



Heartland Community School

Henderson/Bradshaw

January 2010 Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Friends of Heartland Community Schools,

As we begin a new year and cold winter weather is upon us, I would like to remind everyone to be very safety conscious when driving, especially around the school.

Safety is a great concern for all of us. It has been brought to my attention that we have had several near misses of children getting hit by cars. A couple of these have been around the half circle drive in front of the school. **BE CAREFUL!** Always be on the lookout for children crossing the street. We ask parents to park on the far side of the drive to allow busses to enter on the side nearest the school. **Please help us to instruct your children to cross the driveway at the crosswalk only.** There is a sidewalk on the south side of the half circle so they do not have to walk on the grass.

I am sure we will have snow and ice before long and then it becomes even more important to be careful. We want everyone to be safe. Our goal is to have school every day, but we always take into consideration the condition of the roads and the weather forecast when making a decision to delay or cancel school. We will make every effort to make a decision by 6:00 a.m. If a decision is made the night before, we will try and announce it at 10:00 p.m. We are usually more concerned about the conditions for students driving cars than we are for the busses being out. All of the busses are equipped with two-way radios so we can communicate with them when needed.

We encourage you to call the school closing bulletin board, 402-723-4421, to check if we will be having school. We try and put the information on the bulletin board as soon as a decision is made. We also try and put the information on the school website: www.heartlandschools.org. In addition to these two places, we will use the School Reach Notification System to call all homes when a decision is made. Please make sure the school office has the main phone number where you can be reached. If we dismiss early because of weather or any emergency, we will call the main home phone number as well as both the mother's and father's cell phones. The information should be on KAWL (1370) radio, and television stations KHAS, KLKN, KOLN/KLIN, and NTV. In Henderson, it will also be announced with voiceover capabilities on any cable channel (in town) when your TV is on. In the mornings, it will be announced on the ½ hour from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 am (cable only).

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable winter.

Sincerely,
Dr. Norm Yoder, Superintendent

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

As the winter approaches, occasional bad weather necessitates the closing of school for the safety of our

students. School closing information will be announced over the radio station KAWL (1370), and television stations KHAS, KLKN, NTV and KOLN. In Henderson it will be announced with voiceover capabilities on any cable channel (in town) when your TV is on. This year we are implementing an automated phone message service through School Reach which we plan on using for school closings. You may also call our school closing phone line at 402-723-4421. If a decision has been made the night before, the closing will be announced at 10:00PM. In the mornings it will be announced on the half hour from 6:30AM to 8:00AM (cable only).

NEBRASKA SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK – JANUARY 23-29, 2011

January 23-29 has been designated Nebraska School Board Recognition Week. It is part of January's National School Board Recognition Month.

The school board's job is to establish a vision for the district's education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, assure that schools are accountable to the community, and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. That job entails an endless string of meetings and school functions to attend; reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study; and a host of difficult decisions to make. Please take time to thank our current school board members Paul Brune, Gary Braun, Deb Wilhelm and newly-elected school board members Boyd Stuhr, Jr., Glenn Larson, and Kent Allen for their willingness to serve on the school board. Also remember to thank the three school board members who just completed their terms on the board as of December 31: Kerri Kliever, who has served for the past 14 years, Galen Friesen, who has served the past 8 years; and Mark Dick, who has served the past 4 years.

LEATHER JACKET FOUND

We have a men's black leather jacket that was left hanging in the school last spring. It is a size large. It may be claimed at the school office.



FCS CORNER

The Culinary Foods and FCS classes held their open house for friends and staff on Nov. 30th. They served appetizers and desserts in a tasting venue. December activities included creating "flat gingerbread" houses and cookies, cultural food research and preparation, and other holiday foods.

Junior High FCS held their open house for parents and grandparents on Dec. 15th. They served cookies and truffles and displayed sewing projects completed this semester. We wish you all a very happy holiday season.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



The National Honor Society of Heartland High School once again sponsored its annual Food Drive to benefit families and individuals within the school district. The theme this year was, "Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle All the Way...Oh, what joy it is to share...today." The students and parents and staff of the Heartland District responded with gifts of food and other items brought daily to the school from December 6-10 and 13-17. NHS members made signs and other promotional materials to remind students of each day's gifts and unloaded and sorted the items daily. On December 22, NHS students delivered food to 18 families and 13 individuals in the Henderson/Bradshaw area. This is one of the many school and community projects that the NHS sponsors each year. The Holiday Food Drive is a tradition begun 26 years ago and is one that all NHS members enjoy. NHS Faculty Advisor, Sharon Bishop, who is retiring at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, says, "The Food Drive is one of my favorite traditions at Christmas time. It is thrilling to watch students bring food and other items to share with those in our community who need an extra boost.

