

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School October, 2011 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

New Hampton Elementary School
October Pillar: Respect

Our Big Bucket Motto:
Bucket Filling shows respect for others!

Dear NHE Families:

We are well into the school year and are really off to a fine start. Most kids are into the groove and working hard. They have learned the expectations in the various areas of the building and are trying to follow them. We are working hard on bucket filling as our anti-bullying program and a way to improve the culture/climate of New Hampton Elementary. I so hope that it is working as I want NHE a great place to be everyday.... for everyone! That includes all staff members and every single student. We welcome our new students with open arms, all twenty of them. Each of them is a wonderful new addition to our NHE family. Mrs. Kennedy

October: Get Ready! Prepare!

That's right! October is the month to prepare students to take the Iowa Assessments. Second, third, and fourth grade students will take the Iowa Assessments the week of November 7th.

Parents can be a great help in getting students ready for this assessment. As you know, The No Child Left Behind mandate enables the federal and state government to use the Iowa Assessment scores as a lens to look into the academic programs of the New Hampton Community School District and judge its success based on the results of these tests.

Important: During the month of October, we ask that parents support students as they make sure they are reading and writing each day at home. *Reading and writing are skills that must be practiced in order to become more proficient at each.* Math skills also must be practiced in order for students to become more proficient!

New Hampton Elementary is the Place For Me!

Physical Fitness – Walktober!



This year, all K – 4 students are walking twenty minutes once a cycle. We wish it could be everyday, but we are unable to work that in our already full schedules for each grade level. Involving students in a twenty-minute walk once each cycle is a goal on our District Wellness Plan once again this year.

Walking Schedule

Grade Level	Day of Cycle	Time
Kindergarten	Four	8:30 – 8:50
First Grade	Four	8:55 – 9:15
Second Grade	Two	8:25 – 8:45
Third Grade	Six	8:30 – 8:50
Fourth Grade	One day of the cycle	9:30 – 9:50

This initiative is in response to current research that highlights the fact that physical activity not only leads to physical fitness, it fuels the brain.

For more information regarding walking at school, go to nhetimes@blogspot.com.

Exercise is the single most powerful tool you have to optimize your brain function. Exercise is the Miracle-Gro for the brain.” Dr. John Ratey



Hat Day at the Giant Piggy Bank: The bank is open every Tuesday morning at 8:05 for kids' banking convenience.

Giant Piggy Bank

Currently, the Giant Piggy Bank has 205 accounts and is worth \$104,756.63. At the beginning of last year, the bank was worth \$78,930.02 so we are really seeing some growth in students' savings accounts.

School Absences

I will be sending out letters to families whose children are missing a lot of school this quarter. Yes, we do understand absences due to a child's illness, but when it is excessive, our district policy mandates that we look into it and inform parents of theirs and our responsibility to that child. We want to be accommodating, yet have experienced incidences where children's learning suffers due to these excessive absences or tardies. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Connecting Families

Connecting Families will meet this month on October 8th at the New Hampton Community Center. The address is 112 East Spring St. The topic is a timely one in light of the disappearance of the two Evansdale girls. Bob Svec, police officer, will present Stranger Danger/Safety. A free meal will be served at 5:30 followed by the 6:00 session. You can pre-register by calling Amanda Wegner @ 641-330-7492.



Amanda Wegner is the director of Connecting Families, which is sponsored by Families Making Connections.

Families with young children are invited to attend these free events. Registration starts at 5:30. Door prizes will be offered for both children and adults.

Walking School Bus



New Hampton Elementary has one walking school bus this year. Erica Steinlage is walking up South Chestnut with a group of children. LeEllen Sobolok is the alternative walker with this bus.

A walking school bus is our attempt to involve students in walking the safest route to school under the supervision of a trained adult. The adult in charge of the Walking School Bus has had special first aid training as well as training from the New Hampton Police Department as to the proper use of the STOP sign.

Please call school with questions regarding the Walking School Bus. We would like to get a few more of them started this year.

