

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School Publication
Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal March, 2013



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 March: Citizenship

Our Big Bucket Motto:
Good citizens are bucket fillers.

Dear NHE Families:

I am back at the helm once again. Many of you know that I missed two weeks of school recently as I had rotator cuff surgery. While I was home I so enjoyed getting cards and notes from my students. Their kind words buoyed my spirit and made me anxious to get back to school. Upon my return, I have enjoyed hundreds of hugs and students have been mindful of approaching me only on my left side. What a great way to get back into the swing of things. Since I have been back, I have added an NHE video to the elementary school portal of the district website. Click on the parent or student portal to get there. Mrs. Kennedy

Special Reminders:

Party Invitations: A reminder that on page 17 of the student handbook is our party invitation policy. The policy mandates that no invitations to a child's birthday party or any other personal events will be handled through the classroom.

Absences: This year's absences have reached an all time high. The district is working on revising the attendance policy and that revised policy will be in place and enforced very soon. We ask that parents make every effort to get their child here everyday. We know that students who attend school on a regular basis feel a strong connection to school and have the most opportunity to be successful students. We are more than willing to work with parents of students with chronic physical issues to develop a health plan so that a child will not have to miss. We also ask that parents limit the in and out doctor and dentist appointments that are made during the daytime, which will require scheduling them after school or on days off. Students who are in and out during the daytime not only disrupt their own learning, but also disrupt the flow of the lesson and the learning of the other students.

Coming Soon - Kindergarten 101



Technology: Kindergarten students are quite intuitive when it comes to using the iPads to practice and review math and literacy skills.

This spring, New Hampton Elementary kindergarten teachers Sue Nosbisch and Lynn Ries, will collaborate with the Head

Start Program to deliver five parent/child informative sessions for the parents and children entering kindergarten this fall. Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) of Floyd, Mitchell, and Chickasaw County has contracted with New Hampton Elementary to pay all expenses for five sessions of Kindergarten 101.

During each session, the children and parents will come to school together to participate in activities that focus on Math, Literacy, Science, Social Studies or Self/Help in order to build children's readiness skills for kindergarten. Parents will learn ways to prepare their child for school. The sessions will be held on the following Mondays from 5:15 – 6:45: March 4th, March 18th, April 18th, April 22nd, and May 6th.

Program Goals for Kindergarten

Connection:

- ▶ To learn about the expectations in Kindergarten.
- ▶ To gain information on the kindergarten curriculum.
- ▶ To provide the child with readiness experiences.
- ▶ To learn about resources available to the child.
- ▶ To answer parent questions and concerns.
- ▶ To learn what to do at home before school starts.

To register for these free kindergarten preparatory sessions, call the elementary office @ 394-5858 or stop by the elementary office and complete the registration form by March 1st.

Visit my Blog:

nhetimes@blogspot.com

Elementary Carnival

Light Supper – 5: 30 Carnival: 6:00 – 8:30

On Friday, April 19th, NHE will stage a Carnival, which is the major fundraiser for the year. Proceeds from the Carnival fund field trips, programs and assemblies, and incentives for our PK – 4 students. Would you volunteer to work at a Carnival booth? Would you bring a cake, cookies, or bars? Would you donate cash or an item for our raffle? Call 394-5858 or let your child's teacher know what you are willing to offer for this fundraiser. We need everyone's help to make this the biggest and best ever.

Carnival Skating Parties

Monday, March 25th for K – 2 Students

Thursday, April 4th for Grades 3 and 4

Professional Development for NHE Teachers



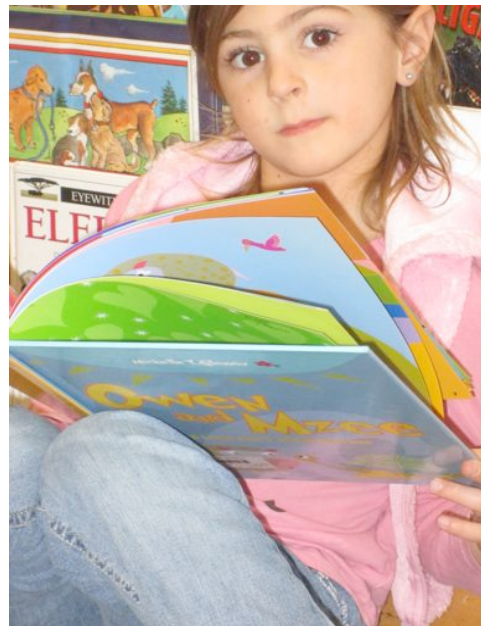
Collaborative Learning Teams: NHE teachers have been meeting many hours this year to focus on a literacy goal they have developed for the students at their grade level. They meet in Collaborative Learning Teams (CLT's) that are organized by grade levels. In addition, each CLT meets once a week for planning and to talk about management issues. Pictured are the kindergarten CLT: Angie Rowan, Gladys Martin, Sue Nobsch, Cristy Smith, and Lynn Ries.

