

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School December, 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
December Pillar: Caring

Our Big Bucket Motto:
Bucket Fillers have the Holiday Spirit all year long, but especially in December.

Dear NHE Families:

During the month of December, we focus on the pillar of caring at New Hampton Elementary. We encourage caring each and everyday through our bucket-filling program. We will conduct our Second Annual Peanut Butter Drive as our holiday caring project for the BackPack Program. In this month's newsletter, you will read about that caring project, the Winter Concert, Veteran's Day, weather reminders, and many more items of importance. Please take the time to read through the newsletter each month. The newsletter is designed to keep you informed of the happenings at New Hampton Elementary. LK

Second Annual Peanut Butter Drive

In the spirit of the holidays, we try to find a caring project each year in which to involve NHE students.

This year, New Hampton Elementary will host the second annual peanut butter drive for the BackPack Program of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank as part of our December caring project. Students and community members can bring in regular-size jars of peanut butter beginning December 2nd and ending December 20th. Jars of peanut butter may also be brought to the Elementary Winter Program and placed under the Christmas tree. All jars of peanut butter collected will remain local.

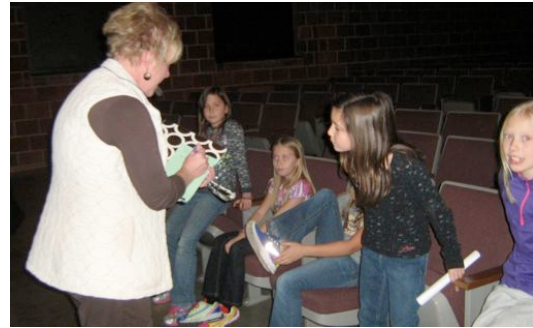


The goal of the BackPack Program is to send shelf-stable, kid-friendly and healthy foods home with children for the weekend. These foods may be prepared easily and consumed when parents are working and cannot prepare meals for their children, or when there simply is not enough food at home for the children to eat. Studies have shown that students perform better in school when they eat three balanced meals each day. This program ensures that children come to school alert and ready to learn.

We hope that parents and community members will join us in our caring project.

Is there any problem that a jar of peanut butter can't solve?

Winter Concert: Twinkle and Shine



Shelley Mohling, vocal music instructor, has been practicing holiday music with her students for several weeks. In this picture, she was meeting with the students who will be the birds in Twinkle and shine to talk about costumes.

Tis the season! New Hampton elementary music classes have been busy preparing for the holiday winter program to be held on Monday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the New Hampton High School gymnasium.

Without giving too many of the surprises away, you will hear a few new holiday songs as well as some old familiar favorites. You will see instrument playing, choreography, props, and lots of smiles! AND....the third and fourth graders will do another mini musical called "Twinkle and Shine."

As in past years, the elementary students will be bussed over to the high school gym for a dress rehearsal/matinee on Monday afternoon at 1:30. Once the matinee is over, they will be bussed back to the elementary building.

New Hampton Elementary would like to invite anyone that attends the concert to bring a regular sized jar of peanut butter and place it under our Christmas tree if they wish to do so. These jars of peanut butter will then be donated to the Backpack Program of Northeast Iowa. Let's see how many jars of peanut butter

we can provide for this Backpack program. Those who want to donate to the cause, but cannot attend the concert, can send the peanut butter to school.



Twinkle and Shine Cast: Members of the cast are looking over their script for the first time.

OTHER CONCERTS:

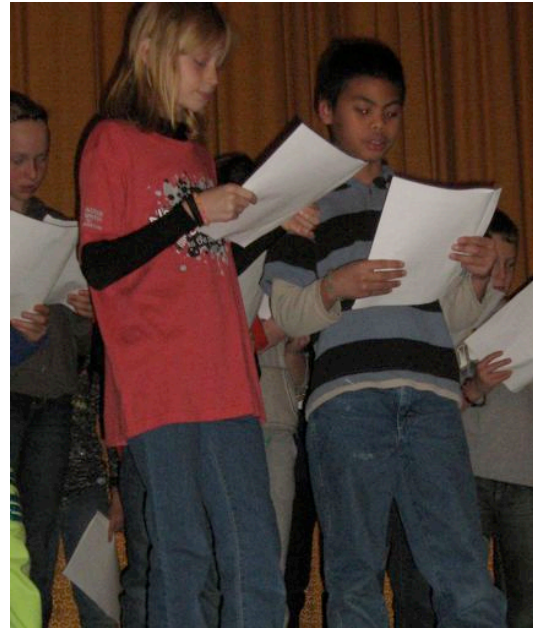
Middle School and High School musicians are also preparing for their winter concerts. Tuesday, December 17th is the High School Band and Vocal Holiday Concert at 7:00 p.m. at the NH High School gym.

The Middle School holiday vocal concert will be held on Thursday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School gymnasium. This concert features the 5th grade chorus, 6th grade chorus, Spirit Keynote Express and the 7/8 Choir. All four choirs will end the concert with a combined choir song that includes audience participation.

Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy an evening or two or three out to be sure you have a Happy, Happy Holiday with the New Hampton musicians.

Prize Seats at the Concert

The Tony Trower family won the four best seats in the house for the Christmas Program. They offered the winning bid at the Chickasaw Open this past summer.



Michaela Schwickerath and Lance Pineda practice their parts for the holiday program on December 9th.



