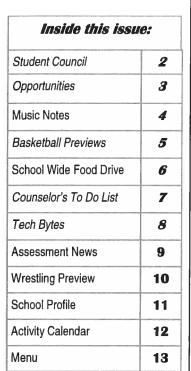
December 2016

Superintendent's News



Christmas Dinner is December 22nd.

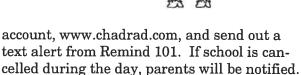


In less than a month we will be closing out the 2016 calendar year. This also means that we have very few instructional days left before the end of the 2nd semester. Encourage your child to finish the quarter/semester strong. I have advised teachers to contact parents if there are any concerns but as parents please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have questions about their grades or performance. Communication and collaboration is important to us and is vital in your child's success at school. Please take time to review grades and your child's progress. If you have questions or concerns contact the teacher. Reports cards will be available when we return from Christmas Break.

The School Improvement Team along with staff members and members of the community have been busy reviewing our school performance over the last five years. Next fall we will have our accreditation visit and be able to share all the positives we are doing in Hay Springs! If you would like to be involved in this process please let the office know. The more input we have the better we become!

With the recent snow fall and more likely on the way I would like to take some time to review the school closing procedures.

School Closing/Late Start Announcements: When snow, ice, or poor driving conditions are predicted it is our intent to make the decision to close school or start late, as early as possible. When the school decision is made the first place we post the information is the school district's website (www.hshawks.com). Then we will post the announcement on our Facebook Page, school twitter



Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. The absence will be treated like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather at any time during the school day. Students may be dismissed from school during severe weather with a telephone request from the parents.

<u>Dress appropriately for winter weather:</u> It is recommended that students dress in layers to allow them to take off a layer if they get to hot or add a layer if they get too cold. The school buildings tend to get a little drafty on windy days.

Elementary students will not be allowed to go out to recess without appropriate winter clothes as determined by the playground monitor. Students who wish to play in the snow must wear boots, snow pants, and gloves.

<u>Christmas Vacation:</u> Students will be dismissed for Christmas vacation at the end of the day on Thursday, December 22nd and return to school on Tuesday, January 3rd. During the vacation encourage your child to read while they are home during this time.

Like always, pay close attention to the calendar and the district website, www.hshawks.com for current activities, times, and changes in the schedule. Merry Christmas and Happy New year!



Student Council

By Ms. Holtmeier

Student council decided that this year they would work a few concessions to raise money instead of trying to sell something. The Middle School representatives worked a football game and the High School representatives will be working a middle school basketball game in February.



The homecoming poster contest was a success again this year! The theme was "Super Hero Hawks". The Juniors took 1st place and earned a pizza party. The freshman took 2nd and were treated to a pop and a candy bar. 3rd place went to the seniors this year, they earned a pop. The posters are in Lister-Sage, please have a look, every class did a great job!!!

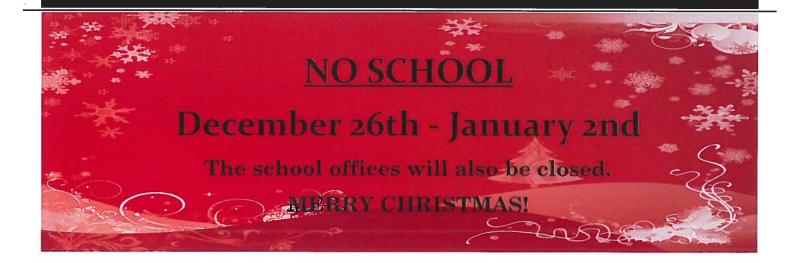
Five student council members earned community service hours on October 1 by helping to serve at the Octoberfest. Thank you! The committee was very grateful. We will plan to do this yearly!

Student Council is sponsoring the **food drive** again this year. We have decided to make the drive a whole school thing instead of a contest between classes. It will run from **Nov. 28 through December 13**. See the add in this newsletter for details.

We are also sponsoring "Pennies for Patients" in January. Beginning January 9, the classes will begin collecting pennies. The drive will end on January 26. All the donations will go to the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. Please be generous!!

The Middle School has indicated that they want a winter ball again this year. They have decided that they want it to be semi-formal. A prince and a princess from the 8th grade class will be crowned during the dance. Two of the High School StuCo members will be the DJ's. Stay tuned for date and time!!