Education is changing rapidly. NHE teachers make a valiant attempt to keep up through ongoing professional training that is either offered by the district or pursued as individuals.

The Learning Center (TLC)



A Favorite Time: This is a familiar scene in The Learning Center at NHE. Students love using the laptops and iPads to learn foundational skills in literacy and math. They are quite intuitive when it comes to navigating these devices.



The Reading Center: I felt like I owed this preschool student an apology as I interrupted her enjoyment of this book with the click of my camera. Technology will never replace the joy of a good book for kids!

Preschool (TLC) Registration

An Open House for The Learning Center will take place on Tuesday, March 19th from 5:00 – 6:30 in the elementary/middle school cafeteria. Applications for TLC enrollment will be accepted for the 2013 - 14 school year. A \$10 non-refundable registration fee will be due at that meeting.

Children must be three years of age by September 15, 2013, to be enrolled. Please bring your child's birth certificate.

Preschool: 2012-13 State Verification Visit:

Mrs. Kennedy and the four TLC teachers are relaxing just a bit since their state verification visit is over. Diane Moore was the site visit coordinator from the Department of Education. She brought two additional consultants with her to assess our current response to all of the mandates of the QPPS (Quality Preschool Program Standards). The verification visit was the result of the district receiving the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Grant, which began during the 2010-11 school year. The Learning Center received very high marks in the areas of Health, Teachers, Families, Community, Physical Environment and Leadership. An action plan will be submitted to make a few corrections in the areas of relationships, teaching, curriculum, and assessment. The early childhood program of the district is currently transitioning to the implementation of the Creative Curriculum and the use of the GOLD assessment. Both are statewide mandates of Iowa's early childhood programs.

Make plans to come to the Elementary Carnival on Friday, April 19th from 6:00 – 8:30. A light supper will be served beginning at 5:30. This is one of the biggest family events in New Hampton each year. Come join the fun!

**If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.
-- Abigail Van Buren**

Kindergarten Registration



This kindergarten student is very busy writing in her journal. By February, kindergarten students are boasting about their reading and writing skills

The 2013 – 14 Kindergarten Registration is taking place in March. Registration will involve the completion and return of an enrollment packet from the school. Children currently attending The Learning Center (TLC) Preschool will receive the enrollment packet during their Parent/Teacher Conferences

Children not currently attending preschool or attending a preschool other than TLC may register by contacting Linda Schwickerath, secretary, at New Hampton Elementary (641-394-5858). You may call or stop in the elementary office, located inside the north central entrance, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Please notify Linda Schwickerath if you are aware of any potential kindergarten students for next year.

A student entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 15, 2012.

Registration materials need to be returned to the elementary office by March 30th. Students who are registered will have an opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom on April 24th. Parents/Guardians will meet the teachers and

attend an informational meeting in August at Orientation For Families. If you have any questions regarding the district's kindergarten program, please feel free to contact Linda Kennedy at 206 W. Main Street, New Hampton, or (641-394-5858).



Kindergarten Authors: I just had to stop by and watch this kindergarten student easily write a sentence that would answer a question about a story he just read.

Fourth Grade STEM Project

The fourth grade teachers have received a STEM Scale-Up Project from the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, which will be implemented this year. The Governor's STEM Advisory Council was created last year to power up and fund science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives for students across Iowa.

Our 4th graders will be participating in a project called, A World In Motion. SAE International's A World In Motion® (AWIM) program is a teacher-administered, industry volunteer-assisted program that brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to life in the classroom for students. Benchmarked to the national standards, the AWIM program incorporates the laws of physics, motion, flight and electronics into age-appropriate hands on activities that reinforce classroom STEM curriculum.

