

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School January, 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

January's Pillars: Trustworthiness

Our Big Bucket Motto:
A trustworthy person fills buckets.

Dear NHE Families:

The Holidays have come and gone and we are into 2013. We have one half of a year behind us and one half yet to go. No one regards the beginning of a new year with indifference. We all tend to be reflective about a new beginning. What do you hope the New Year brings? Join me in thinking about 'new opportunities' for NHE families, staff, and students instead of looking for things to be fixed at the beginning of this New Year. I think I am going to focus on looking for the potential in others. It is really difficult to believe that the next year will not be better than the last. We are hopeful people. A happy, healthy 2013 to each of you. Mrs. K.

Safety Issues

In light of the terrible tragedy that happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the New Hampton Community School District will tighten its security procedures. **For the past few years, the only door that has been left open during the day is the front door of the main entry. It will now be locked at 8:20 after all kids are in the building and all doors will remain locked throughout the day.**

Mr. Jurrens, our superintendent is looking into a security system and more cameras for this building for the near future.

Morning entry: In the morning, students may enter the building for breakfast through the main entrance at 7:45. All three front doors on the north side will be open for entry in the morning between 8:05 and 8:20. In addition, between 8:05 and 8:20, students can enter the building through the south door off the playground by the kindergarten rooms and through the southwest door by the preschool room and the gym.

Here are some of the ways we keep NHE students and staff safe each day:

- We have a teacher assigned at the south door each night to walk students to the bus.
- We have a para assigned to walk students to the milk cooler to get their milk each day.
- A teacher always walks students to and from their special classes.
- We have lockdown drills so we know what to do when we need to take that precaution.
- All guests sign in at the office and wear badges while in the building to show us they have registered.
- We have crossing guards on duty morning and night to help students cross the street.

- We have teachers assigned in the front and in the back of school to make sure that students are picked up safely after school.
- We have staff on the playground watching students closely so they are safe and so they do not leave the premises.
- NHE curriculum teaches them about stranger danger safety, bike safety, and pedestrian safety.
- We have rules on how NHE students conduct themselves (on the playground, in the hallway, bathrooms, and cafeteria) so that no one gets hurt and everyone is safe.
- We have a bucket filling program to help us all learn how to be supportive and caring of each other.

We want our students and staff to be safe and will take every precaution to make sure that they are. Linda Kennedy

“New Hampton Elementary is a safe place for kids!”

Checking for Understanding

These second-grade students were practicing a comprehension/thinking strategy where they read and then stopped to check their understanding. If they can retell what they have read, they continue reading. If they cannot retell what they have read, they reread that page or section and try again. Each student is given a laminated brain that helps them remember to practice this strategy independently. Our second graders are really stretching and using their brains!



Second graders demonstrate the use of a laminated paper brain to help them practice checking for understanding.



Two preschool students show their prowess with technology as they respond to prompts on the screen to interact with a story.

NHE's Holiday Caring Project: Peanut Butter Drive

New Hampton Elementary chose to host a peanut butter drive for the Backpack Program of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank as part of their December caring project. Students and community members brought in regular-size jars of peanut butter beginning December 3rd and ending December 18th. Sixty jars of peanut butter were also brought to the Elementary Winter Program and placed under the Christmas tree. All of the 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.



Peanut Butter Galore: Parents, students, and community members responded to our peanut butter drive with hundreds of jars. Thanks to everyone for your donations.



Dancing around the Peanut Butter Tree: Even though we missed the last two days of school before Christmas, we got our Peanut Butter Celebration in on Wednesday, December 19th.



Peanut Butter Tree: The fourth grade Kids in Charge did a super job of building the peanut butter tree in preparation for the celebration dance.

Giant Piggy Bank

Through the activities of the Giant Piggy Bank, students learn the value of saving money. They learn the Financial Literacy Benchmarks of the 21st Century Skills outlined in the Iowa Core Curriculum. They are:

- *Demonstrate the ability to create long and short-term goals based on wants and needs,
- *Recognize various ways to save and the reason individuals decide to save, and
- *Determine the importance of saving in relation to future needs.

