

New Hampton Middle School

April 12, 2012

by Donita Joens

“Night of the Notables”

Mrs. Linda Burgart and the 8th grade ELP students participated in a “Night of the Notables.” Students represented famous people of the world of the past and present as a learning activity. This was the first year for this event and it was an extremely positive experience for all. Mrs. Burgart said that it will be an annual event.

Iowa Assessment

I have attached data from our fall Iowa Assessments.

Summary				
5th Grade	Science high in all areas, IEP concerns, overall math is lowest			
6th Grade	Math high in all areas, IEP concerns, overall reading is lowest			
7th Grade	Math high in all areas, IEP concerns, science low in low SES & females			
8th Grade	Science high in all areas, IEP concerns in reading & math, reading lowest in all			

NHMS Solo/Ensemble Contests

The Solo/Ensemble Instrumental Contest was held on April 3. Because of the efforts of each of our 6th – 8th grade band students and the assistance from Ms. Angela Staron, Mrs. Betsy Zenk, and Mr. Jason Mott, our students scored high marks.

Big Red

Big Red was a great hit with our student body on March 16. Students in several resource rooms had Big Red read to them and he also joined in on the rocket launching with Mr. Monteith’s science class and SCR with Mrs. Bear. One student read for 45 minutes straight with the most expression he has done so far this year.



Gettysburg/D. C. Trip Another Success!

62 students and 24 adult chaperones came back to Iowa on March 16 with a renewed patriotic spirit and a lot more tired. It was a wonderful time for everyone. Mr. Jason Rude is putting together a 20-minute CD for the students and chaperones, which captured many of the trip’s highlights. Thanks to all who made this trip possible and allowed it to run so smoothly.

Reading Rally

Middle School students attended an assembly on April 5 to begin selling magazines for the St. Council fundraiser. Last year was the first year for this fundraiser, bringing in approximately \$2500.00 for the school.

Olympic Day

Each advisor room is studying another country from around the world for our interdisciplinary unit on the Olympics. Olympic Day will be celebrated on April 25. The torch passing began on April 3 and will continue through each of the 14 advisor rooms until April 25. A copy of the Olympic unit is attached.

District Wellness Report

Wellness Committee Meeting March 28, 2012 ES/MS LMC @ 7 A.M.

Present:

Melanie Stewart (FFI)
Tom Rasmussen (school board)
Joanne Tupper (parent)
Donna Schmeidel (HS teacher)
Betsy Roesler (Chickasaw Co. Public Health)
Laurie Marzolf (New Hampton recreation dept)
Kathy Babcock (Chickasaw County Public Health)
Carol Hovey (ES teacher)
Linda Tiemessen (school nurse)
Jim Russ (HS teacher)
Cindy Moore (PE teacher ES/MS)
Marilyn Grote (MS para)
Linda Kennedy (ES principal)
Donita Joens (MS principal)
Sarah Updegraff (HS principal)
Mindy Ellsworth (dietitian)

As a warm-up welcome members were asked to share “I care about my health and wellness because...”

Depression discussions were held at March 14 in-service. Elementary staff saw a video. Middle school saw a video and power point and had a discussion of the power point. High school staff saw a video at an earlier time so used their time to walk and wander at the high school.

Feedback from town meeting on March 26 to address underage drinking in our community. There was a very good turnout (165?) with a good number of 7-9 graders. Shanda’s presentation on her experiences had a big impact. Volunteers are needed to process all of the email addresses for a “survey monkey”.

Safe routes to school: Melanie has the forms to do a travel tally K-8. Teachers are asked to pick a week in April and for 3 consecutive days ask students how they got to and from school that day. She also has copies of last year’s report. Melanie has reapplied to continue with us next year.

Wellness retreat at Decorah on March 21. We sent a large group to this. During the afternoon team building discussions, it was decided that we have accomplished a lot but are not sure where to go next.

Our action plan is due May 15th. We broke into groups and discussed goals for next year. There was much discussion and many possibilities mentioned.

Could the buses let the HS students off at the ES and the ES students off at the HS so they could get a half mile walk in before school? How would this impact the breakfast crowd and the morning schedule? Who would safeguard the kids during the walk for liability? Could HS kids mentor and lead the groups? Could they be let off at another location such as the hospital parking lot or Stolz Park?

Maybe we could lengthen 5th period by 10 minutes at the HS and have each lunch period walk for 10 minutes prior to lunch. Where would they walk so as not to bother ongoing classes? Who would supervise and walk with them?

Would intramurals at the HS involve more students in activities even if they are not athletes? When could this be done as the gym is always busy?

8th graders will be coming into the HS as freshmen already used to walking at school. Could this be built upon to begin a walking program at the HS level?

At the ES level a mileage club has been done in the past. Could this be restarted and also stretched into the MS age group?

Another school is doing 20 minutes of exercise in the classroom at 8:05 A.M. How would this impact the breakfast group? What about the chronically tardy students? Would this be done 1 day per cycle?

How can we expand the walking school buses? Could we have competitions between classes? Could Sr. citizens be involved in guiding the walking school buses? We could advertise in the church bulletins and at the CWC for volunteers. Do a large fall promotion of this. Start with a walk to school day? Some volunteers were scared off by having to have safety training and first aid training and discussion of EPI pens etc. It is a big commitment. Maybe commit to only one day per week and use many more volunteers.

How can we use more food out of the greenhouses? Food excess must be frozen, cannot be canned. Can we use the school kitchen to process this? Where can we freeze it as there is a lack of available freezer space at the high school? The kitchen did use peppers and tomatoes and cucumbers fresh last fall. They are asking for more zucchini. They used frozen tomatoes for chili.

The Spring Survey will be done by the building principals.

The Diabetes Sessions for grades 3, 6, and 10 are still in the planning stages.

Summer Sessions: Melanie hopes to work with Tot Lot this summer. Discussion has been done about having the students keep an activity chart or mileage chart. At this time the ES has decided not to do this as they feel the elementary students are more active anyway and are instead pushing a reading initiative for the summer.

Public Health plans to do BMI checks this next school year. NICC students came and did a screening on K-4 on March 23. They tested vision and 49 students were identified as being moderate to severely vision impaired. These will be referred on to eye doctors for follow-up. Linda Tiemessen is unofficially checking BMIs on these students based on their heights and weights, and birthdates and gender through the CDC calculator. At this time she has found that Kdg has 1 underweight, 9 overweight, and 9 maybe obese. 1st has 1 underweight, 10 overweight, and 10 maybe obese. 2nd has 2 underweight, 13 overweight and 3 maybe obese. 3rd has 0 underweight, 10 overweight and 10 maybe obese. If we combine the underweight, overweight and obese as showing a health risk, Kdg has 28% at risk, 1st has 29% at risk, 2nd has 37% at risk and 3rd has 28% at risk.

In closing we were asked to complete this sentence, “I will get an energy burst today by doing _____ for _____.” This is our last wellness meeting for this school year.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Tiemessen, RN

March 14 In-Service

I have also attached copies of the March 14 in-service evaluations. Highlights were from Steve Dunbar’s presentation of the Iowa Assessment, a wellness video entitled “23.5 Hours,” a wellness walk, and a session on depression in youth.

Math Curriculum

Math book orders were due April 5. Books and supplementary materials will be placed soon with an arrival time of all materials, hopefully, before staff members leave for summer break.