

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School February, 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

February's Pillars: Responsibility

Our Big Bucket Motto:
Bucket fillers act in responsible ways

Dear NHE Families:

It has been said in a variety of ways that families are a child's first and most influential teacher. We believe that and rely heavily on our partnership with you to educate your child. NHE children learn important skills here at school and at home. At home, through hands-on, minds-on, everyday experiences, children gain background knowledge. We know that children who have these rich experiences outside of school have an easier time learning to read, developing math skills, and understanding science concepts. We hope that you continue to make learning a part of your family routine at home to gain this important background knowledge for lifelong learning. Mrs. Kennedy

A huge thank you to Sally Kriener and her Chickasaw Open team for making it possible for NHE to purchase iPads for student use.

A huge thank you to Wal Mart for funding a grant for making it possible for NHE to purchase iPads for student use.

A huge thank you to Shopko for making it possible for NHE to purchase iPads for student use.

Family Routines to Support Learning

Conversations: 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.

Meal Preparation: 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.

Leisure Time: 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.

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.

Parent Teacher Conferences

On Tuesday and Thursday, February 26th and 28th, 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. We hope that each parent will plan to attend at the designated time.

“Raising good kids is not easy. There are no college courses on the subject, by the time you are experienced at it, you are out of a job.”
Anonymous

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 \$2365 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.

Preschool Verification Visit

On January 15th and 16th, three members of Department of Education verification team visited The Learning Center, New Hampton Elementary's early childhood program. They looked at every aspect of TLC including curriculum, assessment, professional development, and all of the mandates of the Quality Preschool Program Standards.

TLC teachers have had a lot of training the last few years to learn how to implement the Creative Curriculum and use the GOLD assessment system efficiently. They have made great strides in doing so and will continue. The final report was largely positive with a few suggestions in the area of curriculum and assessment.

A group of parents volunteered to be a part of the parent interview and were very helpful in giving the verification team insight into our program. They were: Mitch and Jeanette Laures, Renata Sittig, Sherry Steinlage, Sarah Gorman, Mindy Humpal, Stefanie Thronson, Cody Schilling, Brenda Geerts, and Jenny Monteith.

It is not until much later, that children understand; their stories and all their accomplishments, sit atop the stories

of their mothers and fathers, stones upon stones, beneath the water of their lives.” Paulo Coelho

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.



Kindergarten students enjoyed Ali’s visit and learned her lesson well through a song and an activity.

Collaborative Learning Teams (CLT’s)



The first grade teachers meet together as a Collaborative Learning Team after school. Professional development time is valued by NHE educators.

This year, professional development takes place during late starts, on other designated days on the calendar, and during collaborative learning team sessions after school. Key to grade level training and instructional planning is the

Collaborative Learning Team time. Grade level CLT’s meet an hour a month after school to collaborate, review data, explore new technologies, learn current research, and improve instructional practices.



The Kindergarten Collaborative Learning Team is reviewing DIBELS Next data at this session.

Iowa Assessment Results

Our Iowa Assessment results are back. The following table shows the percent in each of the following achievement levels at grades 2, 3, and 4 in reading, math, and science: non-proficient, proficient, and advanced.

| Reading | % NProf | % Prof. | % Adv. | Total % Proficient |
|----------------|---------|---------|--------|--------------------|
| Grade | | | | |
| 2 | 11% | 72% | 17% | 89% |
| 3 | 20% | 65% | 15% | 80% |
| 4 | 25% | 54% | 21% | 75% |
| Math | | | | |
| | % NProf | % Prof. | % Adv. | Total % Proficient |
| 2 | 18% | 57% | 25% | 82% |
| 3 | 13% | 63% | 24% | 87% |
| 4 | 15% | 46% | 39% | 85% |
| Science | | | | |
| | % NProf | % Prof. | % Adv. | Total % Proficient |
| 2 | 29% | 56% | 15% | 71% |
| 3 | 18% | 42% | 40% | 82% |
| 4 | 9% | 66% | 25% | 91% |

We did not make the targets set out by No Child Left Behind for third and fourth grade. But the federal government has many filters through which they view these scores. We hope to make it through at least one or more filters. We will know for sure in July.

Prior to the test, staff worked hard to teach students the proper test taking behaviors. Those behaviors were: attending to all test items, engaging and focusing on the test, taking their time, trying to do their best, not engaging in speed dotting, and not acting in ways that would distract others.

On Friday, January 25th, second, third, and fourth grade students who displayed good test taking behaviors while taking the Iowa Assessments were invited to a movie in the auditorium as a thank you for their efforts.

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. Each grade level will be competing against the other classrooms at that level throughout the month of February. 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 get a paper rock to add to their classroom's pile.

As an added attraction, high school students from the National Honor Society will be paired with classrooms and add their reading minutes to that class total. In addition, middle school students will pair up with classrooms to be reading buddies. At the end of the month the class with the most rocks and minutes wins their grade level. The class that has the most minutes overall will take home the grand prize of a rock-n-roll toy guitar. More detailed information will be sent home with your child soon. Let's see if we can beat last years total minutes!

