

# New Hampton Elementary Update

Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal

February, 2014

*Character Counts! At New Hampton Elementary  
February's Pillar: Responsibility*

**Professional Development in the Collaborative Learning Teams (CLT's):** Teachers continue to be trained to use new technologies on Wednesday during the early out hour. Teachers continue to meet for their PLC's at Lunch sessions to work on the Iowa Core Curriculum and the facilitation of WIN time.

**WIN Time:** At this time, kindergarten, first, and second grade have started their What I Need (WIN) time. WIN time is the thirty minutes a day intervention time when students are taught the skills they need in literacy. After analyzing current data, teachers at these levels have grouped children and carefully designed instructional activities that will meet the needs of their learners at their current performance levels (advanced, maintaining, developing). They have been working with the Iowa Core Literacy Standards and Benchmarks since the beginning of the school year in their Professional Learning Communities and have the knowledge and the assessments developed to get started on their intervention times.

**See February Newsletter**

## **Parent Advisory Council**

The Parent Advisory Council of NHE held their fourth meeting of the year on Monday, February 3rd at noon. Mr. Jürrens was on hand for a conversation on such topics as facilities and next year's calendar.

**Reading Rocks Initiative:** 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.

## **Giant Piggy Bank's First Semester Report:**

NH Elementary GPB 171 accounts \$106,139.40

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**Ryan Sloth, Author will Visit NHE:** Ryan Sloth, author of several children's books, will make a return visit to NHE on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Ryan will have a time slot with students at each of the K- 4 grade levels. He will talk about his writing process for each of the books he has published. Ryan is an author, actor, and an athlete. He played arena football for the Columbus Destroyers, Bakersfield Blitz and Iowa Barnstormers. Today, he is defensive/special teams coach for the Barnstormers after his playing career came to a halt after an injury.

**Visit to Eye Care Associates:** NHE's literacy and special education instructors will accompany me to visit Eye Care Associates on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for a demonstration of new technologies purchased to help students read and comprehend.

**Mid-Year Parent Survey Results: Transitional Kindergarten  
74% return (11 out of 15)**

The answers to the first five questions concerning academic, social, and emotional growth were all favorable. Every parent who responded stated their child was enjoying school, showing an interest in books, an interest in writing, an increase in vocabulary, an interest in numbers and math-related concepts, and overall growth academically, socially, and emotionally.

**The sixth question was: "What do you feel has gone well with the Transitional Kindergarten Program this year and these were some of the replies:**

\*We are really happy that most of the children are summer birthdays. Mrs. Lichtenberger is such a positive, patient and caring teacher and is helping these young children excel in reading, writing, for their age. We love that they participate in music, PE, art, and library.

\*He has matured a lot. That you so much for having this program available. I am afraid he would not have adjusted well if he had been put right into kindergarten. We are extremely happy!

\*Makes the student feel he is moving forward as he learns more and more.

\*I am very happy with the program. Miranda is great at what she does. My daughter has excelled in learning and in other aspects of her day.

\*P has really opened jump and become a social butterfly. Although still very shy, he is now willing to engage in dialogue with others.

\*Everything! He is more responsible and likes to do homework.

\*J has truly benefitted from the program, a big noticeable change from the previous year in preschool. The transitional kindergarten program is wonderful.

\*My child is growing and developing as well or better than I was expecting. She needs this TK to bell.

\*I love that she goes everyday just like kindergarten, and goes to specials. This will help with her transition next year.

Miranda has seen tremendous growth in these students in emotional maturity, readiness for school, reading and math learning readiness, and social growth.

**FEBRUARY EVENTS**

**8 – NHE Leadership Team Meeting**

**3 – Parent Advisory Council @ noon**

**5 – Early Childhood Cadre Meeting @ 10:30**

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**12 – Carnival Meeting**  
**18 – Author Ryan Sloth Visit**  
**25<sup>th</sup> and 27th – Parent/Teacher Conferences**