

December 2019

Superintendent's Note

*Hay Springs
Public Schools
Monthly Newsletter*

I have to start my December note to remind us all at this time of the year, how truly blessed we are to live in this great country, the state of Nebraska, Sheridan County and the Hay Springs community. We are blessed to have such a caring community and school where our staff has great care and concern for our students and for each other. I would like to take a moment at Thanksgiving to let our staff know how grateful I am to work with such dedicated and caring individuals. There have been several changes over the past three years, and the entire staff of Hay Springs Schools have continued to support each other and work towards providing the highest quality of education for our students. I am also very grateful for the Board of Education who has supported the addition of administrative staff that allow us to better support our teachers and students. This addition has also allowed me the time to begin an Agricultural Science program and an FFA chapter. The parents and patrons of our district are also a reason to be thankful. Small rural communities are the best place in America to raise a family and provide the opportunities for our youth to learn how to work, develop relationships and develop their God given talents. The support of the Hay Springs community and staff of Hay Springs make me extremely proud to be your superintendent. As I list the things I am thankful for I certainly have to include our students. We are extremely blessed with students who work hard, are involved in school activities, respect our teachers, and care about each other. I also need to mention the blessing of family and friends. The support of my family during the death of my mother in February was greatly appreciated. I am so blessed with the support of my wife and family, both with my work in Hay Springs and keeping things under control in Boyd County. All of these things would make you believe that life is perfect. As I reflect on our many blessings, I am also aware and mindful of the many challenges of our country, and community and pray that God will continue to guide the leaders of our country, state, county, community, myself and our school leadership team as we continue to move forward in the pursuit of excellence. I hope as we enter the holiday season that each of you will take time to relax and enjoy those that are most important in your life and reflect on the many blessings we have.

As we concluded successful athletic seasons again this year I am grateful for the time, effort and dedication of our student athletes and coaches. Success is not always measured by championships or perfect seasons but more importantly by the personal growth and team improvement that takes place during the season. Regardless of the win loss records our teams have on several occasions this fall made us extremely proud to be fans of the Hawks.

Mark Your Calendar!



★ Night, Lights, and Music Concert and Santa Soup - December 8th


★ Annual Food Drive starts December 9th through December 17th. Clean out those pantries!

★ Christmas Dinner will be on December 18th. Please RSVP to the office by December 9th.

As important as inter and extracurricular activities are for the development of our youth, the number one reason we are here is for the academic growth of our students. In an effort to enhance academic performance and our school improvement process, I had the opportunity to attend the Nebraska Association of School Boards and the Nebraska Association of School Administrators Joint Annual State Educational Conference in Omaha this past week. Sessions I attended included: superintendent evaluation and goal setting with school improvement in mind, social media concerns in education, new transportation regulations, quality board retreats and strategic planning, as well as several very motivational keynote speakers. This conference provides tremendous opportunities to share knowledge with other board members and administrators and learn from some excellent presentations.

As I look at the calendar, we have only three weeks until the end of the quarter and the end of the first semester. I know it doesn't seem possible that we are that close to the end of the semester. As the semester ends, I want to remind parents and students that the student's semester grades will be a part of your student's academic transcript. For students with high GPAs these grades will be part of your Senior GPA scholarship, financial aid, senior awards and class rank. For struggling students these semester grades will determine if you will need to be taking some classes over in the future. When students fail a course that is required for graduation for the semester, it not only complicates their future scheduling of classes, but in most cases it requires extra time in school to meet the requirements for graduation. Please visit with your students about the value in finishing the semester strong. Encourage them to utilize the additional support we make available through Friday school and to request additional assistance from staff members to accomplish that end. Parent and guardian support for your child's academic success is one of the most important ingredients you can provide to assist your child's academics success. If students fail to attend Friday School, they will be expected to make arrangement to make up a minimum of equal time and possibly additional time if deemed necessary for their success.

As the seasons change, we are in full swing this week with basketball and wrestling competition beginning this weekend. Our One-Act play performers displayed their talents and abilities twice locally this week and are competing at district one-act competition on Wednesday December 4th. I would like to thank them for their time and effort and wish them luck as they compete for the opportunity to compete at state.

Also as the seasons change we need to be more aware of the weather conditions and school cancellations, late starts and early outs. I will always make school cancellations decisions based on my assessment of safety and conditions for getting your children to and from school safely. If at any time you are not comfortable sending your children out on the road based on weather and road conditions in your area, please know that you always have that option. If you decide not to send your children to school when we are holding school, please call the school and let us know that they are not coming or that you will be sending them later in the day. If the decision is made to cancel school notice will be given on Hawk Alert - "Remind" and posted on Hay Springs Facebook page as well as area radio stations. If you have not already signed up for the "Remind" please contact the school office to get signed up to be sure you get the notices 

School improvement is and must be a continuous process in which you really never arrive, because as we strive to improve educational learning opportunities for our students, we continually look for areas in our educational process where we can improve. It is with this in mind that I will again remind all of you of the mission, and vision of Hay Springs Public School.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Hay Springs Schools in cooperation with families and community, is to empower students within an emotionally supportive and physically safe environment with the academic, social, physical and technological skills to achieve success as responsible, self-disciplined citizens of a global society.