The NHS kids who deliver the food feel the love and appreciation from the recipients. I want to thank the families in our district who have given so generously over these 26 years to this project."

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT BETTER NUTRITION LEADS TO BETTER GRADES

Not everything your child needs for school is in her book bag. Some of it is in her lunch bag. According to research, a healthful diet can help your preteen stay sharp in class and better retain the information she learns there.



Unfortunately, packing nutritious foods doesn't necessarily mean she'll eat them. That's because kids routinely trade lunches with fellow students, or even toss out things they don't feel like eating.

So what's the solution? Help her become an informed eater who knows how to make wise food choices. Here's how:

- **Start with the facts.** Tell your child that studies show that good nutrition leads to better classroom performance. Period.
- **Expose her to a variety of foods.** Go grocery shopping together and explore one new food each week. Sample fresh produce and choose whole-grain breads.
- **Make it easy for her to eat well.** Instead of stocking your fridge with soda and junk food, fill it with pre-washed, cut veggies and skim milk.
- **Insist on breakfast.** It really is the most important meal of the day, so don't let your child skip it. She can't do her best in class if she shows up with an empty "fuel tank."

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UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR PRETEEN MAY BE MOODY

The middle school years are a time of tremendous change for your child. Your child may transform from a happy-go-lucky elementary student to a sometimes moody, even occasionally surly, middle school student.

Both you and your child will be able to weather this time if you understand what is going on. Your child is not being moody to upset you or make you angry. So do not take your child's moods personally. Instead, look at them as part of her growth. They can result from:

- **Growth in thinking.** Your child is moving away from taking everything at face value. She is able to consider different possibilities. She may not like some of them. This can affect her moods.
- **Growth in emotions.** Your child now has more complex emotions. She can be happy for a friend's success, but also a little jealous. At the same time, she can be angry at herself for the jealousy! These swirling emotions can lead to unsettled moods.
- **Growth in relationships.** Peers become more important to most preteens. They are also forming relationships with more adults, such as coaches or club leaders. With each new relationship comes the chance that something will happen to affect your child's mood.

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ART STUDENTS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION WORK TOGETHER

The Junior Auxiliary of the Henderson Health Care Services has been sponsored a 5K, 10K and One-Mile Fun Run in conjunction with the Henderson Community Days for the last several years. This event is a fundraiser for various projects that support the HHCS.

Each year a t-shirt is given to all participants and coming up with a design for the t-shirt is always a challenge for the group.

Two Heartland art students got involved for the 2010 race and designed the graphic art for the shirts. Heartland art teacher Britany Renz selected Mariah Kliewer and Anna King (then juniors) to put their graphic art skills to the task. The Auxiliary members were very pleased with the result, and with a little 'fine tuning' by the folks at Henderson's Dart Advertising, a very impressive finished product resulted.

During the spring semester Ms. Renz and the art students will be getting involved again as she will assign several of her classes to submit possible t-shirt designs for the 2011 event. The Junior Auxiliary will make the final decision on which design will be used. The student whose artwork is chosen for use on the t-shirt will receive a free shirt for her effort.

The HHCS Junior Auxiliary is very pleased to be able to work together with the school in this way and appreciates Ms. Renz's cooperation as well as the talent of her art students.



Pictured with a t-shirt from the 2010 Junior Auxiliary Jaunt using their graphic art design are, from left to right, Mariah Kliewer and Anna King.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO MAKE LEARNING RESOLUTIONS FOR 2011

It's the New Year! So help your middle schooler start it off right by adopting stronger school-related habits. After all, it may technically be the middle of the school year, but it's never too late for a fresh start!

Depending on her particular strengths and weaknesses, encourage your preteen to make New Year's resolutions related to her:

- Homework habits. Did she spend the first semester scrambling to get her assignments finished each night? Help your preteen turn over a new leaf this time around. Set aside a specific time for studying each night and remind her to stay with it.
- Weekends. Does she stay up late every Friday and Saturday and then snooze away much of the next day? And does that make waking up for school a major struggle on Monday morning? Have your child stick to a more reasonable bedtime on weekends. It might help her start the school week stronger.
- Test prep. Cramming for exams is a bad idea. So if it's your preteen's preferred way to study, something needs to change. This semester, have her hit the books for a short time each night during the week leading up to a test. She may see a payoff in her grades!

