



Heartland Community School

Henderson/Bradshaw

April 2011 Newsletter
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Dear Parents, Patrons, & Friends of
Heartland Community Schools,

While we are sad to have five faculty members retiring we are excited to announce four new staff who will be joining us as their replacements.

Ashley Isaac will be teaching language arts, replacing Sharon Bishop. Ashley is a Cross County and Hastings College graduate who has been teaching this past year at Meridian. She will also be directing the One Act Play and the all school play.

Greg Vanderneck, who currently lives in Henderson, will be teaching mathematics, replacing Larry Vancura. Greg is a graduate of UNL and received his teaching certification from Doane College. He has also served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. He is currently teaching in Grand Island. He will possibly do some coaching as well. His wife, Jenny, is a teller at the York branch of Henderson State Bank.

Justin Sand will be teaching Industrial Technology, replacing Dan Gilson. He is a December graduate of UNL and is from Dorchester. Justin will also be coaching junior high football and junior high boy's basketball.

Gina Mestl, who also currently lives in Henderson, will be the new media specialist, replacing Joan Friesen. Gina has previously taught Title I at Heartland in 1996-97 and has taught the Bethesda Church pre school for the past 13 years. She is a graduate of Hesston College and Goshen College. Her husband Jim is vice president of Cornerstone Bank in Henderson and Bradshaw.

Jon Baehr, Title I instructor, will assume the Athletic Director responsibilities, replacing Larry Vancura. He also serves as head boys' basketball and girls' golf coach.

Current plans are to provide German instruction via Distance Learning.

Please make every effort to make each of these persons welcome as they assume their new teaching responsibilities. We look forward to having each of them join the Heartland Staff.

Sincerely,
Dr. Norm Yoder, Superintendent



LIGHTS FOR SALE

Heartland Community Schools has 4 foot, 4 bulb fluorescent light fixtures for sale. These are the fixtures that are being replaced throughout the school. We are asking \$5.00 each. Please call ahead to make arrangements and pick yours up today. Excellent for garages, basements or other applications.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK IS APRIL 10-16

A special thank-you to all those who volunteer in so many ways to help the students and staff at Heartland. We sincerely appreciate everyone who helps out, whether it be assisting in an elementary classroom, in the lunch room, at athletic events, or through the parent teachers organization. Each person is a valuable asset to the education of Heartland students.

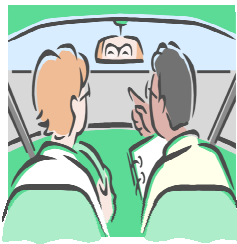
HEARTLAND TO HOST DISTRICT TRACK ON THURSDAY, MAY 12

Heartland will be hosting the Class C-2 District track meet on Thursday, May 12, 2011. As a result, there will be no school on Thursday, May 12. If you would be interested in helping with the track meet, please contact Larry Vancura, Heartland's athletic director and head track coach. It takes a lot of people to run a track meet so anyone willing to volunteer would be appreciated. Come out and support the Heartland athletes at the District Track meet as well as at the Heartland Invitational track meet on Tuesday, April 12 and the Heartland Junior High Invitational track meet on Thursday, April 14.



RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Heartland Community Schools would like to show gratitude and appreciation for the many years of service for five teachers. Larry Vancura, 42 years; Dave Ehly, 40 years; Sharon Bishop, 32 years; Joan Friesen, 25 years; and Dan Gilson 9 years, are all retiring at the end of the current school year. Heartland will host a retirement recognition reception for these retiring teachers. Please reserve May 22, from 2-4 p.m., and plan to attend to honor these individuals.



2011 DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Driver Education instruction will again be offered to Heartland students through the Nebraska Safety Council. The instruction will take place at Heartland Community Schools in Henderson. The fee for the instruction will be

\$280.00 per student for the summer of 2011. You can go online and download a registration form at www.nesafetycouncil.org. Please send completed form and registration fee to PO Box 30578, Lincoln, NE 68503-0578. Checks should be made out to the Nebraska Safety Council. Students can also pick up a registration form from the school office. The fee must be paid the first day of class.

