

# NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School    February, 2014 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**

**February's Pillars: Responsibility**

**Our Big Bucket Motto:**  
*Bucket fillers act in responsible ways*

**Dear NHE Families:**

During the month of February, we will be working hard to sharpen our reading skills. The Reading Rocks initiative is always a fun time for the students as they are rewarded for their reading minutes both as individuals and as a class. This year's initiative will look a bit different, but will be no less fun or enticing to the students. The kick-off will be Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> so be prepared for students to ask you to help monitor their minutes of reading each night. Perhaps you will even join your child and log your own reading minutes making it a family affair! It has been said in a variety of ways that families are a child's first and most influential teacher. Mrs. Kennedy

## **Parent Teacher Conferences – Watch for the Mailing with the Instructions to Schedule Conferences on a Website**

On Tuesday and Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, parents will come in for the second parent teacher conference of this school year. These conferences bring together a child's two most powerful influences (parent and teacher) to talk about academic and social progress. Face-to-face communications are much more effective than newsletters, e-mails, and other written communications.

Starting Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 a. m. you will be able to log into our school scheduling site and select a time to meet with your child's homeroom teacher. This link will only be open until February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't scheduled a conference by February 17<sup>th</sup>, we will do it for you and will be sending you a note with a time for a conference with your child's teacher. If, after you get the mailing, you do not have Internet access or you have a question about the scheduling process, please call Sheryl in the NHE office at 394-5858.

"If you raise your children to feel that they can accomplish any goal or task they decide upon, you will have succeeded as a parent and you will have given your children the greatest of all blessings."  
Brian Tracy

## **Scholastic Book Fair**

While you are in the building attending conferences, stop by and visit the Scholastic Book Fair that will be held in or near the cafeteria. Last year's sales resulted in a total of close to \$2400, which was given back to the PK – 8 classrooms and the media center of this district. Each PK – 8 classrooms and the media center were awarded a number of books as a result of this kickback of funds. A special thanks to Jill Brincks and other parents for organizing the Book Fair. We so appreciate their efforts and it pays off in books for each of our classrooms.

## **Iowa Assessments: Week of March 10th**

New Hampton Elementary will be administering the annual state required test to students in grades 2-4 beginning the

week of March 10th. Students will take a portion of the test each day between March 10<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Students will be tested in the following general areas: reading, writing expression, math, computation, science, social studies, and vocabulary. Students in grades 3-4 are also tested in spelling, capitalization and punctuation. The reading, written expression, vocabulary, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, mathematics, and computation tests have all been aligned to the Iowa Core State Standards.

During the month of February, we will be sharpening our skills in all of these areas. It really does matter how our students perform on these tests. We would like to get a true measure of what each student knows and is able to do in each of the areas described in the previous paragraph so that we can target his/her learning for the rest of this school year and provide parents with an accurate assessment of a child's progress.



**TLC Fours:** The preschool students are eager to display their red STOP signs in their Take Charge of Your Body session in January.

## **The Carnival, Friday, April 4th**

**The Carnival Team met for the first time this year on Thursday, January 16th. Plans are underway. Once again, it is going to be a great event!**

The annual spring carnival of NHE is set for Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be held from 6:00 – 8:30. The kitchen will open at 5:30 for families to come in and eat a light supper together.

Teachers will engage the PK – 4 students in service-learning projects on Friday afternoon in helping to set up the various games and events of the carnival. This will help students feel an ownership of the carnival and its success. This year's carnival funds are being used to fund two quality field trips for each grade level, a science exploratory trip to Twin Ponds for each grade level, monies to fund the Reading Rocks Program, a Gallagher Bluedorn Production of Stone Soup, and other student incentives.

Due to the large demands on school budgets and less state funding each year, in order for our students to have these learning enhancements in the curriculum, we must earn the extra funding at events, such as the carnival. We will need your help to make it a success. There will be opportunities for you to volunteer to donate food, money, and/or a raffle item. You can also volunteer to work. **Watch for a letter coming home soon in this regard.**

### **Important Information: Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten Registration forms will be sent home with children currently attending The Learning Center (TLC) Preschool during February conferences. Information on these forms will direct parents to get the completed Student Enrollment Information, Birth Certificate, and Student Health Information back to the elementary office by March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Physical form, immunizations form, vision card and dental card is due in the office on the very first day of kindergarten.