Through this project, 4th grade students will design, build, test, and collect and display data from Skimmers and Jet Toys during the second semester. Mrs. Hoy, Mrs. Kriener, Mr. Pagel and Mrs. Quirk recently attended a daylong training to prepare for the project,

Movie: Furry Vengeance

Second – fourth grade students, who displayed good test-taking behaviors while taking the Iowa Assessments, were treated to a movie in the auditorium on January 25th. This event was billed as a celebration for students who focused on each item of the test, did not speed dot, worked without distracting others, took their time, and did their very best. Mrs. Kriener hosted this event.

Wellness Tidbits

Wellness Tip for Parents:

Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day for your child? It fuels their bodies and their brains.

Physical exercise fuels the brain. Encouraging your child to be physically active when he/she is at home is a good way to exercise the brain and keep it sharp as well as the rest of the muscles in their bodies.

Reading Rocks Kick-off



Reading Rocks Kick-off: Cristy Smith hosted the K – 4 students to get them fired up to read for the month of February, On stage to help out were many of the NHE teachers.



Reading Rocks Prizes: The winning classrooms from last year returned their prizes to the stage. Some lucky classroom of readers will walk away with the prize guitar and reading rocks this year!

Reading Rocks in February

The elementary students participated in the 4th Annual Reading Rocks contest in conjunction with Dr. Seuss' Read Across America Celebration during the month of February. Each grade level competed against the other classrooms at that level throughout the month. For every 10 minutes read, each child got a paper rock to add to the classroom pile. At the end of the month the class with the most rocks and minutes will win their grade level. On March 4th, the K – 4 students will gather in the auditorium to find out who the winners are.

Third Grade Celebration

Third grade math students recently earned a celebration as a result of some hard work. On March 5th, the third graders will enjoy a roller skating party as a reward for memorizing their adding and subtracting facts. After passing five minute timed tests of 100 problems each, the students made it into the Math Club. To go along with our wellness policy of daily exercise, they will walk to the roller skating rink and back. A big thanks to the parents who practiced the facts at home! Carnival funds paid for this opportunity for kids.

Winter reminders:

Please send your child to school with a warm coat, gloves, hat, and boots.

- If your child does not come with boots, he/she will be confined to a part of the playground that has been cleared of snow.
- If your child has snow pants, please send a pair to wear on the playground on the cold, snowy days. If a child does not have snow pants, he/she will not be allowed to play in the snow.
- If your child is missing a hat or glove, tell him/her to check the lost and found pile to see if it has been placed there.

The Bucket Theory: Three Simple Rules

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



Giant Piggy Bank – \$124,678.07

As of the first of March, the Giant Piggy Bank has 172 regular depositors. The current value of the bank is \$124,678.07. The Giant Piggy Bank is open every Tuesday morning at 8:05.

God sends children to enlarge our hearts, and make us unselfish and full of kindly sympathies and affections.
-- Mary Howitt

Fax Gilbert Production: Character and Bullying



K – 4 students enjoyed a presentation entitled Character and Bullying presented by Fax Gilbert on February 1st. An Iowa Department of Public Health Grant funded the program.



Here are a few reminders as we move through the second semester:

*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

A partner in your child's education,

Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal

Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.

-Charles R. Swindoll

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).

A person soon learns how little he knows when a child begins to ask questions.

-- Richard L. Evans

March Dates:

- 1 - No School
- 8 - End of Third Quarter
- 9 - Beginning of Fourth Quarter
- 13 - Late Start
- 19 - Preschool Registration 5:00 - 6:30
- 25 - K - 2 Carnival Skating Party
- 29 - April 1: Spring Break

April 4 - Grades 3 - 4 Carnival Skating Party



Fourth grade authors: Stop by our bulletin board south of the elementary office and read the fourth grade Fairytales.



A cast on the arm doesn't dampen her spirits!

**Thank You!
Thank You!
Thank You! Jill Brincks!**

A huge thank you to Jill and all the parents who worked at the Scholastic Book Fair during parent/teacher conferences.

A huge thank you to the students and parents who bought books at our Scholastic Book Fair this year. The proceeds from the Book Fair go right back into the classrooms of New Hampton Elementary and New Hampton Middle School. Books and other reading resources are purchased for each classroom.

A huge thank you to all of the parents who provided meals on both Tuesday and Thursday for the elementary and middle school teachers. The food was delicious and so appreciated.



Mary had a little lamb! All the children laughed and played to see a lamh at school!" This two-week-old lamb was a good sport and handled all the added attention well. Kandice Eggerichs and her Grandpa Dan told the first graders that he has over 200 baby lambs on his farm.