Vision Statement

“Empower Students to Achieve Lifelong Success.”

Providing a quality education is truly a cooperative effort and the cooperation of staff, students, parents, Board of Education, patrons and the community is alive and well in Hay Springs. Through continued cooperative efforts within our educational system we will continue to provide high quality education and learning opportunities for our Hay Springs students.

Thanks to all, for your continued support, and I want to wish each of you a blessed holiday season.

Principal's Playbook

It seems the initial months of the 2019-2020 academic year have evaporated into thin air. Our students and staff members have gotten off to a great start. The first term ended on October 10th, final grade reports were given to parents/guardians on October 24th during parent/teacher conferences. If you have not received your child's grade report please contact the front office.

Our students recently completed a series of on-line MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) tests in Reading, Language Arts, Math, and Science. The MAP tests are adaptive which helps teachers, parents, and the administration improve learning for all students and make informed decisions to promote our students' academic growth. Our teachers are currently visiting with their students to establish specific performance goals for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Our FFA, FBLA, band, vocal music, cross country, football, and volleyball programs have enjoyed the fall activities season. We encourage all of our students to take advantage of the wide array of co-curricular programs offered at Hay Springs Public School. Whichever activities our students choose to enjoy, it is important to note that the benefits are not limited to just higher academic achievement, benefits also include the opportunity to more fully develop their social skills, life skills, and God given talents.

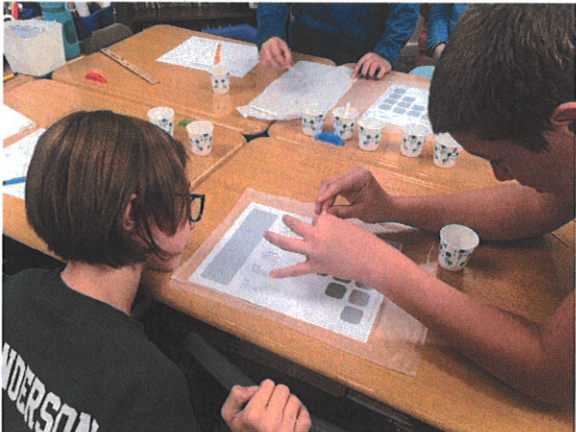
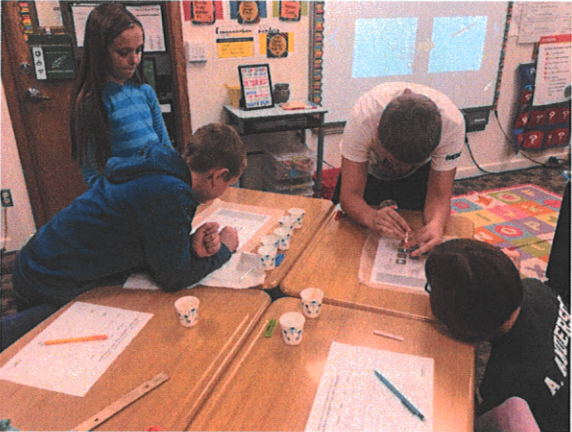
Congratulations to the students that made the 1st quarter Honor Roll and/or achieved an attendance record of 95% or better. Please continue to reinforce healthy habits with your children that promote regular school attendance and homework completion.

Finally, the school community of Hay Springs has much to be grateful for during the upcoming season. I would like to wish all members of our school community a Happy Thanksgiving and safe, bountiful harvest season.

Respectfully,
Mark J. Haggie



Fifth graders have been learning about properties of matter and chemical reactions. We explored the idea that chemical reactions create new materials that have useful and interesting properties. We then mixed two substances together to see if we could cause a chemical reaction, and as a result, a new substance.



Hawks' Library News

November Activities

The Kindergarten through Third grade students studied one author this month. We began with a biographical video then read books by each author.

Kindergarten - Eric Carle, author and illustrator

We read *A House for Hermit Crab* and *The Mixed up Chameleon*. After reading *A House for Hermit Crab* we decorated a picture of a shell for hermit crab's house.

First - Mo Willems

We read *The Pigeon has to go to School* and drew pictures of Pigeon. We also read *I'm a Frog*.

Second - Mem Fox, an Australian author

We read *Magic Hat* and drew what we would become if the hat landed on us. We also read *Koala Lou*.

Third - Eve Bunting

We read *Dandelions*, a book about Nebraska homesteaders and *The Night Tree*. After reading *The Night Tree* we talked and wrote about what the family experienced with their five senses.

Quote of the Month

"There is more treasure
in books than in all the
pirate's loot on Treasure
Island."

