reading to help them comprehend, become aware, have better fluency, or expand their vocabulary while reading. Ask your child what strategy they are practicing!

The fifth grade read the book *The Landry News* by Andrew Clements as their first class books. This book is about a girl named Cara that writes a school newspaper. Her and her friends eventually get into trouble because of what was put in the paper. The students in the book learn all about their First Amendments Rights and what can and cannot be placed into newspapers. As a class, we have been brainstorming ideas of articles that we could put in our very own newspaper. One class assignment we have completed so far is creating our own classroom newspaper out of newspaper articles we have found out of several different newspapers. This gave students the feel of what a real newspaper looked like and what should be in it. Throughout the quarter and semester we will be working on writing our own articles and eventually creating our own newspaper.

The sixth grade read the book *The Bad Beginnings...* from the *Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket. At first they had a hard time understanding that this was not going to be a happy book and that unfortunate

events were going to happen to the Baudelaire children. It was wonderful to watch this class as we read the book. They became so interested in it and never wanted to put it down. This is a series of 13 books. The moment we finished book 1 in class, several students picked up the series and have already finished all 13 books. Ask your child what they think of Count Olaf and not so friendly friends!

### **Writing**

A lot of our writing time is now included into the Daily 5. Each day every student will need to Work on Writing. During this time, students are free to write about ideas and thoughts that they have. Several students have started writing their own books or book series and all are very excited about writing!

We have also been doing some skills work in our assigned writing time. The fifth graders are working on identifying and writing complete sentences including a subject, predicate, capital letter, and including ending punctuation to close the sentence. The sixth graders have been working on writing more specific and attention grabbing sentences. Some of the ideas we have tried are starting with a question, an interesting fact, onomatopoeia, two words, an opinion, and capturing the moment for the reader. It's amazing at how much better their paragraph writing has become.

### **Social Studies**

The fifth graders have been learning about what geography is, how geographers study, important lines on the globe, as well as how to find coordinates using latitude and longitude. Toward the beginning of the year we used an orange as a model of the earth. We drew the Equator, Prime Meridian, North Pole, South Pole, and a few other important lines on the orange. Students were easily able to locate the northern, southern, eastern, and western hemispheres. It was also very easy to see lines of latitude and once we peeled the orange lines of longitude. And of course once we were finished using the orange as our Earth, we got to eat it!

The fifth grade had the opportunity to go to Denison Schleswig High School's junior class Rendezvous on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. The class was broken into several small groups to view the various skits. Each group was on a different tour and was able to see different characters and different skits. We were able to see and hear from Sacajawea, Billy the Kid, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and many other characters from the old west. This year we even had the opportunity to get involved in a couple of the skits.





Several 5<sup>th</sup> graders are watching skits at this year's Rendezvous!

The sixth graders started the year reviewing/learning about the 5 Themes of geography, what geography is, and of course how geographers are locating information. This year we created our own globes with balloons, newspaper strips, and paper mache paste. We've painted our globes, added lines of latitude and longitude, as well as added and painted the continents where they need to be. We will be using these globes throughout the semester to refresh our minds about important ideas but also to learn new ideas such as identifying various time zones.



Sydney paper mache-ing her table's globe.



Josh, Whitney, and Kayla painting their earth.



Nautica and Stefani drawing their continents on their earth.



Erik, Kenzie, and Jazlyn painting the continents on their earth.

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

By Mrs. Stoppel

Although it sounds cliché, I must say time is really flying by...we've been back in school for a little over a month, and the end of first quarter is right around the corner! Along with the end of first quarter comes the annual Academic Fair for the fifth through eighth grade students. As mentioned earlier in Mr. Galvin's article, the eighth grade students are once again investigating a scientific question of their choice, gathering information, experimenting, and summarizing their conclusions. This year though, instead of designing a cardboard display board, students will be presenting their projects electronically while briefly showing demonstrations of their investigations in the science room the night of the show. As the Academic Fair approaches, a schedule of the science presentations will be developed and posted the night of the show (Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>). Feel free to stop in the science room that evening to view some creative young scientists in action.



Pictured above are some seventh and eighth grade students actively engaged in exploring the basics of matter. Students are shown constructing rough models of common compounds and performing a lab activity determining the densities of different materials. Next on the agenda for the students is the exploration of physical vs. chemical changes.

The first few weeks in the seventh and eighth grade math classes (specifically seventh grade since those students are new to me) were spent gauging student proficiencies in various areas of math. During that time, students have also built a greater understanding of foundational math skills and specific terminology used in mathematics. Since all students in our building have frequent opportunities to interact with technology to strengthen their educational backbones, the use of computers, interactive SMART boards, and iPads has become commonplace in their lives. This is especially beneficial in addressing learners at various levels of proficiency as well as those with various learning styles. I would imagine that all teachers want all of their students to be successful. With the proper use of technology that goal seems to be within reach.