Kindergarten Connection – A New Initiative at NHE

In the spring of 2013, the kindergarten teachers will collaborate with the Head Start teacher to deliver five parent/child informative sessions for children entering kindergarten in the fall and their parents. Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) has offered to contract with our school to pay salaries and

supplies for five sessions after obtaining school board approval. ECI has offered \$2883 to this school district for this purpose.

During each session, the children and parents will come to school together to participate in activities that focus on Math, Literacy, Science, Social Studies or Self/Help in order to build children's readiness skills for kindergarten. Parents will learn ways to prepare their child for school. The sessions will be held on the following Mondays from 5:15 – 6:45: March 4th, March 18th, April 18th, April 22nd, and May 6th.

Program Goals for Kindergarten

Connection:

- ▶ To learn about the expectations in Kindergarten.
- ▶ To gain information on the kindergarten curriculum.
- ▶ To provide the child with readiness experiences.
- ▶ To learn about resources available to the child and family.
- ▶ To answer parent questions and concerns.
- ▶ To learn what to do at home before school starts.

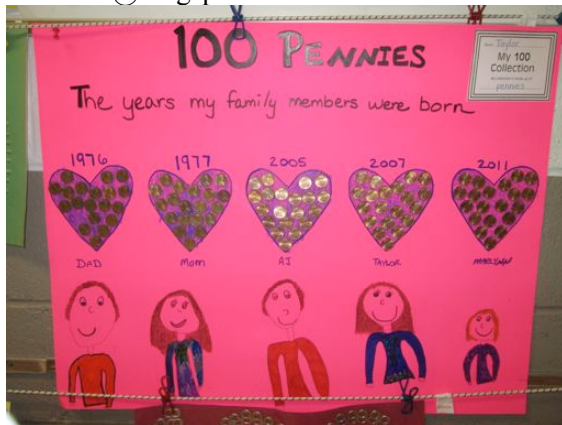
Kindergarten's 100th Day Celebration



A trophy bearing many items from the sports arena now decorates the hallway.

Thursday, January 31st, the kindergarten students and their teachers enjoyed the 100th 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. See pictures of the 100th Day Celebration on nhetimes@blogspot.com.



A heart bearing 20 pennies for each family member is a clever way to show 100 items.

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.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will take place the week of February 25th – February 28th. 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 Linda Schwickerath, secretary, at New Hampton Elementary (641-394-5858) anytime through this week.**

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 Thursday, February 25th – Feb. 28th, or between 5:00-8:00 pm, Tuesday, February 26th or Thursday, Feb. 28th.

A student entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 15, 2011

Registration materials need to be returned to the elementary office by March 30th. Students who are registered will have an opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom on April 24th. Parents/Guardians will meet the teachers and attend an informational meeting in August at Orientation For Families. 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.

Simple Machines – Third Grade

The third grade students hosted a Science Fair on January 18th 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 nhetimes@blogspot.com for a story and more pictures of the Science fair.



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

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: Corbin Lewis, Lane Nehl, Luke Leichtman, Beth Pickar, Sydney Anderson, and Caleb Utley.

Students nominated by Mrs. Kennedy to draw the names of the bucket fillers were Shelby Springer, Dwight Schwickerath, and Kayla Holschlag.

“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: Kelsey Kane, Alisha Pete, Jacob Durnan, Ethan Orthaus, Andrea Sobolik, Madison Usher, and Emma Ewert.

The Giant Piggy Bank has 172 regular depositors. The current value of the bank is \$120,613.38.

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

The Carnival, Friday, April 19th



The Carnival Team met for the first time this year on Wednesday, January 23rd. Plans are underway.

New Hampton Elementary’s annual carnival is set for Friday, April 19th. 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. This year's carnival will be held on a Friday evening once again.

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 Boy Who Cried Wolf, and other student initiatives.

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.**

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Members of the Parent Advisory Council will meet with Mrs. Kennedy on Monday, February 18th at noon in the elementary conference room. Members of PAC Tammy Robinson, Sarah Pickar, Jeni David, Sarah Dungey, LeEllen Sobolik, Jessica Flansch, 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 26th and February 28th 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

“What it's like to be a parent: It's one of the hardest things you'll ever do but in exchange it teaches you the meaning of unconditional love.” Nicholas Sparks.

February Dates:

February 1 – Fax Gilbert Presentation on Character and Bullying and Reading Rocks Kick-Off

February 4 – Mid-Term Third Quarter

February 26 and February 28 – 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).

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

March 12th – Preschool Registration

An Open House for The Learning Center will take place on Tuesday, March 12th from 5:00 – 6:30 in the elementary/middle school cafeteria. Applications for TLC enrollment will be accepted for the 2013-14 school year. A \$10 non-refundable registration fee will be due at that meeting.

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



Reading Recovery: Amy Newbrough is a trained Reading Recovery teacher. Reading Recovery is another one of the great programs at NHE that helps first grade students become fluent readers.



Kindergarten Reader: This young reader was so engaged in his book, he didn't realize his picture was being taken. I was close enough to hear that he was reading fluently.



Running Records: Sara Baltes, also a Reading Recovery teacher, is taking a running record while a student reads to her. This enables her to analyze a student's reading behaviors.

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