- Walt Disney

Events

December 9-12 Hour of Code week

Top Checkouts from Last Month

Picture Books

Llama Llama hoppity-hop
Pete the cat and the Cool Cat Boogie
Pete the Cats Checks out the Library
Scaredy-Cat, Splat
Alexander, Who used to be Rich Last Sunday

Chapter Books and NonFiction

Eva and the New Owl
Amazing Snakes
Afternoon on the Amazon
Babymouse, Rock Star
Balto of the Blue Dawn

MS/ HS

The Heir
Stars above: a Lunar Chronicle Collection
Foul Trouble
The Friendship Experiment
Ghosts

BASKETBALL'S BACK!

The Hay Springs girls and boys basketball teams had their first practice on Monday, November 18th. Both teams consist of 13 players each. Ron Olson is the head coach for both varsity girls and boys. Linda Kudrna is the assistant for the girls, while Logan Paben and Sonny Salazar are assisting the boys. The Hawks who currently rank 6th in the conference, are excited for their season opener on December 6th, in Hay Springs against Cody-Kilgore. The JV girls will begin play at 3:00 with the JV boys to follow. Girls varsity tip off is scheduled for sometime between 5:30 and 6:00 and the boys should begin play around 7:30. Come support the Hawks and get ready for an exciting season!



Congratulations to the Hays Springs FFA Chapter members for their success at District XII Leadership Skills Events

Individual Competition

Jett Rasmussen - Creed Speaking	<u>Purple</u>
RyLee Wolken - Senior Public Speaking	<u>Blue</u>
Jaiden Anderson - Cooperative Speaking	<u>Blue</u>
Hannah Hoos - Employment Skills Interview	<u>Blue</u>
Colter Meeks - Extemporaneous Speaking	<u>Red</u>
Toby Scherbarth - Junior Public Speaking	<u>Red</u>

Team Competition

Senior Parliamentary Procedure Team

Blue- Logan D, RyLee W, Jaiden A, Hannah H, Jazlyn S, Laney S

Red– Barydon B, Jett R, Augustus S, Elissa R, Owen R, Blair H

District XII consists of 19 panhandle schools which are all eligible to bringing two teams or individuals in each contest areas. Mr. Lechtenberg was extremely proud of our student's performance for our first year in competition. Every member of our Chapter competed in at least one contest and four of our members competed in two contests. We would also like to thank Abigail Russell and Bailey Scherbarth for traveling with us and assisting in conducting the contests.

December Baking Basics

The Hay Springs December Baking Basics will be held on December 13 th . At this workshop youth will prepare and decorate sugar cookies for Santa's Bakeshop. Youth will be able to take some of the cookies made home to enjoy, and the other cookies will be shared with elders in the community. The youth will also continue to work on their sewing projects. The fee for this workshop is \$10. Please register by December 6 th by contacting the Nebraska Extension Sheridan County office at (308) 327-2312. This event is open to anyone interested in baking and sewing projects.

Clover Bud Workshops

The Hay Springs Clover Bud workshop will be held on December 19 th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Please register for this event with Erika Gaswick by December 12 th . Clover Bud members are youth between the ages of 5 and 7 as of January 1 st , 2019. These youth will experience teamwork, social interaction, and decision-making skills while participating in hands on activities. Upon participating in these workshops, youth will have Clover Bud projects to display at the 2020 Sheridan County Fair.

Market Beef Weigh-ins

If your youth is interested in participating in the Market Beef project at the 2020 Fair, they need to participate in a weigh-in. At the weigh-ins, youth will receive a 4-H ear tag along with being weighed. If they attend the Sheridan County weigh-in, the youth will be entered in the Sheridan County Fair Rate of Gain Contest. If the Market Beef animal is a steer they must weigh 1000 pounds at the weigh-in in July and heifers must weigh 900 pounds. The Sheridan County weigh-in will be held on January 26 th from 1 to 3 pm at Sheridan Livestock Auction. If the 4-H member is not able to attend this weigh-in, they can attend the weigh-ins at Box Butte County or Dawes County. However, they will not be eligible for the Sheridan County Rate of Gain Contest. The Box Butte County weigh-in will be held on January 5 th at the fairgrounds in Hemingford tentatively from 9 to noon and the Dawes County weigh-in is tentatively scheduled for February 1 st at Crawford Livestock Auction from 9 to noon. If you are planning on attending another county's weigh-in, please contact the Sheridan County office to ensure you have the required paperwork.



The high school wrestling season kicked off on November 18th with two wrestlers, Harvey Wesley and R.J. Riggs. The first invitational will be December 6th at Custer, South Dakota. Even with the low numbers of wrestlers this year, I'm still confident that we will still represent Hay Springs wrestling at the state tournament as we have for the past four years.

