

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School September, 2013 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
September Pillar: Caring

Our Big Bucket Motto:
Be caring! Be a bucket-filler!

Dear NHE Families:

This school year is off to a great start. I always breathe a huge sigh of relief at 8:30 on that very first day when all are accounted for and are safely in their classrooms attentive and ready to learn. I won't say it was super smooth the first hour, but very close. The staff of NHE is absolutely the best. They worked so hard, many of them since the first of August or before, preparing their classrooms and getting acquainted with the curriculum and other new initiatives on the agenda for this year. The new eRegistration process seemed to be well received by parents. It is going to be a good year! Mrs. Kennedy

A+ Parenting: Back-to-School

Parents, kick off the school year the right way. Be involved and engaged in your child's education. This goes way beyond buying a backpack and some blank notebooks. There are some definite ways you can help your child be successful in school. They are:

*Make contact with the teacher. Open up the lines of communication between the most influential adults in your child's life, you and the teacher.

*Make it clear to your child that it is important to your family that effort is put into doing well in school.

*Track your child's progress and ask questions of your child so that you know he/she is engaged in daily school activities.

*Provide a quiet, interruption free space for kids to do their homework.

*Make sure your child isn't doing anything else, but homework. Multitasking just doesn't work.

*Keep plenty of reading material in the house and make sure your children see you reading for work and for pleasure.

Kids who thrive in school have parents who support their achievement in every way possible.

Backpack Chats!

"What's in your backpack?" Greet your child with this question and you will discover a lot about what happened that day in school. Set aside time each day to go through the papers in the backpack. Try to do it first thing when it is fresh in your child's mind. Look over your youngster's work together.

New Faces in New Places

Mrs. Emily Sanford has moved to Room 28 and is teaching second grade. Stefanie Thronson is teaching third grade in Room 22. Judy Morgan has moved from the preschool to the second grade and is in Room 33. Emily Baltes has moved from the middle school to half-time elementary media specialist.



New Teachers for 2013-14: From left to right: Miranda Eichenberger will teach Transitional Kindergarten. Emily Baltes will teach media/technology in the library. Alana Walker will teach third grade. Gretchen Myers will teach TLC Fours.

Taking a Supply Inventory



Glue stick! Check! Pencils! Check! Eraser! Check! Folder! Check! First graders are going through all of their supplies and learning where to store them.

The Walls Have a Bright Red Waistband

The entry hallways have been painted and a red stripe now marches down the middle of each wall. We are trying to

keep our hands off them so they stay bright and clean.



Party in the Park

Students in grades 1 – 4 who completed the summer reading initiative were treated to a Party in the Park on Wednesday, August 21st. Grades 1 and 2 enjoyed their celebration in the morning ending with lunch at the park, while grades 3 and 4 left in time to eat lunch and party with fun and games in the afternoon. About 240 students enjoyed the day.



Research shows that students who read and write throughout the summer will no



Grandma Pat: Pat Leichtman is back in first grade once again. The teachers and children are so happy to have her back!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE AND A CHILD'S LIFE FOREVER?

Come join The Foster Grandparent Program. The Program offers senior citizens the opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors, and role models for children with special or exceptional needs. The program offers a modest tax free stipend, accident & liability insurance, physical, and earn Leave benefits, just to name a few of the advantages of being a Foster Grandparent. The Program has been in existence since 1972 (38 years).

For more information about the Program please call 641-257-6327 or stop by the Foster Grandparent office at 624 North Main Street in Charles City, IA. You might also want to visit with Grandma Pat Leichtman who currently serves our first graders as a Foster Grandparent.

New Hampton Elementary is the Place For Me!

**Visit Kennedy's Korner Blog
nhetimes@blogspot.com**



Giant Piggy Bank

The Giant Piggy Bank opened once again on August 20th. The bank is starting with deposits of more than \$104,756.63, which is the most the Giant Piggy Bank has ever had at the beginning of the year. The bank is the result of a great partnership between the school district and the Security State Bank.

New Absentee Policy

Excused Absences

a. The district recognizes that student absences are sometimes necessary. Please note that even though a student's absence may be excused, it will still affect the student's education. **Every effort should be made by the students and parents to minimize the number of excused absences.** The school retains the right to determine which absences are considered excused and unexcused.