**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) anytime prior to March 10<sup>th</sup>, if possible. 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.**

A student entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 15, 2014. Students who are registered will have an opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Parents/Guardians will meet the

teachers and attend an informational meeting in August. If you have any questions regarding the district's kindergarten program, please feel free to contact the elementary office at 206 W. Main Street, New Hampton, or call 641-394-5858.

### **Preschool Registration**

An Open House for The Learning Center will take place sometime in March from 5:00 – 6:30 in the elementary/middle school cafeteria.

Watch for the announced date soon.

Applications for TLC enrollment will be accepted for the 2014 -15 school year at this meeting. A \$10 non-refundable registration fee will be due, also.

### **Taking Charge of Your Body**

Every January, NHE invites Cedar Valley Friends of the Family to come into the classrooms and present *Taking Charge of Your Body* lessons. These lessons focus on teaching the safety plan of No, Go, Tell (say no, get away if you can, and tell an adult) as part of child abuse and sexual abuse prevention. Each PK – 4 classroom watched a video and participated in a discussion with the instructor regarding these prevention skills.

### **Embracing Technology**



**PLC with Technology:** The first grade teachers meet together as a Professional Learning Community during the early out hour every Wednesday to continue their work with technology. There is so much to learn in order to use technology effectively. We learn it one day and go into the classroom and use it the next day. Professional development time is valued by NHE educators.

NHE teachers are embracing technology. Teachers are using it for teaching and students are using it for learning. It is exciting to watch. The Wednesday early out hour affords teachers some time to keep up with all there is to learn.



**Evernote:** The second grade teachers are learning how to use Evernote to organize notes on individual students and their progress.

### Reading Rocks in February

The elementary students are going to participate in the 4th Annual Reading Rocks contest in conjunction with Dr. Seuss' Read Across America Celebration. This year's theme will be [Reading Rocks! When Camping out With a Good Book.](#)

For the whole month of February, each grade level will be competing against the other classrooms at that level. Each child will be asked to chart the total number of minutes read February 1st through February 28th. For every ten minutes read, the child will receive various incentives. Each classroom will plan fun learning activities to go along with the theme.

At the end of the month the classes with the most rocks and minutes will win a special rock for their grade level. The class that has the most minutes overall will take home the grand prize of a rock-n-roll toy guitar, a camping party, and S'mores in the library with Ms. Emily Baltes. More detailed information will be sent home with your child soon. Let's see if we can beat last years total minutes!

### Kindergarten's 100th Day Celebration



Friday, January 24th, the kindergarten students and their teachers enjoyed the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Each day from the very beginning of the year, students count the number of days that have passed since they entered kindergarten. They learn the place value concepts of ones, tens, and hundreds as they talk about the number of the day.

The day was filled with fun learning activities facilitated by the kindergarten staff and volunteer parents. Each student made a visual of a collection of 100 items at home and brought it to school for display.

I am always amazed and amused by the 'My 100 Collection' items/posters hanging in the hallway this time of year. If you have time, you will want to come in and see them all.

### Simple Machines – Third Grade

The third grade students hosted a Science Fair on January 17th featuring their own simple machine creations. Parents and other guests enjoyed their displays and explanations. Visit Mr. Jurren's blog on the district website for a video of the Science Fair. You can also visit the NHE Facebook page for more pictures of the Science fair.



**Third Grade Scientist:** This third grader looks like a true scientist as he reviews his simple machine project.



**This third grader is showing a young student how to use a simple machine to pop a balloon.**

**Conversations With Your**

**Child:** Give your child many opportunities to talk with you in order to develop vocabulary, social skills, and reflective thinking. Listen closely to what they have to say for good insight into your child.

**Include Your Child in Meal Preparations:**

Children practice literacy skills when they read recipes, information on food packages and labels, and learn new ingredient vocabulary. They also learn the importance of accurate measurement when they cook with you.

**Enjoy Leisure Time With Your Child:**

Surround your child with books and magazines. Read with your child. Select reading material together. Do creative activities with buttons, fabric, construction paper, and ribbon.

**Add Value to Family Life:** Valuable time together as a family will help ensure your children will develop the critical social-

emotional, physical, language, and thinking skills necessary to be an active participant in the community. They will also learn to value family life.

**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.
- Treasure Chest is a good place to look for snow boots, snow pants, and other items for the winter.
- Remind your students they are not to throw snow on the playground before or after school.

