

# NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School    April, 2012 Publication  
Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal



**Mission Statement: The mission of the New Hampton Elementary School is to empower all students to succeed emotionally, socially, intellectually, and behaviorally in a changing world.**

**Guidelines For Success at New Hampton Elementary: The Six Pillars of Character Counts! Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship**

**Pillar for April: Review of All Six Pillars**

**Our Big Bucket Motto:  
*Bucket Fillers Rock!***

## **Dear NHE Families:**

April is always a busy month and this year is no exception. The first part of April, we are scurrying around getting ready for the carnival. This year, Carnival funds paid for Jack and the Beanstalk, a Gallagher Bluedorn Production. It funded two quality field trips and a science trip to Twin Ponds at each grade level, the cost of conducting the Reading Rocks initiative, and incentives for each grade level. We so appreciate all of the volunteer hours, monetary donations, raffle items, cakes, cookies, and bars that our parents and community have volunteered for this event. It is going to be a great time again this year. Thank you for coming out to help us raise funds for the students of New Hampton Elementary. Mrs. Kennedy

## Giant Piggy Bank



The Giant Piggy Bank welcomed the fourth quarter student bankers on March 13<sup>th</sup>, their first day on the job. Mr. John Rigler, president of the Security State Bank, was on hand to help them get started. The bank is currently worth \$116,484.62 with 199 active accounts.

## Third Grade Retreat

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the third grade students participated in a mini youth retreat with Nancy Kriener, Melanie Stewart and Mrs. Kennedy. Students were taught ways to keep their lids on when they are feeling as though they are being harassed or bullied. Through the discussion and activities, we attempted to teach students to keep their lids on by putting them in touch with the triggers that upset them, giving them some practice in using self-talk when things aren't going right, and building some cohesiveness with that group of students. We also hoped to prepare them to be leaders when they are fourth graders. It was an adventure and I think it went well.



These girls are deep in thought as they play a self-talk game at the retreat.



Of course, we had to take time to do some stretching and get the juices flowing to the brain.



After a presentation on triggers (the issues and topics that come up that bother them), where most of these triggers occur, and by whom, students went back into their classrooms and wrote themselves a letter. In their letters they referenced their own triggers. The letters were mailed home to them along with a letter to their parents written by Mrs. Kennedy.

During the retreat, students were reminded again and again:

**Don't allow anyone to  
remove your lid.**

**Keep it on!**



**The last activity of the day was a team-building activity. Students were traveling on a long journey upon a magic carpet. They had to change the direction of the magic carpet without anyone stepping off of it. It took some real teamwork. They were challenged, but they were successful.**

### **To Save a Child**



**Mrs. Kriener delivered professional training to the NHE teachers entitled To Save a Child. The focus of her presentation was being aware of the signs of depression in children and knowing what to do when it is detected.**

### **Sharing Our Gratitude**

#### **Thank You!!!**

A huge thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, and friends of New Hampton Elementary who are donating raffle items, money, candy, food, cakes, cookies, bars, and hours to make Carnival 2012 a huge success. It will truly be a community event.

**Field Trips:** Parents this time of year there are many field trips planned for our students. Please watch and return field trip permission slips promptly. You will also want to take note of when students need to bring a sack lunch or other items to school for a special activity.

### **The Greatest Gift**



Pictured are some of the key players in a special event that happened at NHE recently. Mrs. Gladys Martin has had her eyes on a Promethean Board with a touch feature ever since she heard about this instructional tool. It was one of those dream items that she was hoping would come her way someday. Mrs. Martin is a teacher in one of the resource rooms of New Hampton Elementary. She is always looking for instructional tools that will help her students be successful learners. Mrs. Martin was convinced that if students could express their knowledge without the stress of having to think now how do I hold the pencil, write my ideas, spell them correctly, and do it all in a timely manner while others are watching me. Special needs students have lots of 'stressors' in their lives. This tool hopefully will alleviate a few of them and

truly allow them to share their knowledge in a less stressful manner.