-Coach
McCance

The few, The proud, The elite, Hawk Wrestling

FFA Reps at National Convention



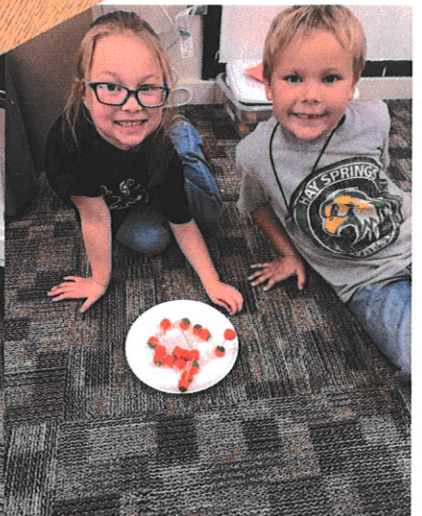
4th grade was worked as inventors in Mystery Science. They were inventing apple pickers using only paper. We have some very successful inventors!





1st Grade Halloween

KINDERGARTEN



5th Grade Pumpkin Investigation

Is there a relationship between the number of lines on a pumpkin and the number of seeds? Or between the circumference of a pumpkin and the number of seeds? Fifth graders explored these questions on Halloween, and while we didn't come up with a definitive answer, we sure had fun getting our hands dirty!



On Wednesday, November 6th, the high school band students participated in the PANCO mass band. The PANCO schools band students came together and created one large band, rehearsed throughout the day with a guest clinician, Dr. John Wojick from Chadron State college. They then performed a concert with each school performing a featured selection at the concert. Despite long rehearsals and some pretty scary roads, it was an enjoyable day.



PANCO

Band



Hay Springs Public School Beef to Hot Lunch Program Supporters

- Security First Bank Hay Springs Branch
 - Zach Kraenow Cattle Company
- S & V Livestock Registered Angus Don and Mary Vannatta
 - Marcy Cattle Company
 - BNSF Railway
 - Sheridan Livestock Auction Company
 - Hoos Cow Judd and Brandy Hoos
- Whispering Winds Vineyard Russell and Sue Lechtenberg
 - KDK Meats Bridgeport, Nebraska
 - Sandhills State Bank
 - Hinn Ranch
 - Lipps Cattle Company
- Heiting Cattle Company Greg and Megan Heiting

*Thank
You*

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

December 2019

What to expect after you submit your FAFSA

The [FAFSA](#) opened October 1, so many of you have already completed and submitted your form. Here's what happens next:

Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR). You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.

Make sure you applied for admission to colleges you listed on your FAFSA. Colleges that receive your FAFSA results typically won't send you a financial aid package until you've applied and have been accepted to the school.

Watch for verification requests. The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office.

Watch for financial aid award notifications. The colleges you were accepted to – and listed on your FAFSA – will send you financial aid award notifications detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

This [EducationQuest Blog article](#) has more details about what happens after you submit your FAFSA.

Haven't completed your FAFSA yet?

No problem! You and a parent can complete the form at [FAFSA.gov](#). Before you start, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at [fsaid.ed.gov](#). You'll need them to access and sign the form.

For *free* help with the FAFSA, watch these [FAFSA Demo videos](#), use our free [FAFSA Tools](#), or call EducationQuest to make an appointment:

Omaha – 888.357.6300
Lincoln – 800.303.3745
Kearney – 800.666.3721
Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't ever pay for scholarship searches! Use *free* resources such as [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships, or free national sites like [Cappex](#), [GoodCall](#), and [Chegg](#).

Visit your school counselor often for information about local scholarships.

Focus on local and college-specific scholarships because you're more likely to earn them.

Update your activities, honors, community service or paid jobs using the [Activities Resume](#) at EducationQuest.org.

Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exam(s) in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

Use quality references such as a teacher, coach, or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.

Tailor your essay to the scholarship. Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

Want more tips? [Click here!](#)

December "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during December to stay on the right college planning track.

Seniors:

- If you haven't already, submit [college applications](#) and the [FAFSA](#).
- Continue to apply for [scholarships](#).
- Use this [College Timeline](#) to stay on track to college.
- Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).

Juniors

- Take an ACT prep course.
- Set up a [ScholarshipQuest](#) profile and start searching for Nebraska-based scholarships.
- Use this [College Timeline](#) to stay on track to college.
- Follow EducationQuest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for a chance to win a [\\$500 scholarship](#).

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Omaha	Lincoln	Kearney	Scottsbluff
402-391-4033	402-475-5222	308-234-6310	800-303-3745 ext. 6654
888-357-6300	800-303-3745	800-666-3721	

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Don't forget to celebrate your child's achievements

She did it! She raised her math grade this quarter. Or she finally finished reading that book series.

There is no better motivation for a child than setting a goal and reaching it. But sometimes, a major accomplishment also calls for a celebration. So when your child sets and reaches a challenging goal, try one of these fun ideas:

1. Take a picture of your child showing off her report card. Or, get a snapshot of her holding up the book series she's just finished. You could even ask your child to draw a picture of her accomplishment.

Frame the picture and put it by your child's bed. That way, every

time she wakes up, she'll see an image of herself as an achiever.