III. Excessive Absences

- a. It is the belief of the New Hampton Community School District that an absence from school, whether excused or unexcused, is a day of lost instructional time.
- b. When a student misses 4 days in a semester, the counselor will meet with the student to ascertain the reasons for the absences and contact the parents to stress the importance of regular attendance.
- c. When a student misses 6 days in a semester, the principal will contact the parents to discuss the reasons for the absences and to discuss the importance of regular attendance and the possible consequences of not improving it.

- d. When a student misses 8 days in a semester, a letter will be sent to the parents informing them of the status of their child and that the situation will be turned over to the county attorney if two more absences occur in the semester.
- e. When a student misses the 10th day in a semester, a letter will be sent to the parent and the matter will be turned over to the county attorney for further review.
- f. The administration reserves the right to consider each situation individually and make exceptions as the situation warrants. For example, if a student is hospitalized or a serious family emergency arises.

Thank you for your patience during our first eRegistration process!

Please call the school before 9:00 a.m. (394-5858) to inform us when your child is going to miss a day of school. We ask that you also share the reason for the absence. This applies to TLC fours, TK, and Kindergarten as well as grades 1 - 4.

***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.**

*** Please go into PowerSchool and update any information on your child as change occurs so everything is current.**

Reminders from the Elementary Office

Here are a few reminders as we begin the first 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, come into the elementary office and sign in.

* 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 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. 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

NHE's Bucket Buddies



Skylar Sittig, Katie Steinlage, and Logan Anderson were the first winners of the Bucket Buddies t-shirts for this school year.

Bank Iowa generously purchased t-shirts for NHE's Bucket Filling Program again this year. Each week, two or three lucky NHE students will have his/her name drawn to be declared a true Bucket Buddy with a neon safety green t-shirt. Winners will be asked to wear their shirts every Monday as a reminder to all students to start each week out with their kindest behavior towards others.

The Bucket Filling Program was established at NHE as an anti-bullying program. Students from preschool through the fourth grade are taught the three concepts of Bucket Filling, a national program based on research conducted by psychologists, Tom Rath and Donald Clifton.



These were the classroom Bucket Buddies on Friday, August 23rd.

Parent Advisory Board Council

The following parents will once again serve on a Parent Advisory Board for New Hampton Elementary: Sarah Picker, Sally Kriener, Tammy Robinson, Andrea Rochford, LeEllen Sobolik, Jill Brincks, Sarah Dungey, and Erica Steinlage. The first meeting was held on Monday, August 26th at 12:00 noon in the elementary conference room. If you, as a parent, would like to serve on this council, please contact Linda Kennedy. We would like parents on this committee to represent our various grade levels and programs.

The First Days of School at NHE



Kindergarten students practice for a tornado drill.



Testing: Ms. Muetherthies administers a literacy assessment to determine readiness for learning.



On the first day of preschool, it looks like everyone was put to work. This little cherub looks pretty happy about mopping the floor.



Kindergarten Student Teacher: Taylor Boeckholt is enjoying a student teaching field experience in the classroom of Mrs. Nosbisch.

District Website

The district has a new website and each day more and more information is added to it. Go to <http://www.new-hampton.k12.ia.us/>



All Smiles: Children enrolled in NHE's early childhood program develop many skills as they explore activities in the writing center.



A healthy lunch on a hot day! This second grader was willing to pose for me as he stepped through the lunch line. I checked with him later and he had enjoyed most of his chicken sandwich, broccoli, carrots, pears and milk.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 - Labor Day (No School)
- 4, 8, 11, & 25 - 1 Hour Early Dismissal
- 10 - School Elections
- 13 - Mid-Term First Quarter (21 days)
- 20 - Conflict Manager Training
- 30 - Oct. 4th MAP Testing - 3rd and 4th Grades



Watch for this! Mr. Jurens has been experimenting with some animation on the marquee on the northeast corner of the school building.



Third Grade Walking Club: The third graders use their walking time as their brain breaks. After a refreshing walk outside, their brains are refueled and ready for some academic work once again.

Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.