Thank you for the huge supply of newspapers. We now have enough.
- Elementary Art Classes



OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

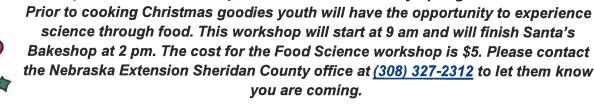
Girls on the Run is a program for girls in 3rd-5th grade. Girls on the Run of Nebraska aims to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. The season will start in March and run for 10 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school with a celebration 5K in May in Chadron. Please keep an eye out for more information and registration in January. We are looking for one more coach for the Spring 2017 season. If you are interested please contact Kyli Heiting at kyli.heiting@hshawks.com or 638-4434.

Winter Art Camp

Do you have children that love creating art? Come join us over Christmas Break for a two day Art Camp that will be hosted by Jen Fultz. Jen will help youth explore a variety of mediums they can use to create art. The camp will be held on December 29^{th} and January 2^{nd} in Gordon for youth ages 8 to 12. Transportation from Rushville to Gordon will be provided by Melissa. The cost will be \$10 per person and must be paid by December 15^{th} to the Nebraska Extension Office. The camp will be limited to 20 participants. To register contact the Nebraska Extension Sheridan County office at (308) 327-2312.

Santa's Bake Shop

Get into the Christmas Spirit by baking some Christmas goodies. Youth will practice their baking skills by creating some Christmas goodies for the nursing home residents and senior citizens of Sheridan County. They will also get to share a plate of their creations with their families. The Hay Springs Santa's Bakeshop will be held on Friday, December 9th at the Hay Springs School Cafeteria.



DECEMBER 4-H MOVIE NIGHT

Come watch "Frozen" at the Gordon City Auditorium starting at 3:30 pm. Participants will also bake dog treats for the local animal shelter. The cost is \$5. Please contact the Nebraska Extension Sheridan County office at 308-327-2312 to register or email Melissa Mracek at mmracek2@unl.edu.





COMMUNITY CHOIR & HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FINAL REHEARSALS-Here is the schedule for the final community choir and high school choir rehearsals.

Sunday, December 4th 6:30-8pm rehearse on the stage in the auditorium Sunday, December 11th 6-7pm rehearse on stage in the auditorium 7-7:30 perform at the nursing home

Friday, December 16th 6:30pm warm-up on stage in auditorium; 7:30pm The Night, the Lights & Music Concert

The Night, The Lights & Music Concert will be held on Friday, December 16th at 7:30pm in the auditorium following the Santa Soup Cook off. This concert will include High School/Middle Level Band, High School Choir & the Community Choir. This will be an wonderful evening of many Christmas songs to get you into the Christmas Spirit! There will be a free will donation for this concert with proceeds going to the Hay Springs Music Department to help purchase choir folders.

Concerts: due to the increase in our elementary numbers we have decided to split the elementary concert schedule.

- *1st, 2nd & 3rd grade students will perform at the Christmas Concert on Dec. 20th at 7pm;
- *4th, 5th & 6th grade students will perform a Spring Concert in May.
- *Kindergartners will perform at their graduation ceremony in May.

Congratulations to the following 7th & 8th grade students for being selected to perform in the "Singing Youth of Nebraska" choir. These students will learn all the music in advance and then come together and perform with other students from around Nebraska on Saturday, January 28th in Gering NE.

- -Soprano's- Ashley Tobiasson, Jazzy Smith & Bailey Scherbarth
- -Alto's- Rylee Wolken, Laney Smith, Joce Varvel & Gabe Varvel
- -Tenor's- Sam Hindman & Spencer Kadlecek
- -Bass-Logan DeCoste

Make sure to mark these dates on your calendar:

- The Night, the Lights & Music Friday, December 16th at 7:30pm Auditorium
- 1st-3rd Grade Christmas Concert Tuesday, Dec. 20th 7pm Auditorium



Report cards will be available for pickup on January 5th,

Sounds of the

Girls Basketball Season Preview

By Coach Radia

Competition. Just about everyone loves it in one form or another. Winning is what they say its all about. I'm writing this not long after watching our storied Nebraska football program get humiliated against our unranked cross-state rivals the Iowa Hawkeyes. I was prepared for the possibility of a loss, but not this, why did this bother me (us) so bad? I think its because they didn't play to the ability we have seen them play. They didn't play their best.

Everyone wants to win, but not everyone wants to do the work to be their best. In the immortal words of coach John Wooden, "... I always want to win, but I never fight with an opponent. My fight is within me — it is the struggle to be the best I can be at whatever I do." If we use this definition of winning, it should change every aspect of how we compete, on and off the court. This will be this year's theme for the Lady Hawks this season. To train to be our best. Not necessarily loving the training, but enjoying its results.