2. Plan a special surprise. On one side of a piece of paper, write down a goal your child wants to achieve. On the other side, write down a small reward—such as having a friend over for a sleepover.

Roll up the paper, put it into a balloon, and then blow up the balloon. Tell your child that when she reaches her goal, you'll pop the balloon together and she'll find out what she's earned!

3. Host a victory family dinner to celebrate your child's success. Set a "fancy" table and serve your child's favorite foods.

Get more out of conversations with your child



Are you tired of asking your child questions about school and getting little response?

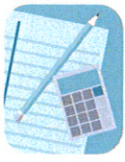
Then try this strategy:

Instead of asking your child lots of questions when he gets home from school, tell him a few things about your day first. For example: "I've had such a busy day. I had a meeting with my boss in the morning. I took Grandma to her doctor's appointment this afternoon. Then we stopped by the store to pick up groceries. It was good to get home."

After you've finished, ask your child to tell you a little bit about his day. Prompt him with open-ended questions if necessary: "What was the best part of your day?" "Tell me about what you learned today."

You can also use this strategy to start discussions about schoolwork. If your child brings home a picture from school, look at it and make some observations about what you see. Comment on the colors. Say what you like about it. Tell what it reminds you of, etc. Then ask your child, "What does it mean to you?"

Promote skills that will prepare your child for middle school



Long before your child enters middle school, her teachers will start preparing her for its challenges. To support this effort at home, encourage your child to:

- **Manage her time.** Show her how to use short periods of time in productive ways. She could study flash cards on the way to practice. Or, she could review a few math problems in the car.
- **Get organized.** Have her use a planner to keep track of school assignments. Help her find ways to organize school papers and recommend she clean out her backpack once a week.

- **Take notes.** If she doesn't have the opportunity to practice this skill at school, she can try it at home while reading. Help her identify key words and information. Then have her summarize essential points.
- **Plan ahead.** Show her how to make a study schedule, and help her stick to it. Encourage your child to divide up study time into short tasks.

"The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today."

—Elbert Hubbard

Use simple strategies to develop your child's responsibility



Young children are still learning how to be responsible students. So they sometimes forget their books, their homework and even their lunches.

It's tempting to keep track of your child's things for him. But this won't help him in the long run. His success in school depends on his ability to take responsibility for himself and his belongings.

Here are ways to help him become more responsible:

- **Write down what you expect your child to do.** Post lists of his responsibilities, weekly chores, and items he needs for school.
- **Ask your child to check off tasks** when he completes them. He can put a question mark next to a task if he needs your help.
- **Help your child figure out** where to store his things when he's not using them.
- **Set a good example.** Have a designated spot for your keys and wallet. Check your calendar to prepare for the next day.
- **Show your child how** to keep track of activities and assignments on his own weekly calendar.
- **Let your child experience** the consequences of forgetting. Don't bring his homework to school if he forgets it.
- **Let your child experience** the consequences of losing an item. If he can't find his library book, expect him to pay the fine.
- **Praise your child** when he demonstrates responsibility and does what he's supposed to do.

Are you helping your child read fluently?



Studies consistently show that students who read aloud with *fluency* are most likely to have a strong understanding of what they've read. Your child reads fluently if he reads aloud smoothly, accurately and with expression.

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out if you are helping your child develop this valuable reading skill:

- ___ **1. Do you set aside time** for your child to read to *you* in addition to the time you spend reading to him?
- ___ **2. Do you let your child pick** what to read? Even if you think it's too easy, nothing succeeds like success.
- ___ **3. Do you try not to interrupt** when your child reads a word incorrectly?
- ___ **4. Do you offer help** if your child asks how to pronounce a word, and then encourage him to keep reading?
- ___ **5. Do you discuss a book** after your child is finished reading?

How well are you doing?

If most of your answers are *yes*, you're helping your child develop fluency. For each *no* answer, try that idea.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

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Encourage your elementary schooler to become a leader



Some children seem to be born leaders. They have the self-confidence, helpfulness and friendliness that make other

people want to work with them.

But all children, whether they are born leaders or not, have the ability to *become* leaders. Here are some ways you can help your child develop leadership skills:

- **Look at leaders in the news.** Whether you're watching a story about a winning football team or a community effort to build a park, help your child see that someone was the leader of that group. Talk about what makes people good leaders.
- **Be a leader yourself.** When you take a leadership role—whether it's at school, in business or in your community—tell your child about

what you're doing and why. "I'm volunteering to help your school raise money so they can purchase more classroom computers."

- **Teach your child** to see things from other people's points of view. Good leaders aren't bossy. They make people *want* to work together.
- **Find leadership opportunities.** Children can learn leadership skills in houses of worship, clubs, Scouts, athletic teams and many other organizations. Family meetings are another good way to develop "home-grown" leadership. Let children take turns chairing the meetings and managing family projects.
- **Don't push.** Pressuring a child beyond his abilities will destroy self-esteem, not build it. If your child seems stressed or unhappy, it's time to lighten up.

Everyone wins when parents volunteer and get involved!