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HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Henderson/Bradshaw

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, November 8, 2010

Henderson Attendance Center – Conference Room
7:00 PM
MINUTES

Members Present: Galen R. Friesen, Gary Braun, Kerri Kliewer, and Mark Dick, and Paul Brune. Board member elect: Boyd Stuhr, Jr., Glen Larson, & Kent Allen. Others Present: Supt. Norm Yoder, Principals Tim Carr and Cindy Huebert. Faculty: Larry Vancura, athletic director, Marietta Adams, Joan Friesen, Sherry Thiesen, Margalee Thomas, Marc Regier, Erik Gray, Lynn Hall, and Sharon Bishop. Patron: John Ruybalid. Absent: Debra Wilhelm.

I. Call to Order
President Brune called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. President Brune declared the meeting to be open, legal and properly advertised with all members having been informed of the nature of the meeting and having received Related information. He also indicated the posting of the open meetings law at the front of the room.

III. Excuse Deb Wilhelm

Action 1: Motion by Kliever, second by Braun, to excuse Debra Wilhelm because of illness.. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1- absent (Wilhelm).

IV. Approval of Agenda

Action 2: Motion by Friesen, second by Braun, to approve the agenda as revised. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 - absent (Wilhelm).

V. Audience with Individuals and/or Committees

There was none.

VI. Minutes of Meeting

VII. Treasurer's Report

The General Fund Treasurer's report was reviewed and filed pending audit.

VIII. Claims

IX. Financial Reports

The financial reports for the School Lunch Fund, Activity Fund, Unemployment Fund, and the Depreciation Fund were reviewed and filed pending audit.

Action 3: Motion by Dick, second by Kliever, to approve the consent agenda which includes the minutes of the October 11, 2010 regular meeting and the general fund claims. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1-absent (Wilhelm).

X. Administrative Reports

The board heard administrative reports on DIBELS testing at the K-6 level, the volunteer program which has 5 volunteers on a weekly basis, PTO activities, Art Club workshop for K-4, Dare graduation for 5th graders on November 11, Fall testing for grades 3-6 and 8th, the transition activities of the kindergarten class into two sections, and plans for our NCA AdvanceED Accreditation visit planned for April. Technology training for clickers, document cameras and mimio, honor roll in grades 7-12, FFA students attending the national convention, Jr. High students presented a series of lessons on bullying, conferences attended by teachers and principals, Annual Report to Parents that was in the newsletter, other student activities, and student transportation for wrestling,

XI. Additional Cost Projections for the Front Entrance

The board reviewed additional plans and possible cost projections for the front entrance.

XII. Discussion with Neighboring Districts

There were not further discussions at this time.

XIII. NASB Delegate Assembly

The board reviewed the different proposals and standing positions and gave input for the Delegate Assembly representative. Galen Friesen was appointed as an alternate in case Deb Wilhelm is unable to attend.

XIV. Early Retirement Program.

Board members Brune, Braun, and Dick shared the discussion they had with H.E.A. representatives concerning the early retirement program. The board discussed possibly ending the program, but no decisions were made at this time.

XV. Cross Country Proposal

The board discussed the proposed the Cross Country Program Proposal that came from Karla Grosse. The proposal died for a lack of a motion.

XVI. Financial Audit for 2009-2010

Action 4: Motion by Braun, second by Dick, to accept the 2009-2010 Financial Audit prepared by Mireau and Company. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1-absent (Wilhelm)

XVII. Multi-Cultural Curriculum Update

The principals reviewed the current Multi-Cultural Curriculum.

XVIII. New Board Member Orientation

The board will try set a date in December for the new board member orientation.

XIX. Board Retreat

The board will set a date at the January meeting for their annual board retreat.

XX. Board Self Evaluation

The board reviewed the compilation of the board self evaluation filled out by each board member was reviewed.

XXI Personnel

Action 5: Motion by Dick, second by Braun, to approve the early retirement requests of Larry Vancura, Dave Ehly, Joan Friesen, and Sharon Bishop effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1-absent (Wilhelm).

Action 6: Motion by Braun, second by Kliever, to go into executive session to review a student disciplinary situation, a teacher health issue, an employee behavior issue, and the superintendent's evaluation at 10:00 p.m. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1-absent (Wilhelm). President Brune declared the end of executive session at 10:50 p.m.

XXII. Adjournment

President Brune adjourned the meeting at 10:51 p.m.

Heartland Community Schools
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Henderson, NE 68371

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 4th - No School Teacher Workday

January 5th - Classes Resume -
2nd Semester begins

January 5th - Special Board Meeting 7:00pm

January 10th - Board of Education
Meeting 7:00 pm

January 20th - Teacher In-service
2 hour late start

January 28th - Vocal Clinic TBD