On Tuesday, January 7th, the third quarter student bankers will begin their term as student bankers at the Giant Piggy Bank. They are: Kelsey Kane, Alisha Pete, Jacob Durnan, Ethan Orthaus, Andrea Sobolik, Madison Usher, and Emma Ewert. Mrs. Kennedy and Security State Bank personnel trained them right before the holiday break so each would be ready to assume his/her new positions.

The Geography Bee

A Fourth Grade Geography Bee was held on December 3rd. Through a written geography test in the classroom, 21 students were chosen to compete in the Bee. At the 4th Grade Bee the students orally answered at least 7 geography questions. At the end of the Bee on December 3rd we had five fourth graders who advanced to the New Hampton School Geographic Bee. Those 4th graders advancing were William Clark, Alex Kriener, Cael Leistikow, Jayda Nehl, and Henry Wu.

In addition to the five 4th graders we also had the top five students from grades five through eight. These 25 students competed at our school's final competition. The finals were held in the Elementary /Middle School Auditorium on December 7, 2012. Students orally answered questions on topics for world geography. There were seven rounds of one question each for the 25 students. The final round consisted of the top ten students competing for the overall first place.

The second runner-up, this year was 7th grader, Trevor Burgart. The first runner up was Thomas Clark, a 6th grader. The school champion this year was 8th grader Trevor Svec. Trevor will be taking a test in January to see if he qualifies for the state Geographic Bee in March.

Mother Nature's Advice

Send your students to school dressed for the coldest weather. The district's School Wellness Policy describes recess as an essential part of the day. Iowa's Healthy Kid's Act requires all students to have a minimum of thirty minutes a day of physical activity. Recess qualifies as this time on the days that students do not have gym class.

Studies show that students are better able to focus and engage in learning activities

after any kind of physical exercise. Exercise generates brain cell activity. That is why we feel it is important that your child comes to school prepared to experience the rigorous Iowa winter days. That includes a warm jacket, snow pants, boots, stocking cap or hat, gloves, and perhaps a scarf.

The Bucket Theory



The Bucket Filling Hallway is on the corner of Caring Street, which is really very fitting.



The Bucket Filling Hallway is a joyous place to be! Lots of smiling faces will cast some smiles on thee!

Thus far, NHE students are learning and practicing three concepts of the Bucket Theory. They are:

- *Engaging in positive interactions with others fills buckets.
- *Engaging in negative interactions with

others dip into buckets.
*Keep your lid on.

These concepts are being taught and practiced on a daily basis in each classroom at NHE.

Keep your lid on: Each person has a lid on their emotional bucket with which they were born. Even when someone is attempting to engage in a negative interaction with him or her, they can keep from having their bucket dipped into by keeping their lid on. We continue to work on strategies that will help students avoid having their buckets dipped into when someone is engaging in a negative interaction with them.

Kids In Charge

From November to February, the KIC students in Mr. Pagel's room will be delivering the morning message. Other duties for this KIC group this month were making a peanut butter tree out of the peanut butter jars collected, helping to store the peanut butter, and escorting students to the Reading Rocks kick-off.

Here are a few reminders as we begin 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 and 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. You are most welcome.

* 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. 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

"You must work, we must all work, to make the world worthy of our children." Anonymous

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).

JANUARY EVENTS

3 and 4 - Professional Development for Teachers

7 - Classes Resume

9 - Beginning of Third Quarter

10 - Report Cards Sent Out

15 and 16 - IA Dept of Education Verification Visit for Preschool

21 - No School NEIC Music Festival

31 - Kindergarten's 100th Day Celebration

30 - Parent Advisory Council (noon)

Holiday Program

Peace, Joy, and Love

A huge thank you to Mrs. Shelley Mohling for her hard work in preparing the students for a very fine performance.



Second Grade Snowflakes!



Santa and the Littlest Reindeers!



Kindergarten Singing a Favorite!

Happy New Year!