Have you ever thought about volunteering at school? Now is the perfect time to give it a try. Here are six reasons

to get involved:

1. **Your child will benefit.** Even if you're not in her classroom, your child will know you're at school. She'll feel important and she'll know you think learning is important, too.
2. **You'll get to know teachers** and other school staff. That makes it easier to ask for help when your child needs it.
3. **You'll get to know other parents.** They can be valuable resources and provide advice when needed.
4. **The school will benefit.** Whether you read to a class, help in the cafeteria or tutor students in the library, you'll be freeing school staff to spend more time with kids who need it. And that leads to more learning.
5. **Volunteering is easy.** Many schools offer training to volunteers. And there are volunteer jobs that can be done at home, at night or on weekends. So every parent can get involved.
6. **Volunteering is fun.** You'll meet lots of interesting students and adults. You may learn new skills. And you'll get a good feeling from knowing you've done something worthwhile.

Q: My daughter has no patience. If she wants something, she wants it immediately. Her teacher says her impatience is becoming a problem at school. What can I do to fix this?

Questions & Answers

A: In this era of on-demand entertainment and instant communication, it can be challenging for kids to learn to wait. However, patience is a vital ingredient for school success.

Here's how to help your child develop more patience:

- **Explain that everyone** has to learn to wait, and that you're going to help her with this skill.
- **Be empathetic.** Let your child know you understand how hard it can be to wait for something.
- **Give her opportunities** to be patient. When she asks for something, say, "In a minute." If you're on the phone, develop a hand signal that means, "When I'm finished."
- **Help your child save money** for something she wants instead of buying it right away.
- **Enjoy activities together** that require patience, such as playing board games, putting together puzzles, baking and planting.
- **Help your child develop** strategies for waiting—like singing songs quietly, playing "I spy" or reading a book to pass the time.
- **Be patient yourself.** Stay calm when you're stuck in traffic, for example. Say something like, "It looks like we're going to be in the car for a while. Let's use the time to play a game."

With some practice, your child will learn the patience she needs to be successful in school—and in life.

It Matters: Building Character

What should you do if your child is caught cheating?



Your child has just come home with a note from the teacher that says she was caught cheating. Your first instinct may

be to ground her for the rest of her life.

Instead, experts suggest setting aside time to talk and really listen to your child. Ask her what happened and find out why she felt the need to cheat.

Here are four common reasons some students cheat:

1. **They are afraid** of what their parents will do if they bring home a bad grade. Make sure your child knows that a low grade would not be the end of your love for her. You would be more concerned about the situation than angry with her.
2. **They have high expectations** for their own academic achievement. Tell your child not to put too much emphasis on grades. Grades don't reflect a person's worth or intelligence.
3. **They think cheating is no big deal.** Tell your child that cheating is wrong. Cheaters rob themselves of learning the material and they are unfair to honest students.
4. **They were asked to.** Tell your child that letting someone look at her test or copy her homework is wrong. A real friend would never ask her to do that. Help her role-play turning down a request to cheat: "I'd like to help you, Jane, but I don't like cheating. Besides, we could get into a lot of trouble."

Source: J. Craig, Ph.D., *Parents on the Spot! What to Do When Kids Put You There*, Hearst Books.

Use role models to encourage positive character traits

Although you are the primary role model in your child's life, you don't have to be the only one. Here's how to draw upon people he knows to help instill positive character traits:

- **Talk about relatives, friends or celebrities** who show respect, responsibility, compassion or other desirable traits. Make it a point to say how much you admire them and why.
- **Share your heroes** with your child. Talk about people such as Anne Frank, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln and Mother Teresa. Discuss the traits you admire in them.
- **Encourage your child** to find or draw pictures of people he admires and tell you why he thinks highly of them. Heroes



can be fictional—from books or movies—or people he knows, such as an uncle who helps build houses for people in need or a grandmother who worked to put a child through college.

Teach your child to persevere when faced with challenges



If your child has a goal he wants to reach, such as earning an A on a project or making the competitive soccer team,

achieving it will probably take hard work. And there may be times your child will feel like giving up. That's why it's important to teach him to persevere, even when things are difficult. Here's how:

- **Discuss past successes.** Did your child save to buy something with his own money? How did he do it? What did success feel like? What did he learn?
- **Choose a fun, realistic goal.** Make it something your child is likely

to complete soon. If he wants to read an entire series of books, start small. Have him set a goal to read the first book. Achievement is a great motivator to keep going.

- **Listen for ideas.** Kids often mention goals without actually setting them. ("I'd love to be in the talent show" or "I hope I finish my report on time.") Together, create a step-by-step plan for success.
- **Be a cheerleader.** Say things like, "You are really sticking with this. I'm very impressed!" Even if your child misses the mark, praise his efforts. Trying hard and learning from mistakes are major accomplishments on their own!

Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School

Hay Springs Public Schools



THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

Parent & Child Activity Calendar

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Many people celebrate holidays in December. What holidays can your child name? Talk about why they are special.	2 Have your child use construction paper strips to make a chain. Remove one link every night to count down to a special day.	3 Weigh your child's backpack when it is packed for school. Make sure it doesn't weigh more than 15 percent of her weight.	4 Make today "dictionary day." Talk with your child about new words that he thinks should be in the dictionary.	5 Challenge your child to make a map of the route from your home to school.	6 Look in the newspaper or online for free family events in your area. Plan to attend one this month.	7 Give your child 24 pieces of dry cereal. Have her divide the pile into <i>halves</i> and then <i>fourths</i> .
8 Ask your child to tell you what he would like to make an annual tradition. Then start it!	9 When your child has a problem, help her think of two possible solutions and let her decide which one to choose.	10 Talk about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?	11 Write a letter together to a loved one. Have your child draw pictures.	12 Ask your child to list some words he uses often. Together, look up synonyms for those words.	13 Have your child draw a picture of something that describes and defines December.	14 Go to the library and check out some books about winter.
15 Help your child clean out her closet. Pass on gently-used toys or clothes to other families.	16 Ask your child <i>how</i> and <i>why</i> questions to give him practice reasoning.	17 Wash your hands with your child before each meal. Talk about why frequent handwashing is so important.	18 Ask your child to draw a picture about what happened in school today. Then talk about it.	19 Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when a person is being bullied.	20 When you watch a show with your child, listen for new words. Later, look them up together.	21 Take a walk with your child. Look for things you only see in December.
22 Have your child talk to older relatives about their childhood days.	23 Learn a tongue twister. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.	24 At bedtime tonight, tell your child a story about yourself when you were her age.	25 Give your child a gift certificate good for one special activity with you.	26 Talk to your child about the importance of writing thank-you notes for gifts.	27 Play a family board or card game tonight that strengthens thinking skills.	28 Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
29 Make up a secret code with your child. Use it to write notes this week.	30 Ask family members, "If you were an animal, which animal would you be and why?"	31 Help your child create a time line of the past year.	<h1>December 2019</h1>			

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Hay Springs Public Schools

Build your child's vocabulary to enhance reading comprehension

A strong vocabulary helps children understand what they read. It reduces how often they have to stop reading and ask, "What does this word mean?"

To strengthen your child's vocabulary, read aloud often and use new words in conversation. You should also:

- **Make definitions** easy to understand. When defining the word *curious*, for instance, you might say, "A *curious* person is eager to learn more."
- **Give relatable examples.** "When the box arrived from Grandma, you were *curious* about what was inside."
- **Ask your child** to give examples. "Can you think of someone who was *curious*?" "Fernando was *curious* about how Amy's book ended."
- **Keep using the new word.** "I'm *curious* about countries in Africa. Let's do some research together."



Three strategies can help your child overcome reading challenges

Reading is an important part of many home and school activities, so when a child struggles, every part of life is affected. If your child is having difficulty with reading, you should:

1. **Consult his teacher.** Ask about realistic expectations. Is your child reading at grade level? If not, what help is available?
2. **Use reading materials at home** that minimize frustration. Choose books that are easy to read and understand. This will help him gain confidence.
3. **Stay positive** about your child's learning. Focus on how his strengths can help him overcome challenges.

Connect to the past by reading history books

Reading helps children in every school subject, and history is no exception! The next time you're at the library, browse the shelves for some:

- **Biographies** and autobiographies.
- **Books** about historic events.
- **Fictional stories** that are set during fascinating periods in time.



Have fun with acrostic poems

Encourage your child to write an acrostic poem. Have her pick a word or a name and write it in a vertical line. Then, she should brainstorm words that describe that topic. The catch is that each word has to start with a letter of the original word!



Bookmarks make reading special

Making bookmarks for friends and family can get your child excited about reading—and they make great gifts! You'll need:

- **Construction paper**, cut into strips 6" long and 2" wide.
- **Colored pencils**, markers or crayons.
- **Small photos** of your child.
- **Glue** and clear tape.

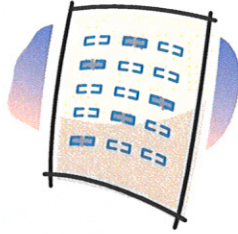


Have your child decorate the bookmarks with photos and drawings. He can personalize each one with a name and a short message. Then, cover them with clear tape.

Read for success on standardized tests

When children read well, they do better on tests. And certain reading skills are especially useful when taking standardized tests. Help your child work on:

- **Comprehension.** Standardized tests often ask students to find the “main idea.” Practice this by reading news articles with your child. For each article, summarize the main idea together.
- **Speed.** Standardized tests are usually timed, so it’s important for kids to read at a reasonable pace. Reading speed improves naturally when children practice every day. Reading silently boosts speed, too, since whispering or mouthing words slows reading.
- **Vocabulary.** When kids recognize a lot of words, it’s easier for them to understand test questions. Introduce your child to new words daily. Look them up together and use them repeatedly to increase memory.