The Holiday Concert will begin at 7:00 on Monday, December 9^h at the high school gym. Hope to see you there!

Thanks from the Media Center

We would like to thank the Women of Today for hosting the book fair during conferences once again. The book sales help provide books for our students. We just can't seem to have enough books at NHE.

Thank you! Thank you!

Parents:

Please help us to keep your child focused on their school work during December. It is a busy month full of fun activities. We want our students to stay on track and continue to do their jobs as students of NHE! Mrs. K

What do our new teachers have to say about the school year, so far?



Gretchen Myers: “I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months at New Hampton Elementary. The teachers and staff have all been very helpful and supportive. I have also enjoyed getting to know the students and families of this district. It has been so much fun joining such a wonderful preschool program. New Hampton Elementary is the place for me!”



Miranda Eichenberger: “This year has been really exciting. Starting the transitional kindergarten has been an amazing opportunity, and I have had a blast throughout the process. There are so many wonderful people willing to help, so that has made it very enjoyable. It is hard to believe the school year is going so fast, but it is great to see the students growing. New Hampton Elementary is definitely the place for me!”



Emily Baltés says: “Time sure flies fast here at NHE! I have really enjoyed getting to know all of the students and building a stronger relationship with the staff. The students have been very engaged in all of the activities we have been doing in the library ranging from author studies to call number and Destiny Quest scavenger hunts. I really want the students to develop a love for reading and I look forward to helping them find the books that will do just that. “



Judy Morgan says: “My school year at New Hampton Elementary is going well. I am a part of an amazing 2nd grade team. They have been so helpful and creative. They have given me such a welcoming feeling and their guidance has been awesome. My class is so energetic and eager to learn, that each day is exciting in many ways. New Hampton Elementary is the place for me.”

**Winter Coats/Hats/Gloves: Call Mrs. Kriener if your child needs a coat, hat, or gloves to keep warm this winter.
(394-5858, ext. 1029)**



Alana Walker: “I am truly enjoying my time here at New Hampton Elementary! I am thankful to have such great students to teach and helpful colleagues to work with! Each one has made my first year one to remember with fondness!”



Stefanie Thronson: “I absolutely love this year! I have a wonderful class and work with amazing teachers and para-educators. It is very exciting to see the students grow and how creative they can be.”

Veteran’s Day



The Fly-Over: Mrs. Rowan took this picture out of a classroom window on Veteran’s Day. It was hard not to stop what we were doing and observe the memory of our country’s veteran’s and what they mean to the kind of life we enjoy.



Veteran’s Day: Fourth graders had a memorable experience on Veteran’s Day. They walked to the Court House grounds to be a part of the dedication of the memorial in honor of all veterans. It was a cold day, but a heartwarming experience for all who attended.

Giant Piggy Bank

Currently, the Giant Piggy Bank has 171 accounts and is worth \$115,943.23.

New Hampton Elementary is the Place for Me

Parent Advisory Council

Members of the NHE Parent Advisory Council met at noon on November 11th. Discussion was led on the following topics: NHE t-shirt sales, conference scheduling, conference meal for teachers, and the future of the Parent Advisory Council. The next meeting will be January 13th. It will be an organizational meeting to chose officers and committee chairpersons.

Cold Weather Reminder

The cold weather is coming quickly and will be here for a while. We will be taking students outside for recess as much as possible because we know that

physical activity fuels the brain. We will have indoor recess if either the temperature or the wind-chill factor registers at zero. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Each child should have snow pants and boots so they can truly enjoy being outside. All students will be expected to go outside for recess each day unless there are individually approved circumstances.



Reminders from the Elementary Office

*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

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) and text alerts.

DECEMBER EVENTS

2 – Stone Soup Production @ 1:00

9 – Christmas Program for NHE @ 7:00 in the High School Gym

20th– End of Second Quarter/First Semester

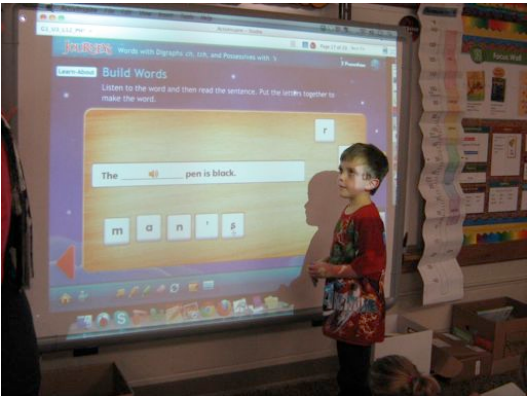
22nd – Jan. 6th – Holiday Break (No School)

Jan. 3rd– Teacher Workday

Jan. 6th – Beginning of Third Quarter/Second Semester



Fourth Grade STEM Unit: Fourth grade students collaborate to build a skimmer toy.



First graders enjoy interacting with the Promethean Board to learn language skills.



Foster Grandparents: Grandma Pat is enjoying another year in the first grade. She is a great helper to all of the students and the first grade teachers.



Wednesday Early Outs: When the dismissal bell rings on Wednesdays, teachers hurry to meet in their Professional Learning Communities to learn ways to integrate technology into teaching and learning.



Second grade authors: These second graders are writing in their journals. They are pretending to be turkeys and writing *Don't eat me* stories.



**Happy Thanksgiving,
NHE Families!**

**Happy Thanksgiving,
Everyone!**