

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School Publication
Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal March, 2014



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:

We will long remember the winter of 2014. This winter has delayed school, cancelled school, and caused accidents and backaches. It has been great for the sale of warm winter gear, shovels, salt, sand, and Ibuprofen! It is a good thing that children are so resilient. Adults seem to get beaten down by all of winter's chaos! Children find something to do during indoor recess and cheer when the temperatures allow for a breath of fresh air. Besides the onset of spring, March will bring great teaching and learning days, the Iowa Assessments, a Fax Gilbert production, and intense Carnival preparation. We will make the best of every single one of them. Mrs. Kennedy

Get Ready! Prepare!

That's right! March is the month for our students to take the Iowa Assessments. Second, third, and fourth grade students will take the Iowa Assessments the week of March 17th. Mrs. Kriener and Mrs. Kennedy will be meeting with second, third, and fourth grade students on Monday, March 17th to prepare them for the experience. Tests will begin on Tuesday, March 18th.

Parents can be a great help in getting students ready for this assessment. As you know, The No Child Left Behind mandate enables the federal and state government to use the Iowa Assessment scores as a lens to look into the academic programs of the New Hampton Community School District and judge its success based on the results of these tests.

Important: During the first two weeks of March, we ask that parents support students as they make sure they are reading and writing each day at home. ***Reading and writing are skills that must be practiced in order to become more proficient at each. Math skills also must be practiced in order for students to become more proficient!***

Prepare your student for the Iowa Assessments!

Brain-friendly Tips for Parents:

1. Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day for your child? It fuels their bodies and their brains. A combination of a carb and a protein is the best choice for optimum brain activity.
2. 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.

Going to the Movies

Second – fourth grade students, who displayed good test-taking behaviors while taking the Iowa Assessments, will be treated to a movie in the auditorium on April 24th. This event will be 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 will host this event.

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 revised attendance policy seems to be working as the number of chronic absences have decreased. 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.

Attendance Policy (whether excused or unexcused):

- *When four days are missed in a semester, the counselor will make a parent contact.
- *When six days are missed in a semester, the principal will make a parent contact.
- *When eight days are missed in a semester, a letter will be sent out to the parent.
- *When ten days are missed in a semester, a letter will be sent out to the parent and the matter will be turned over to the county attorney.

Dismissal Issues:

Parents: Please make sure that your child knows each day exactly how they are getting home from school. Also, if you are going to pick your child up, please be on time. We are asking the students who walk home from school to go directly home and not to play on the snow banks.

Coming Soon – NHE’s Spring Carnival



The Carnival Committee is busy these days making plans for the big event on Friday, April 4th.

Elementary Carnival

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

On Friday, April 4th, 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 Movie Party

Tuesday, March 25th for Grades 3 and 4
Thursday, March 27th for K – 2 Students

Information will be coming home on movie parties.

The Power of Mom

These are ideas that every bucket filling parent should know and practice.

Let’s begin with three questions:

1. What are the most important nine

minutes during the day that can have the greatest impact on a child?

2. What is the minimum number of touches a child needs during a day to feel connected to a parent?
3. What one daily event is especially important for children?

Answers:

1. The first three minutes at three important times: When they wake up, when they come home from school, and before they go to sleep.
2. Eight touches a day is the minimum a child needs to feel connected to a parent, 12 if they are going through a challenging time. This could include straightening a collar, patting the shoulder, or a simple hug.
3. One meaningful, eye-to-eye conversation between a parent and child every day.

"Let’s not worry about doing everything right. Let’s just focus on doing one thing right: a little love each day." That’s filling a bucket. These ideas were published on *The Power of Moms* online community website (www.powerofmoms.com).



Author Ryan Sloth recently visited the K – 4 classrooms to share his published children’s books. The students enjoyed hearing about his football career and how he became an author of children’s books.

Professional Development for NHE Teachers



Professional Learning Communities: K – 4 NHE teachers have been meeting all year on a daily rotation basis during their noon hours (kindergarten on Monday, first grade on Tuesday, etc.) to learn the demands of the Literacy Iowa Core Curriculum and talk about how they are teaching them and assessing them. Each grade level has established an intervention time in their schedules most days of the week for thirty minutes. During that time, which is called WIN (What I need) time, each student gets the instruction needed on one of the standards of the Iowa Core. Some will get remediation, some will get more practice to solidify a skill, and some will get enrichment. The teachers have worked extremely hard to get this in place and have appreciated the time to do so. The picture shows the second grade PLC reviewing data to determine their WIN groups.