Play games to improve decoding skills

To read, children must first learn the sounds that letters make. (For example, the letter *m* makes an *mm* sound.)

The next step in learning to read is to *decode* written words. Children decode a word by sounding out each of its letters, then blending the sounds together.

To help your child improve this skill:

- **Write words** on index cards. Take turns selecting a card and sounding out the word.
- **Place packaged foods** on your table. See if your child can sound out words on the labels.
- **Have a treasure hunt.** Hide words written on slips of paper throughout your house. Have your child find the slips and sound out the words.



Q: Part of my child’s homework is to read every day, but she often refuses to do it. How should I handle this?

A: This is a concern to discuss with your child’s teacher. Share your ideas about possible reasons for your child’s refusal. The teacher will have suggestions that might make reading time easier,

such as taking turns reading aloud. Work together and you’ll find a strategy that will help your child.

Try graphic organizers

Graphic organizers are diagrams that help kids think about what they read. Try drawing a large star with five points. Your child can put the title of the story or an article she has read in the center. Then use the points to write or talk about *who, what, when, where* and *why*. She’ll have a clearer picture of what she’s read in no time!



For lower elementary readers:

- ***The Cloud Spinner*** by Michael Catchpool. A boy weaves beautiful fabric from the clouds. But there are consequences when a king demands too much clothing.
- ***The Day the Crayons Came Home*** by Drew Daywalt. A new bunch of crayons have a bone to pick with Duncan. Your child will delight in these crayons’ gripes!



For upper elementary readers:

- ***Romeo and Drooliet*** by Nina Laden. This clever adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* features a cat and dog as the star-crossed lovers.
- ***The Spaghetti Detectives*** by Andreas Steinhöfel. Rico and Oscar are an interesting pair who take on a number of mysteries to solve.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	One Act Community Performance 1 7pm	One Act Student Performance 2 3:15 pm	One Act Districts @ Hyannis 3	JH G/BB @ Cody –Kilgore 5pm KCSR "Sound Off" radio program 8am 4	*G/B BB vs. Cody- Kilgore 4:30 pm X-Mas Ornament Decorating and Family Movie Night ~ Lion King 5pm HS WR @ Custer 5	HS WR @ Custer, SD 9am G/B BB @ Arthur County 2pm 6 7
Night, Lights, & Music Concert 3pm Santa Soup 4- 7pm 8	Annual Food Drive – Dec. 17th 9	G/B BB @ Morrill 4pm 10		Accuplacer Test 9:30 am 11	HS WR @ Lusk, WY 9am 12	JH G/BB @ Crawford 10am HS WR @ G/Rush 10am 13 14
	JH G/BB PANCO @ Morrill TBA 15	G/B BB @ Hemingford 2pm 16	"Hawk Talk" Christmas Dinner NHS Induction 3:30 pm 17	Quarter 2 Ends 18	Teacher- Inservice CHRISTMAS VACATION- Jan. 6th 19	HS WR @ Bridgeport 20 21
	 Sports Moratorium – Dec. 28th 22	 23	 24	 25	 26	 27 28
	 29	 30	 31			

DECEMBER

2019



NOTES:



RSVP for Christmas Dinner by Dec. 9th

Christmas Vacation from Dec. 20th – Jan. 6th

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

DECEMBER 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Breakfast: Sausage Pancake on A Stick Lunch: Chicken Fajita/Corn	3 Breakfast: Burrito Lunch: Tater Tot Casserole/Green Beans	4 Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Turkey Subs/Chips	5 Breakfast: Biscuits&Gravy Lunch: Chili/Cin. Roll	6	7
8	9 Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Chicken Noodle & Mashed Potato/Corn	10 Breakfast: Omelet/Toast Lunch: Spaghettt/Garlic Toast	11 Breakfast: Tornados Lunch: Orange Chicken/Rice/ Fortune Cookie	12 Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Corn Dogs/Baked Beans	13	14
15	16 Breakfast: Pizza Lunch: Chicken Alfredo/Bread Stick	17 Breakfast: Pancakes/Sausage Link Lunch: Tacos/Potato Tri	18 Breakfast: Burrito Christmas Dinner	19 Breakfast: Pancake Sausage On A Stick Lunch: Burritos/Corn	20	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 	26 NO SCHOOL	27	28
29	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL	1 	2 NO SCHOOL	3	4

NOTES:

A Very Special Thank You to Greg & Megan Heiting with Heiting Farms for the very generous donation of beef this past month. It is such an awesome thing to be able to start the school year off with the freezer full of high quality beef!! Thank You Again!

"This Institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Hay Springs School Cafeteria

- *PreK-12 Breakfast & Lunch Menus
- *All Meals are served with 3 choices of Milk & 4 choices of 100% Juice. Water is always available in the cafeteria area.
- *Fruit & Veggie Bar is offered with every meal.
- *There are 3 main meal choices offered every lunch.
- *Menus are subject to change without notice.