- **Advanced registration and payment are required.**
- **Students must possess a school learner's permit, a school permit or a learner's permit to enroll.**

Only one session will be offered this summer and will run July 5-July 12. The behind-the-wheel instruction will be arranged during the classroom sessions. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

JUNIOR-SENIOR BANQUET & PROM

On May 7th, 2011, we will hold the Junior-Senior Prom. There will be a banquet meal for Juniors and Seniors and their guests at 6:30 p.m. in the Old gym. The cost for the meal is \$15.00 for juniors and guest, complimentary for seniors. After the banquet, the students will do a walk-through from the cafeteria to the theater starting at 7:45 p.m. Pictures may be taken at this time. The 9-12 student body, parents and guests are invited to the Royalty ceremony held in the school theater starting at 8:15 p.m. The prom dance will be held in the South (Old) Gym starting at 9:00 p.m. Students will need to purchase a \$5.00 ticket to the dance and post prom activities from the High School office. All Heartland 9-12 students and guests are invited to the dance and post prom activities. All activities are chaperoned by parents. Any students leaving the prom early will need sponsor permission and parents will be called.



REINFORCE THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE ALL YEAR LONG

You know that in order to learn, your child must be in school. When your child is absent, he misses instruction. In middle school, several absences in a row can mean quickly falling behind.

But your child's attendance matters to more than just your child. Every child's attendance is important. A school where

the vast majority of students have good attendance is usually a school that performs well.

Here are some ways to promote good attendance for your child and his peers:

- Do not allow your child to miss school except for illness, emergency or religious holidays.
- If you know of any reasons (such as a safety issue) that makes any child fearful of going to school, report them to school authorities.
- Do not condone skipping school for any student. Tell your child that you will report truancy if you see it. You won't let his friends "off the hook."
- Praise good attendance! Grades are not the only important information on your child's report card. Look at the "days absent." Always tell your child you are proud of him when a report card reflects no unexcused absences.

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HEARTLAND ART STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

Two Heartland high school art students received Scholastic Art Awards of Nebraska for their outstanding artwork. Samantha Boardman, a sophomore, earned an Honorable Mention on her perspective drawing of a main street and Mariah Kliewer, a senior, earned an Honorable Mention on two metal sculpture dress forms. Their artwork was on display at the Omaha Public Schools Teachers Administration Building from February 23rd- March 11th. There was also an awards ceremony on February 26th.

Pictured from left to right: Student Mariah Kliewer, Art



teacher Britany Renz, and student Samantha Boardman.



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Ch.I.L.D. DAY PROVIDED BY Heartland Community Schools

The Heartland Community School - Henderson/Bradshaw is setting aside a special time for parents of children age 5 and below to participate in **Ch.I.L.D. Day**, which stands for *Childhood Information on Language and Development*. Just as parents take their young children to the doctor for medical check-ups, the school can provide to parents the services of a “developmental wellness visit”. The early childhood personnel at the school can provide current and useful information to parents concerning the early development of their baby, toddler, or preschooler.

Ch.I.L.D. Day is a childfind effort conducted by Educational Service Unit #6, which provides early intervention services for the Heartland Community School District. School districts are required to conduct childfind activities to ensure that young children who need early intervention services are identified. Involvement in Ch.I.L.D. Day is a free, completely voluntary service and is conducted in a confidential manner.

There will again be evening times available to parents. Ch.I.L.D. Day is set for **Monday, April 11 from 4:00 – 8:00pm** and will be held in the TYKE preschool room in Henderson. Interested parents who live in the Heartland School District can call the school office in Henderson to register for a 45-minute time slot when they can bring their child to the school. Parents will be able to ask questions about their child’s development, complete a developmental checklist, and have their child play and interact informally with adults knowledgeable about young children. Further information may need to be gathered at a later time if the parents and school staff see any concerns. Parental permission is required for any further evaluation.

The Heartland Community School wishes to extend this invitation as one way of providing support and information to parents of young children in our district. Again, parents of the Heartland school district are invited to call the school at 723-4434 to register for Ch.I.L.D. Day.

ART CLUB EVENTS INCLUDE:

- * Elementary Art Show all students K-6 on April 12th from 2:30 to 4:30 in the theatre hallway.
- * High School Art Show in May.



READ! READ! READ!