A generous gift from Mary Beth Kamrath and her family has made this dream of Mrs. Martin's come true. Mary Beth Kamrath wanted to give a gift to New Hampton Elementary in memory of her son Bryce that would provide learners with special needs motivation, engagement and ease with technology. Bryce took his own life a few summers ago following the completion of his freshmen year after suffering from depression for several years. The depression and other learning difficulties made engagement in learning activities and academic success extremely hard for him. In his memory, Mary Beth has chosen to reach out to other children with this gift, to make it easier for them to learn. She chose to gift the students of NHE because this is where Cheryl Hart is employed. Cheryl Hart successfully tutored Bryce through some difficult times and there truly is a special bond between Mrs. Hart and the Kamrath family.

The board will be known as the ***Bryce Board*** in memory of Bryce Kamrath. The Bryce Board will make learning easier for hundreds of young students who are served in this resource room for years to come.

We are grateful to Mrs. Hart for being that special teacher and friend to Bryce Kamrath. We are especially grateful to Mary Beth and her family for gifting NHE with this fine instructional tool. We promise to use it to enable the learning of hundreds of students for years to come.

**“We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching.”**

- Roy L. Smith



**Using the Bryce Board: Mrs. Martin and one of her students explore all of the ways to use the new Bryce Board.**

### **Student Bankers for 2012 - 13**

Every year about this time, the third graders have the chance to apply to be student bankers at the Giant Piggy Bank. Recently, Mrs. Kennedy talked to the third graders about the opportunity for them to apply for what might be their very first job. Student bankers work at the Giant Piggy Bank every Tuesday morning, greeting customers and helping them with their deposits. Third grade student applications are due on April 18th and interviews will take place on April 19th. Student bankers for the 2012 – 13 school year will be announced soon.

### **Giant Piggy Bank – Over \$115,000**

As of the first of April, the Giant Piggy Bank has 199 regular depositors. The current value of the bank is \$116,484.62.

The Giant Piggy Bank is open every Tuesday morning at 8:05 in the

preschool/kindergarten/first grade hallway of the south wing.

During the month of April, third grade students will be able to apply and interview for a student banker position for next year.

**"Being a parent is the greatest trust That has been given to human beings."**

*Author: David O. McKay*

### Kindergarten Zoo



The kindergarten students have been studying animals for the past few weeks. Each student chose an animal and created its habitat for the Kindergarten Zoo that was on exhibit in the cafeteria on Friday afternoon, March 16th. We were so pleased with the number of guests that showed up to see the creative projects of our very proud young students.

### Kennedy's Korner

I have created a blog to keep students, staff, and parents informed of the happenings at New Hampton Elementary. Check it out!

<http://nhetimes.blogspot.com>

### Mom for Lunch



**Birthday Lunch:** This year we have so enjoyed having parents come in and join us for lunch. It is great fun to have Mom join us for lunch, especially when there is a birthday involved.

**"You have to love your children unselfishly. That's hard, but it's the only way"**

*Author: Barbara Bush*



**Food Fest:** These NHE students are at the Pre-Carnival Skating Party. I know! It looks like they are at a food fest!



**Teacher Helpers:** Mrs. Eggerichs is rather fluent on skates and is always willing to lean down and lend a hand, where needed. NHE teachers volunteered to bring snacks and then volunteered their time to make sure that students were safe and had a good time.



**Peanut Butter Cups:** To which food group does peanut butter cups belong?

### **Gotta' Keep Reading**

Nancy Kriener and Mrs. Kennedy are once again designing a summer reading initiative for our students.

**Summer Slide:** We want each student to keep reading over the summer so they don't take the summer slide. The summer slide happens when students slide backwards in their reading and writing skills because they haven't engaged in either activity all summer.