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

By Mr. Boelter

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies**

The seventh graders have been learning about the different societies of Central America and South America. They have studied the Maya, the Aztec, and the Inca. The class has learned about the culture and history of each society, and the destruction of each society at the hands of the Spanish. The students will now begin to create projects about the aforementioned societies. The students will be placed in small groups. They will choose the Maya, the Aztec, or the Inca. They will create models of their civilizations and explain how each functioned. The project should be both interesting and creative.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Reading**

In seventh grade reading, the students are finishing a mythology unit. They are reading *The Adventures of Ulysses* by Bernard Evslin. This book is a story-formatted version of Homer's epic poem, *The Odyssey*.

The students always enjoy the tales of heroes, monsters, and Olympic gods and goddesses. The students are also learning about the ancient beliefs of the Greeks and Romans and how these beliefs were taught to generations in the form of myths. One other topic that is being discussed is the archetypal nature of the epic hero Ulysses. Ulysses was meant to serve as a role model for other Greeks of the day, and his behavior, beliefs, and actions serve modern readers a taste of the Greek culture and civilization from thousands of years ago.

The students' next story will be *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen. The story deals with the Holocaust, and a young girl's struggle with her beliefs. It is an excellent story that gets all of the students involved.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Language Arts**

The seventh grade students are wrapping a review of the parts of speech. They have been practicing, reviewing, and learning the eight parts of speech. Their assessment will be during the last week of October. The next unit will involve the students building their sentence and paragraph writing skills.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Social Studies**

In social studies, the students are learning about the Spanish conquistadors and their affect on the history and culture of the New World. The class has already studied and discussed the early history of North America, the explorers that came to the region, and the affect of three different cultures meeting in this new environment. Through steady progress, the class is now beginning to study the first colonies and the beginnings of democracy in North America. It will be a building point for the eventual lessons about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Reading**

The eighth grade readers have just finished reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The class enjoyed the story and the history that accompanied the story. They have also enjoyed creating power points and models of the Holocaust. They have been learning horrific and the heroic sides of World War II. Their knowledge has grown immensely.

The next story will be *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien. This fantasy/science fiction piece is easy to follow and offers a lot of cool projects for the students. The students will get firsthand experience with extended metaphors and the archetypal hero.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Language Arts**

In language arts, the students are reviewing the basics of sentence diagramming and starting some of the more advanced diagramming skills. Diagramming will help the students see the design of a sentence; plus, it also helps the students to see how each part of speech is being used in a sentence. It is a visual way of taking apart a sentence to see its function and design.

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

By Mrs. Kuhlmann

Hello! This year, the eighth grade class has been split into two sections. I am Mrs. Kuhlmann and have the good fortune of teaching one half of this class. I have found it to be a bit over whelming at times, but I have also found it to be very rewarding. We are studying the Holocaust. The students have several books to pick from and read. The books are written from a variety of perspectives, such as a Hitler youth, a Jewish prisoner, a commandant's son and many more. The books are also written in differing formats. One set of books is written in the graphic novel format (which most of us know as comic book).

The students will be doing a variety of projects during this unit. Our biggest project, which is based on a Tennessee school project of collecting paper clips, is to try to collect as many pop tabs as we can to represent the numbers of the Holocaust. Did you know that the average number of Jews killed at Auschwitz in one day was 10,000? In all there were 11 million people killed, including 6 million Jews. The students have gathered many numbers telling us of the horrendous number of deaths and we are hoping that the school and community will help us, as a class, to see those numbers. This project will continue though out the year and once the year is over, we will donate the pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux City. We would like to thank those who have started saving and encourage those who haven't to do so. Please, "Help us to see" how great the numbers are, by saving pop tabs for us.

# **POP TABS WANTED!!!**

**How many: 6 million**

**Why: Mrs. Kuhlmann's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading class would like to put into perspective how many Jews were killed in the Holocaust.**

**By when: We will be collecting until the last day of school.**

**When we are finished with this project we will donate the pop tabs to Ronald McDonald house.**

**There will be containers in many businesses around town.**



## **MUSIC**

**By Mrs. Rosener**

Welcome back to another fun-filled year in music! TK-4<sup>th</sup> grades have been quite busy learning the basic elements of music. Topics like dynamics, note values, beat versus rhythm, long and short sounds, and tempo have been covered using hands-on activities, board work, songs, music math, and flashcards.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade band has been making immense progress on their instruments since summer lessons commenced. We currently have 16 out of 26 fifth graders enrolled in band! We are now working on playing (and staying) together as a group, which is a lot harder than playing individually! ☺

Several middle school students have been rehearsing two pieces to audition for a STATE wide honor choir called Opus. Each student had to record him/herself onto a CD which we then mailed to a panel of judges. We are now anxiously waiting to find out if anyone was accepted into this elite choral group.