Reading is a skill, and it gets better with practice. Research shows that kids who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading books, magazines, and newspapers are more likely to become good readers. Encourage your children to spend some time reading every day.

Read aloud to your children. Research shows that this is probably the most important thing you can do to encourage your children’s success as readers. Here are some tips from Jim Trelease’s *The Read-Aloud Handbook*:

- Begin to read to children as soon as possible.
- Try to set aside time every day for reading aloud. You can start with just 10 minutes a day.
- Remember that the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually. Don’t confuse quantity with quality. Your child will remember ten minutes of reading together far longer than she’ll remember two hours of television.

Here are some tips teachers use to help kids become better readers. All are things you can try during your read-aloud times at home:

- Stop before the end of the story. Ask your child to predict what he thinks may happen next.
- If you’re reading a poem, encourage your child to guess what the next rhyming word may be. Ask your child how she might have changed the story.

From The Parent Institute

HEARTLAND LIBRARY NEEDS MORE ROOM

As a result of closing the Bradshaw attendance center, we have multiple copies of many fiction books, including some classics, on our shelves. In order to add new books, we must find a home for books we no longer have space for or need.

Some books have already been distributed to teachers for use in their classrooms. We will allow students to choose and keep any books that remain. Books that students take will be marked inside the front cover as “Deleted” or “Withdrawn.”



BE PATIENT AND CREATIVE WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILD

When he was in elementary school, your child probably couldn't wait to tell you what he learned in math class or who he played with at recess.

But now that he's older? You're lucky to get a mumbled "Fine" when you ask how his day went. And as hard as that can be for parents, it's a normal part of moving toward adulthood.

Of course, that doesn't mean the lines of communication between you and your child must slam shut. It just means you need to be creative about keeping them open. Here's how:

- **Keep asking questions.** Prepare for curt replies, but don't give up on learning about your child's life. Don't interrogate him, but do let him know you care about him. Try simple questions like, "Who did you eat lunch with?" or "What did you work on during study hall?"
- **Stop and listen.** Occasionally, your child may surprise you by wanting to share something. Don't miss it because you're busy checking your email. If he comes up and says, "The coolest thing happened today," stop what you're doing and give him your undivided attention.
- **Go high-tech.** Rather than poke your head into his room every five minutes, send him a text or instant message. He'll be so shocked, that you'll definitely get his attention!

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RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

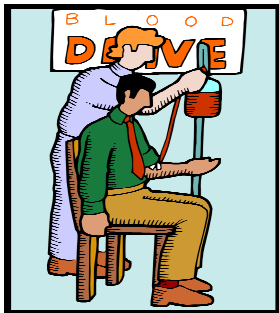
On March 8, 2010, the Red Cross held a blood drive at Heartland Community Schools. This event was sponsored by the National Honor Society. NHS members helped the Red Cross with appointments, registration, canteen, and donor escorts. Thanks to the many HCS students and community members who donated blood, the drive was successful. The

goal for the day was 36 new pints of blood. Fifty-one people presented and 46 productive units of blood were collected.

Stephanie Mousel, Donor Recruitment Representative said, "The Red Cross relies on the generosity of its sponsors, volunteers and donors to support its life-saving mission."

Mousel also thanked NHS sponsor Sharon Bishop for all of her years of service as NHS sponsor. Bishop noted that the Blood Drive is always a favorite service project for NHS members. The NHS has sponsored the Blood Drives for 13 years.

NHS students will walk on Monday, April 4 at 6:00pm.



NHS Walk-a-Thon

Each year, the NHS chooses a charity or organization as the beneficiary of funds generated through a Walk-a-Thon. This year, NHS members chose St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. NHS students will ask members of the school district to contribute to this worthy organization. NHS students will walk on Monday, April 4 at 6:00pm.

SET REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CHILD

It's important to set expectations for your child, but it's equally important to make sure those expectations are reasonable.

To determine whether you're "setting the bar" at the right level, ask yourself if your expectations:

- **Are flexible.** Have you read parenting books telling you what your child "should be" doing, thinking or feeling at this age? Then you may have lost sight of the fact that most of that information is based on averages. It doesn't relate specifically to what any one individual should be doing (or achieving). Keep that in mind if you find yourself setting a goal for her just because "all the other sixth graders" seem to be meeting it.
- **Reflect who she really is.** Do you see your child clearly when you're imagining what she should achieve? If she has been a reluctant reader since preschool, then pushing her toward honors English may not make sense.