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)

Preschool (TLC) Registration

An Open House for The Learning Center will take place on Monday, March 24th from 5:00 – 6:30 in the elementary/middle school cafeteria. Applications for TLC enrollment will be accepted for the 2014 - 15 school year. A \$10 non-refundable registration fee will be due at that meeting. Please bring your child's birth certificate.

Kindergarten Registration



We are reading books! These kindergarten students are now reading books. It is exciting and fun to hear them read to each other.

The 2014 - 15 Kindergarten Registration is taking place soon. 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

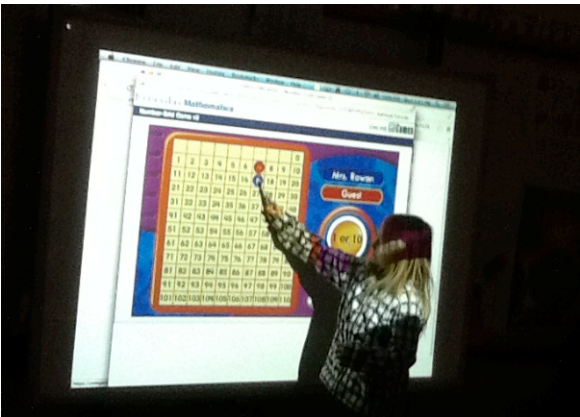
***Children not currently attending preschool or attending a preschool other than TLC** may register by contacting Sheryl Bruch, secretary, at New Hampton Elementary (641-394-5858). You may call or stop in the elementary office, located inside the north central entrance, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Please notify Sheryl Bruch 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, 2014.

Registration materials need to be returned to the elementary office by March 10th. Students who are registered will have an opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom on Thursday, April 24th. 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).



Push, Pull, and Roll: These kindergarten students are involved in a STEM unit. They were so engaged; they didn't look up when I snapped this picture.



Kindergarten Tech Savvy: Kindergarten students use technology to learn math and literacy skills. Kindergarten students are incredibly comfortable navigating iPads, laptops, and the Promethean Board in their classrooms.

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.

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



TK Storytime: TK children enjoy storytime everyday. Their interactive discussion includes questions and predictions readers and listeners have as they enjoy a good story.

Reading Rocks Finale

This year the Reading Rocks initiative was facilitated by Amy Newbrough, Sara Baltes, Joyce Muetterthies, Kelly Matthews, and Emily Baltes. They did a fine job of kicking off the event with a camping theme (Camping Out with a Good Book) and skit.



Reading Rocks Prizes: Who will the winning classrooms be this year? The ultimate prize, the plastic guitar, goes to the class that reads the most minutes each year. The finale of Reading Rocks will be held on Thursday, March 6th in the auditorium.

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 – \$108,021.63

As of the first of March, the Giant Piggy Bank has 173 regular depositors. The current value of the bank is \$108,021.63. The Giant Piggy Bank is open every Tuesday morning at 8:05.

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

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

— [Albert Einstein](#)

Weather-Related Cancellations will be announced through a text alert, 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)

Fourth Grade Projects



Fourth grade authors: These two happy authors are working on the rough draft of their fairy tale. They are telling me that the main character is Goldilocks!



Which state are you researching? This fourth grader is working on a Social Studies project. Students used the Internet to research their state and complete the expectations of the project.



Indoor Recess: Day after day during February, students had to stay in for recess. What do you do with all of that energy waiting to be used? You join Mrs. Kriener in the cafeteria and dance!!



March Dates:

- 3 - Parent Advisory Board Meeting
- 10 - Kindergarten Enrollment Forms due in NHE office
- 11- NHE Leadership Meeting
- 17- Iowa Assessment Week
- 18 - End of Third Quarter
- 19 - Beginning of Fourth Quarter
- 19-In-house TLC Professional Development
- 20- Fax Gilbert Production
- 24- Preschool Registration 5:00 - 6:30
- 25 - Gr. 2 - 4 Carnival Movie Party
- 27- Gr. TK/K -1 Carnival Movie Party

