

# New Hampton Elementary Update

Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal

September 2013

*Character Counts! at New Hampton Elementary*

## **Professional Development:**

- *Teachers are engaging in Professional Learning Communities during Wednesday early –outs for technology training. Teachers began by making a list of their individual technology training needs and then coming together as a PLC to find their common needs, prioritizing them and mapping out a plan to proceed.*
- *PLC's at noon will begin the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>. Extensive preparations have gone into how this is going to look at NHE. Each grade level will meet one day a week while their students are eating lunch and having a noon recess. The PLC's at Noon will start out by studying the Iowa Core literacy standards and benchmarks at their grade level and choosing the benchmarks they believe are essential. They will then map out the teaching and assessing of these essential benchmarks.*

## **Giant Piggy Bank:**

NH Elementary	164 Accounts	\$85,838.56
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**Title I:** The Title I Application has been submitted to the state. This year's allotment is \$143,897, which will be spent on salaries for Title I teachers and professional development for Reading Recovery teachers.

## **See September Newsletter (attached)**

**Conflict manager Training: Dennis Pagel and Nancy Kriener will train conflict managers on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.** Conflict managers are selected through a classroom nomination process. Teachers hold a class discussion about what makes a good conflict manager. Students are selected based on those qualities. Eight students from each third and fourth grade classroom are selected to be conflict managers. Conflict Managers are students who are trained to help other students get along with each other. Managers are on duty during recess times to help solve non-physical disputes. During training conflict managers learn the Talk-It-Out method for solving conflicts. Students are trained to be active listeners in a process that will produce a child generated win-win ending. This is a valued program of NHE and teaches students how to solve problems through a facilitation process conducted by conflict managers.

Conflict managers have been in place at NHE for more than seventeen years. They typically solve right around 100 disputes a year.

**NHE has 25 new students entering out district with five more to come the last two weeks in September. Every classroom is being used.**

## Bucket Fillers at the Beginning of the School Year:



**Bucket Buddies on September 6<sup>th</sup>**



**Classroom Bucket Buddies**

**Bucket Filling Program:** A big thank you to Bank Iowa for donating eighty t-shirts for our Bucket Filling Program for this year. McDonald's also keeps us supplied with certificates for apple slices and ice cream cones for our classroom bucket fillers. The Bucket Filling Program is the anti-bullying program of NHE. It is designed to teach students that positive interactions with others help everyone grow, learn, and thrive.

**Kids in Charge:** Mrs. Hoy's fourth graders are the NHE leaders for the first few weeks of school. They have been busy preparing morning messages in their literacy class and will start delivering them in the morning. As Kids in Charge, they will have other leadership opportunities including escorting the younger students to the auditorium for special assemblies.

**STEM Training:** Five teachers enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the STEM unit they will be teaching this year. Last year, we wrote and were awarded with five grants for NHE, one for each grade level. The grants allowed for a day of training and a kit for each grade level on the following science topics:

**Kindergarten: Push, Pull and Go**

**First Grade: Changes**

**Second Grade: Life of a Butterfly**

**Third Grade: Rocks and Minerals**

**Fourth Grade: Food Chemistry**

These five teachers will train their colleagues so that each of them will also be able to teach the unit this year. This training will take place during the Early Out Technology PLC on Wednesdays.

**Iowa Authors:** Arrangements are being made for visits by two Iowa authors this year. Joyce Crawford and Ryan Sloth will be visiting NHE K – 4 grade levels to talk about their writing process in publishing their books. Joyce Crawford will be here on October 7<sup>th</sup>.