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**Enclosed is a Census form for
Heartland Community Schools. We ask
that you please fill this out and return
to the School Office
by May 13, 2011**

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Henderson/Bradshaw

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 8th, 2011
Conference Room
7:00 PM
MINUTES

Members Present: Paul Brune, Gary Braun, Debra Wilhelm, Glenn Larson, Boyd Stuhler, Jr., and Kent Allen. Others Present: Supt. Norm Yoder, Principals Tim Carr and Cindy Huebert. Faculty: Joan Friesen

I. Call to Order

President Brune called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.



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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. Approval of Agenda

Action 1: Motion by Larson, second by Stuhr, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

IV. Audience with Individuals and/or Committees

V. Minutes of Meeting

VI. Treasurer's Report

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

VII. Claims

VIII. 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 2: Motion by Braun, second by Larson, to approve the consent agenda which includes the minutes of the January 14, 2011 regular meeting and the general fund claims, except claims 18570 and 18616. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

Action 3: Motion by Wilhelm, second by Larson, to approve general fund claims 18570 and 18616. Motion Carried: 4-for; 0-against; 2-abstained (Braun & Stuhr, Jr.)

IX. Administrative Reports

The board heard administrative reports the progress of replacing light fixtures in the building, the installation of the new scoreboards donated by Henderson State Bank and Cornerstone Bank, and an option enrollment update.

X. Discussion with Neighboring Districts

Supt. Yoder reported no further discussions on sharing with neighboring districts.

XI. School Calendar for 2011-2012

Action 4: Motion by Larson, second by Braun, to approve the school calendar for 2011-2012 as proposed. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XII. Review Curriculum & Graduation Requirements

The board reviewed the current curriculum offerings and graduation requirements

Action 5: Motion by Wilhelm, second by Stuhr, to approve increasing graduation requirements in science beginning with the freshman class of 2011-2012 (next year's freshman class) from 20 hours to 30 hours as required by Rule 10 of the Nebraska Department of Education. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XIII. Appoint Superintendent as Heartland's representative for Federal & State Programs.

Action 6: Motion by Braun, second by Larson, to name Superintendent Yoder as Heartland's representative for Federal & State Programs. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XIV. Review ESU Programs

The board reviewed the ESU programs in which Heartland students and staff participate.

XV. Review SNC Conference Affiliation

The board reviewed the current conference affiliation with the Southern Nebraska Conference.

XVI. NASB CIR Resolution

Action 7: Motion by Braun, second by Larson, NASB CIR Resolution on Helping Local School Boards. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XVII. Board Retreat Agenda

The board reviewed possible agenda items for the board retreat scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2011, at the York Country Club from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

XVIII. NRCSA Conference Attendance

The board discussed plans for several members to attend the NRCSA Spring Conference in Kearney on March 24 & 25.

XIX. Personnel

Action 8: Motion by Stuhr, second by Wilhelm, to approve the appointment of Jessica Siebert as assistant track coach. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

Action 9: Motion by Larson, second by Braun, to recognize the Heartland Education Association as the official negotiating body for the certified staff. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XX. Adjournment

President Brune adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Heartland Community Schools
1501 Front Street
Henderson, NE 68371

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 5th - Teacher In-Service-2 hour early dismissal
April 11th - Board of Education Meeting 8:00 pm
April 13th - Volunteer Dinner 12:00 noon
April 14th & 15th - District Music Contest at Sutton
April 22nd - NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
April 25th - NO SCHOOL - Easter Vacation
April 28th - FFA Banquet 6:30 pm
May 7th - Prom
May 9th - Board of Education meeting 8:00 pm
May 9th - NHS Banquet 6:30 pm
May 10th - Awards night 7:00 pm
May 12th - NO SCHOOL - District Track @ Heartland
May 15th - Commencement 2:30 pm
May 16th - Elementary Field Day

May 20th - Last day of School - Dismiss at 11:30 am
May 20th & 21st - State Track Meet - Omaha
May 24th & 25th - State Golf at Kearney



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We ask that you please
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by May 13, 2011.