**Starting in May:** The Summer Reading Initiative will be presented to the students in April so that they may begin in May. We will start them in May so that we can remind them to read at home on a daily basis and to mark it on their chart. By the end of May, we hope they will be in the habit and continue it throughout the summer.

**Parent Responsibility:** Parents will have the responsibility of making sure their child is reading on a daily basis and initialing it after students mark it on their charts.

**"To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today"**

- Anonymous

**NICC Students Assist With Vision Screening**



Recently, students from Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) offered several hours of volunteer work to help screen students' vision. Students from kindergarten through the fourth grade had their vision screened by several volunteers who were kind, patient, and helpful. Linda Tiemessen, school nurse, contacted NICC to see if there was interest and there certainly was. We are most appreciative of their help. Thank you, NICC students.

Prior to leaving the building, the NICC students shared with me that they were thrilled with the behavior and politeness of our students. That was definitely a bucket filler for me!

### **The Bucket Theory: Three Simple Rules**

**Be Bucket Filler. Don't Dip into the Bucket of Another. Use your Lid.**



We have given away 61 t-shirts to deserving bucket filler students so far this year! Classrooms put names of bucket fillers in their buckets all week long and then draw one name out on Friday. That name is brought down to the elementary office and placed in a

bucket for the 3:00 drawing. It is the luck of the draw!

Bank Iowa donated eighty t-shirts to NHE at the beginning of the school year for our Bucket Filler Program. We are very grateful to Rich Kriener for supporting this program through Bank Iowa's generous contribution.

### **Preschool and Kindergarten Registrations for 2012 - 13**

Please stop by and register your preschool and/or kindergarten children for the 2012 – 13 school year. We need to get your child's name on the roster for next year in order to begin making plans for his/her entry.

If you have already taken registration papers out for your child for either preschool or kindergarten, please get them into us as soon as possible. Your response to this request will be greatly appreciated, as it will enable us to complete the paperwork we have to do on each child prior to his/her entry.

### **Here are a few reminders as we move towards the end of the school year:**

\*The school doors are locked throughout the day for the safety and security of your child. We do not want to meet an adult in the hallway that is not wearing a visitor's badge. If you are entering the building during the daytime, expect to come through the front door entry, come into the principal's office, register with the school secretary, and get a visitor's badge before going into the hallways. Our students are precious to us and we will do whatever it takes to keep each child safe and secure.

\* School attendance is essential for success in school. Please schedule medical appointments outside of school time, whenever possible.

\*If your child is ill, please call the office (394-5858) before 9:00 on that morning to inform us. Make arrangements to pick up his/her homework later that day, if possible.

\* Please check your child's contact information with the office and update, as necessary.

\* If you wish to talk with your child's teacher or have a conference with him/her, please call the school and make an appointment at the convenience of each of you.

\* The NHE Handbook states that no invitations to a child's birthday party will be handled through the classroom. Please comply with this policy. Also, be advised that due to the privacy laws of both the federal and state government, we are not allowed to pass out the names or any other information concerning students in a classroom.

\*Just a reminder that bus students are dismissed at 3:20 and town people are dismissed at 3:25.

\* Please contact me at anytime with specific information or questions concerning your child. Call 394-5858 or e-mail me at [l\\_kennedy@new-hampton.k12.ia.us](mailto:l_kennedy@new-hampton.k12.ia.us)

A partner in your child's education,

Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal

**Weather-Related Cancellations will be announced on KWWL (channel 7), KIMT (channel 3), KCZE FM (95.1) radio and KOEL FM (92.3) radio, KCRR FM (97.7) and KDEC FM (100.5) or AM (1240).**

### **April Dates:**

**6 – 9 Spring Break**

**10 – Two Hour Late Start/ Professional Development**

**13 - 5:30 Dinner 6:00 – 8:30 Carnival**

**13 – Mid-term of Fourth Quarter**

**19 - Giant Piggy Bank Interviews @ 1:00 for third grade applicants**