

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School December, 2012 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 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, The Connecting Families session for December, our newest member of the first grade team, cold 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

Peanut Butter Drive

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

This year, New Hampton Elementary will host a 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 3rd and ending December 18th. 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: Love, Peace, and Joy



Shelley Mohling, vocal music instructor, has been practicing holiday music with her students for several weeks. She reinforces students' literacy skills by putting the words up on her Promethean Board so the students can read them as well as just hear them.

Tis the season! New Hampton elementary music classes have been busy preparing for the holiday winter program to be held on Monday, December 10th 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 "The Littlest Reindeer."

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.

OTHER CONCERTS:

Middle School and High School musicians are also preparing for their winter concerts. Tuesday, December 11th 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 13th 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.

The Winner

The Rich Kriener family won the four best seats in the house for the Christmas Program. She was the winning bid at the Chickasaw Open this past summer for the second year.



Mrs. Mohling puts a lot of energy into her

preparations for the holiday program. The students are having so much fun singing holiday songs. They don't even mind the hard work.



The Holiday Concert will begin at 7:00 on Monday, December 10th 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!

I want to thank parents for sending their students to school during Iowa Assessment week well rested and nourished with healthy foods. I know many of you even responded to our request of having students do some extra reading and math work at home. Our students worked very hard through the week. We are anxiously awaiting the results of hard work

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



*Our hearts
grow
tender with
childhood
memories
of
Christmas.*
**Laura
Ingalls
Wilder**

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)



A very special thank you to the parents who sent in nutritious and healthy snacks during Iowa Assessment Week. The extra exercise and healthy snacks fueled the brain to do some good thinking!

New Face at NHE!

Mrs. Emily Sanford graduated from New Hampton High School in 2005. After graduation she went to the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Elementary Education and obtained endorsements in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics.



After graduating from UNI, Emily taught in the Linn-Mar Community School District for two years and the Iowa City Community School District for one year. Emily enjoys reading novels, playing cards with family and friends, and spending time with her husband, Nick. Emily is happy to be back as is evidenced by her words, "I am so happy to teach here at New Hampton Elementary. The students are so caring and hard working; they are definitely bucket fillers! I love seeing the students grow and learn each day. The staff at New Hampton Elementary have been so helpful and friendly; it's great to have a wonderful team to work with!"

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

Connecting Families

You won't want to miss this month's Connecting Families session. Connecting Families sessions will be held at New Hampton's Community Center on the second Monday of the month from December on.

Come to the Community Center on Monday, December 10th and enjoy a meal and a Make and Take session with Kathy Girkin.

Amanda Wegner of Lutheran Services facilitates connecting Families. Amanda arranges the sessions and the food for each Connecting Families event.

Families with young children are invited to attend these free events. Registration starts at 5:30 followed by a free meal and the program with Kathy Girtin.

Bring your family and enjoy the evening. Diane Day from the EAGLE Program will be the presenter at the January session on January 14th.

Parent Advisory Council

Members of the NHE Parent Advisory Council met at noon on November 12th. Discussion was led on the following topics: the revised schedule for OFF day, Iowa Assessments, monies from the Chickasaw Open, the meal for teachers on conference days, the traffic issue around the building, Carnival ideas, preschool verification visit, lockdown, and school alerts sign-up. Parents were pleased with the new OFF schedule, which will be released to all parents in the spring. Parents were also grateful that students are safe when there is a crisis. They suggested there be more communication with teachers while the lockdown is going on so that teachers and students would have a better understanding of what is happening and how to proceed in their classrooms.

Did You Know?

Families Making Connections of Floyd, Chickasaw, and Mitchell counties are sponsoring FREE FAMILY MOVIES! These movies will be shown every third Saturday of the month in 2012 and 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Charles Theatre in Charles City.

The following movies will be shown in December and January:

December 15th: Arthur's Christmas
January 19th - Brave

The free movies are sponsored by Families Making Connections in partnership with local non-profit family serving organizations – The HUT, Caring Connections Mentoring and Floyd County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Free will donations are encouraged, but not required.



The Learning Center: The picture above shows the staff of the Learning Center, the district's early childhood education program. Currently, they are preparing for the state verification visit, which will take place on January 15th and 16th.

Cold Weather Reminder



Dress for the weather! !

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).

DECEMBER EVENTS

5 – Two – Hour Late Start/Professional Development

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

21st – End of Second Quarter/First Semester

22nd – Jan. 7h – Holiday Break (No School)

Jan. 3rd and 4th – Professional Development Days

Jan. 7th – Beginning of Third Quarter/Second Semester



Peanut, Peanut Butter: These third graders are practicing a peanut butter song to sing at the winter concert this year.



Technology in Preschool: This was fun to watch. These two boys were so engaged in a story on their laptops, they didn't even hear the click of the camera.



Jeopardy: Fourth grade students enjoyed a game of Jeopardy to get ready for their final test on their study of Living Things.



A budding Author: I couldn't resist reading over her shoulder as she wrote her story. Second graders can really get their thoughts down on paper and they are always proud of it.



Kindergartners Love Student Teachers: We so welcome student teachers at NHE. WE host them from UNI, Upper Iowa, Buena Vista, and Wartburg.



And I want a vanity so I can cut my hair - I mean fix my hair. And I want finger nail polish and a Lalaloopsy 12 inch Doll - Silly Hair Star.

**Happy Holidays from
Everyone
At New Hampton
Elementary!**