**The Bucket Theory: Three Simple Rules**

**“As we need food, so do we need emotional nourishment: love, kindness, appreciation, and support from others.” J. Donald Walters**

The Bucket Filling Program is based on three simple concepts:

**\*Be a Bucket Filler (Have positive interactions with others.)**

**\*Don’t Dip into the Bucket of Another (Avoid negative interactions with others.)**

**\*Use your Lid (Everyone’s bucket has a lid. We can learn how to keep it on to avoid being bullied and having our buckets dipped into.)**

**Bucket Filler t-shirt winners for the month of January were:** Ethan Swehla, Marshall Zeien, Wyatt Schwickerath, Skylier Crooks, Claire Garman, Kyler Kruse, Camryn Smith, Zach Heying, and Codi Steinlage.

**“A bucketfilling school has a warm and caring environment where students are encouraged and inspired to learn.” Carol McCloud**



**This is the sign that is hanging in the hallway connecting the south wing of the elementary school to the media center, gymnasium, and cafeteria. It serves as a reminder to students to be caring and fill each other's buckets.**

### **Giant Piggy Bank**

The third quarter student bankers are serving New Hampton Elementary and the Giant Piggy Bank as student bankers during the third quarter. They are: Emma Hovenga, Catherine Weaver, Arianna Meyerhoff, Brock Jenkins, Adelynn Ensign, Hope Ensign, and Bailey Kriener.

The Giant Piggy Bank has 174 regular depositors. The current value of the bank is \$97,136.82 .

The Giant Piggy Bank is open every Tuesday morning at 8:05 in the kindergarten/first grade hallway of the south wing.

### **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

Members of the Parent Advisory Council will meet with Mrs. Kennedy on Monday, February 3rd at noon in the elementary conference room. Mr. Jay Jurens, superintendent of NHCS, will be the guest and will present current information on the facilities. Members of PAC are Tammy Robinson, Heather Rausch, Sarah Pickar, Jeni David, Sarah Dungey, LeEllen

Sobolik, Jessica Flanscha, Erica Steinlage, Andrea Rochford, Sally Kriener, and Jill Brincks.

### **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. 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 conferences will be held February 25<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:45 – 8:00 p.m.

\*Just a reminder that bus students are dismissed at 3:20 and town people are dismissed when buses leave.

\* 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

**"I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection." Sigmund Freud**

### **February Dates:**

**February 3 – Reading Rocks Kickoff**

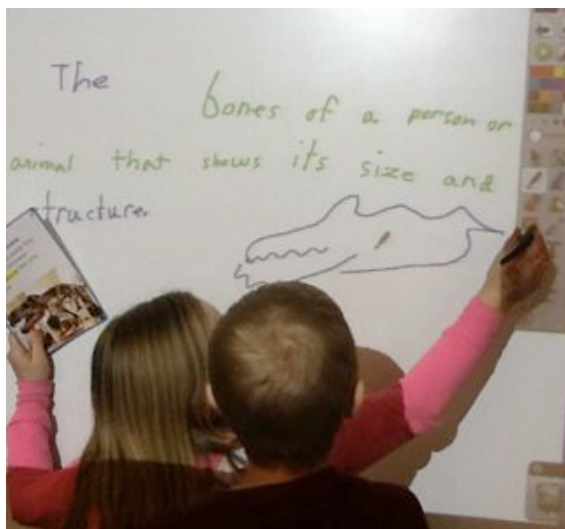
**February 5 – Mid-Term Third Quarter**

**February 18 – Ryan Sloth, Author**

**February 25 and February 27 –1:15 Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:45 – 8:00**

**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).**

**So True! "I don't remember who said this, but there really are places in the heart you don't even know exist until you love a child." Anne Lamott**



**Third Graders:** Third graders in the classroom of Mrs. Reicks make a presentation on the Promethean Board to teach the meaning of a vocabulary word to their peers.



**Kindergarten students loved the 100<sup>th</sup> day activities, including making 100<sup>th</sup> day trail mix.**



**100<sup>th</sup> Day Banner:** Mrs. Kennedy loved the 100<sup>th</sup> day banner that was made for her with every students' name on it.



**Third Graders** use technology to learn all they can about Native Americans. They are especially interested in the Chickasaw tribe.

**February is a great month for family reading time at night. Help your student accumulate Reading Rocks minutes!**