Memo from the Nurse's Office

Flu Season: We are stepping into flu season and will take every precaution in our classrooms to keep the germ from spreading. We will:

Encourage respiratory etiquette among students and staff (covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their arm, tossing used tissues immediately).

Encouraging hygiene among students and staff and hand washing time (teach students to wash hands using soap for 20 seconds, dry hands with a paper towel, and use the paper towel to turn off the faucet).

Encourage students and staff to keep their hands away from their nose, mouth, and eyes.

Encourage students and staff to stay home when they are sick (during and for at least 24 hours after they have had a fever).

Nutrition Nuggets for Parents

Encourage your child to try the fruits and vegetables that are put on their plates here. If they eat all of their lunch, they will get enough to eat. I am observing their eating each noon, and I am seeing more and more students trying the foods on their plate and even liking them. Most of them like Ranch dressing on their romaine or spinach greens and are trying them. It really is true that our brains and bodies function at their optimum level when they are fed nutritiously.

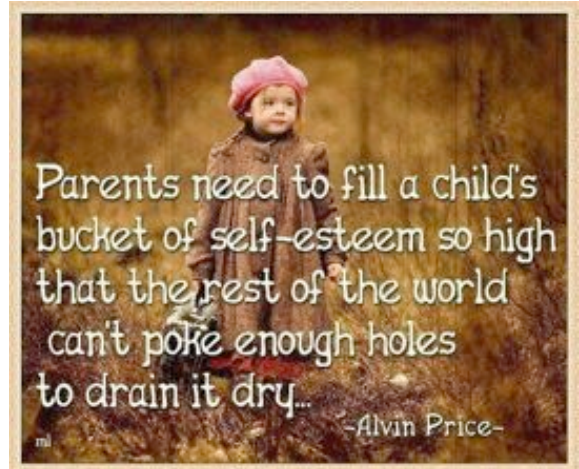
Make it Healthy: Give your child a mix of protein (meat, eggs, milk, cheese) and carbohydrates (whole-grain cereal, fruit, or whole-wheat bread) for breakfast to boost energy levels throughout the day.



NHE Builds Bucket Fillers!

September's Bucket Fillers of the Week *Be Caring! Be a Bucket Filler!*

During the month of September, students who were caught filling someone's bucket were asked to put their names in a bucket in their classroom. On Fridays, each classroom draws a name for the Bucket Filler of the Week. The winner's name was brought down to the office. At 3:00, Mrs. Kennedy draws for the winner of the Bucket Filler t-shirt! All bucket fillers whose names are drawn in classrooms win a McDonald's certificate and a pencil each week. On Monday morning, the t-shirt winners are interviewed on the intercom during morning message. Twelve students were awarded t-shirts in September.



A huge thank you to Rich Kriener, Bank Iowa. The bank is funding our Bucket Filler t-shirt initiative. They have purchased 80 t-shirts to be given away during this school year. They are black with a logo on them that says **NHE Bucket Fillers Team Member**.

Measures of Academic Progress

Third and fourth grade students took the Measures of Academic Progress assessments during the week of September 17th. The tests in reading, mathematics, and language arts give teachers a good snapshot of a student's knowledge and skills in each of these areas.



2012 - 13 Fall MAP Scores

Grade Three	Cohort Mean RIT Score in Spring of '12	NHE Mean RIT Score for Grade Level, Fall of '12	NWEA RIT Mean Values
Reading	192.7	190.6	190.2
Mathematics	194.8	193.2	192.3
Language Arts	193.7	192.6	190.9
Grade Four			
Reading	201.1	201.4	199.6
Mathematics	203.4	205.5	203.5
Language Arts	203.2	203.6	201.0

The mean RIT score for each grade level is the average of all of third grade student scores. In other words, the average RIT score for third graders in Reading this year was 190.6.

The Northwest Evaluation Association developed new norms this year after studying the RIT scores of thousands of students across the nation. A norm is what a typical student would score. See those norms under the NWEA RIT mean values column.

As you can see above the mean score for NHE students at each grade level is above the NWEA norms in all content areas



Concentration and Focus: It takes a great

deal of concentration to take the Measures of Academic Progress. NHE students do a good job of focusing on each content area test for almost an hour each.