Seventh and eighth grade band students have had a busy month, too. We had four early band rehearsals at 7:30 a.m. in Denison to practice playing and marching with the Denison Middle School students. Since then, we have marched in the Calf Show Days and Homecoming parades. Thanks to all of the parents who brought their kids to these practices and performances. We are now preparing music for the upcoming All School Band Night and learning repertoire for SWIBA honor band auditions.

### **WHY MUSIC IS IMPORTANT!**

#### **Music is a Science!**

It is exact, specific; and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

#### **Music is Mathematical!**

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

#### **Music is a Foreign Language!**

Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French; and the notation is certainly not English – but highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

#### **Music is History!**

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling.

#### **Music is Physical Education!**

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

#### **Music is all these things, but most of all Music is Art!**

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

### **UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS**

**Friday, October 21**=All School Band Night @ Denison (5-8<sup>th</sup> band students)

**Saturday, October 29**=SWIBA Honor Band Auditions @ Clarinda (7-8<sup>th</sup> band students)

**Friday, November 11**=Veteran's Day program @ 10:00 a.m. (TK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students)

**Friday, November 11**=SWIBA Honor Band Festival @ Lewis Central (7-8<sup>th</sup> band students)



**4<sup>th</sup> graders are pictured singing on “solfege” (do, re, mi, etc.) while using the corresponding hand**



# October 2011- Breakfast and Lunch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	4 Cheese Omelet, Toast  Creamed Chicken over Mashed Potatoes or Biscuits, Carrots, Pears	5 Breakfast Burrito  Chili Crispito or Shrimp Mates, Tator Tots, Applesauce	6 Honey Bun, Cereal  Ravioli, Garlic Bread, Mixed Veggies, Peaches	7 Biscuits & Gravy  Chicken Strips or Mozzarella Sticks, French Fries, Applesauce	8
9	10 Blueberry Muffin, Cereal  Hot Dog or Chili Dog, Smiley Potatoes, Peaches	11 Pancake & Sausage on Stick  Porcupine Meatballs, Hashbrown Casserole, California Medley, Mandarin Oranges	12 Bagel, Cereal  Taco Bites or Chicken Nuggets, Potato Wedges, Pineapple	13 Apple Turnover, Cereal  Pepperoni Pizza, Green Beans, Apple Slices	14 Breakfast Pizza  Breaded or Grilled Chicken Breast on Bun, Tator Tots, Fruit Cocktail	15
16	17 Scrambled Eggs, Toast  Hamburger or Cheeseburger on Bun, French Fries, Pears	18 Blueberry Muffin, Cereal  Salad Bar-Ham, Turkey, Cheese, Cottage Cheese, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Pasta Salad, Mandarin Oranges	19 Pancake, Bacon  Polish Dog or Corn Dog, Baked Beans, Peaches	20 Cereal, Toast  Hamburger or Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Applesauce	21 Biscuits & Gravy  Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Creamed Corn, Pears	22
23	24 Banana Muffin, Cereal  Taco Burger, Spanish Rice, Peas, Appleslices	25 French Toast Sticks, Ham  Chili or Wisconsin Cheese Soup, Egg Salad Sandwich, Corn, Fruit Cocktail	26 Cinnamon Roll, Cereal  Indian Tacos, Smiley Potatoes, Pineapple	27 Apple Muffin, Cereal  Mr. Ribb or Pizza Burger on Bun, Tator Tots, Applesauce	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29
30	31 Corn Bread, Sausage Patty  Hot Dog or Chili Dog on Bun, French Fries Peaches				Juice and milk served daily with breakfast. Peanut butter, jelly & butter sandwiches and milk served daily with lunch.	

# October 2011- Activity and Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 <b>INSERVICE - NO SCHOOL</b>	4 4:00 VB @ Anthon	5 2:00PM Early Dismissal	6 4:00 7 <sup>th</sup> FB vs Harlan @ Denison 4:00 8 <sup>th</sup> FB @ Harlan	7	8
9	10 4:00 VB vs COU @ home VFW Aux. Mtg @ BB  7:00PM Foundation Mtg.	11 4:00 VB vs OABCIG @ home	12 2:00PM Early Dismissal	13 4:00 7 <sup>th</sup> FB @ Creston 4:00 8 <sup>th</sup> FB vs Creston @ Denison  7:00 Community Club Mtg. @ CB	14	15
16	17	18 <b>SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKE DAY</b>  <b>END OF 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER</b>	19 <b>2:00PM Early Dismissal</b>	20 4:00 7 <sup>th</sup> FB @ Atlantic 4:00 8 <sup>th</sup> FB vs Atlantic @ home  7:00 Basic Fund Mtg @ BB	21 All School Band Night @ Denison	22
23	24 6:00 School Board Mtg.  3:30-8:00PM Parent-Teacher Conferences	25	26 2:00PM Early Dismissal	27 3:30-6:30PM Parent-Teacher Conferences	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  7:00 Middle School Dance	29 SWIBA Honor Band Auditions
<b>RED RIBBON WEEK</b>						
30	31					