We are New Hampton Elementary!

Walk through the hallway on the east side of the gym and see all of our class pictures.

Reminders from the Elementary Office

Here are a few reminders for parents and guardians:

*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 they have picked up in the office. If you are entering the building during the daytime, please come through the front door entry and walk 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.

*Make sure that your child and your child's teacher know when there is a change in how he/she will get home from school. Being left at the door without knowing who is coming or how to get home is extremely stressful for a child.

* 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.

* Please be advised that you may request information on the qualifications of our staff at anytime.

* You are welcome to visit the school and classrooms. Let your child's teacher know if you are interested in visiting or helping out in the classroom.

* 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.

* You may feel free to contact me at anytime with specific information or questions concerning your child. Just call 394-5858 or e-mail me at l_kennedy@new-hampton.k12.ia.us

A partner in your child's education,

Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal

"What a child does not receive, he can seldom later give."

-P. D. James

Parents, Please Read

We have many students who are dropped off prior to the opening of the building at 8:05. (Those of you who are coming to eat breakfast can get in the building at 7:45.) We also have children who stay and play on the playground after school has been dismissed. We want parents to know that we are responsible for your child's safety from 8:05 in the morning until dismissal. Parents are responsible for the safety and welfare of their child prior to 8:05 and starting again at dismissal time.

Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Attending the first Parent Advisory Board Meeting on Monday, September 24th were Tammy Robinson, Jill Brincks, Jessica Flanscha Sarah Pickar, and Linda Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy presented some information with parents regarding the verification visit for preschool, start of the year,

Parents brought up these items for discussion:

- ▶ Parents appreciate OFF Conferences and would like the opportunity for students to come in and know where their classrooms are and put supplies into desks.
- ▶ Parents are concerned that the time offered to students to eat is short. Teachers will be encouraged to get their students to the lunchroom on time.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 14th at noon in the elementary conference room. One parent has asked us to discuss the parking issue around NHE at this meeting.

Visit my blog: nhetimes@blogspot.com for timely pictures and stories at NHE.

Weather-Related Cancellations will be announced on KWVL (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).

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 1 - 8 - Hearing Tests for Grades K - 2**
- 11 - T-Th Preschool Pictures by Life Touch**
- 12 - School Pictures by Life Touch**
- 17 - Two - Hour Late Start/Professional Development**
- 17 - End of First Quarter (46 days)**
- 18 - Beginning of Second Quarter**
- 30 - P/T Conferences (1:45 - 8:00 p.m.) No afternoon TLC classes 1:10 Dismissal**
- 31 - No TLC classes**

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 1 - P/T Conferences (1:45 - 8:00 p.m.) No afternoon TLC classes 1:10 Dismissal**
- 2 - No School**



Homecoming Week: Hat Day During Homecoming Week is always a fun day for the students.



Pajama Day: These students forgot to get dressed on Wednesday morning of Homecoming Week. They came to school in their pajamas.



Hats On! Everyone enjoyed wearing hats to school on Tuesday of Homecoming Week, even the student bankers of the Giant Piggy Bank.



Lunch and Learn Session: These parents of our NHE family also enjoyed the Lunch and Learn session with Mrs. Baltes.



Late Start Technology Training: Teachers enjoyed the help of district technology facilitators while they worked on webpage design.



Late Start Activities: Teachers truly enjoyed the time to develop their webpages.



Celebrity Readers: Kindergarten students enjoy a story read by a high school basketball player and a Homecoming Queen Candidate.



Go Red Power: Each grade level shared a cheer and involved everyone in the chant at the Homecoming Assembly.



Celebrity Readers: First grade students were listening so well they didn't even hear me come into the room to take a picture.



Go Red Power: The preschool students demonstrated red power in a trike race.



Celebrity Readers: After the high school athletes shared a story with the students, they told them a bit about the sport in which they were involved and then answered any questions students had.



Homecoming Parade: The Street In Front Of NHE was lined with students eagerly waiting for the parade to start. The weather was perfect and everyone had a wonderful time.