Its been a long time since the Lady Hawks have filled a roster. This year I am happy to report that we have 12, yes 12 enthusiastic players on our team. Yes, we will be able to play full JV games! Not only that, we will have some good depth on the varsity floor. We have 5 seniors and 4 juniors, as well as 6 returning lettermen within which 4 of them started last year. Experience is always a bonus, and the girls' eagerness to learn has made the early season practices hopeful.

The returning leaders have some good chemistry after playing together for 3 seasons, they are; Tanna Badje, Emma Roberts, Hailey Summers, and Sydney Tlustos. They will be joined by a strong contingent; Post players, Ashley Agler, Ciara McCance, and a returning transfer senior, Alexis Olson. Brandy Running Hawk is returning after a season ending injury last year, Jessi Badje, a sophomore who had some valuable varsity floor experience last year, junior Sam Kearns, sophomore, Erin Kadlecek, and our lone freshman, Katie Agler, who shows some good promise.

Come watch the Lady Hawks compete, as we strive to be the best that we can be. The girls have worked hard, and will continue to do so. They will need your support, not only to cheer them in their competition, but to also affirm their striving and their efforts as they move on to bigger and better things. They are our future and it is our responsibility to teach them and encourage them to find out what their best really is and what it could be.

Boys Basketball Season Preview

By Coach Borm

The Hay Springs Hawks Boys Basketball team has 12 boys out for the team this year, 8 of which were on the team last year and saw significant varsity time. The 8 returners are Kobe Encinia, Drew Letcher, Garrett Weyers, Kaelob Marx, Wesley Tlustos, Tony Toof, Trent Reed and Johnny Toof. The four newcomers are Jake Roberts, Sean West, Hunter Letcher and our favorite foreign-exchange student, Beltran.

The boys had a scrimmage in Harrison against Sioux County on the day before Thanksgiving. We were victorious on this day by a score of 43-38. I was very pleased with the defensive effort from the team and I believe that is something we can hang our hat on this year. We were 13 of 28 from the free throw line, which is very poor and needs to be improved, but it is a great sign to have a team shoot 28 free throws in a game.

We open the regular season in Cody on Friday, December 2nd and begin our home schedule the next day when Arthur County travels to Hawk Town. GO HAWKS!

School Wide Food Drive



This year, let's work together to have a successful food drive.

Want some free time in class?

If Kindergarten through 12th grade collects 1500 items for the food drive, every class will get 30 minutes of free time in one of their classes.

If Kindergarten through 12th grade collects 2000 items for the food drive, every class will get 1 hour of free time.

Collect 2500, you get another half hour. Collect 3000, another half hour. Classes can receive up to two hours of free time!

Rules:

No expired items will be accepted, (check those expiration dates!)

A case of Ramen Noodles counts as one item Diapers count as two items!

Items need to be deposited in the boxes in the cafeteria

The food pantry is asking for non-perishable food items, personal Hygiene (i.e. soap, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, etc.), condiments (i.e. mustard, mayo, etc.), diapers, sugar, cooking oil, dry milk, and paper goods (i.e. Paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, etc.) Thank you!

November 28th through December 13th

Counselor's To Do List

By Kim Marx

EducationQuest Foundation College Planning Bulletin

What to expect after you submit your FAFSA

The Early 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 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 who 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 applied to – and listed on your FAFSA – will send you a financial aid award notification detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

Haven't completed your FAFSA yet?

No problem! You and a parent can complete the form at <u>FAFSA.gov</u>. Before you start, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at <u>fsaid.ed.gov</u>. You'll need them to access and sign the FAFSA.

December "To Do" List

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

Seniors:

- __ If you haven't already, submit <u>college applications</u> and the <u>FAFSA</u>.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors

- __ Take an ACT prep course.
- __ Set up a <u>ScholarshipQuest</u> profile and start searching for Nebraska-based scholarships.
- Register by December 21 for the January 21 SAT.
- Register by January 13 for the February 11 ACT.



Winter is here!!

Keep a close eye on the weather and make sure your child has a hat, gloves, and coat with them each day!



Tech Bytes

by Larel Reimann

Password Security

Stop and think about what that means to you. Consider all the places you are required to use a password on the internet. Your online bank account, your social media accounts, your email, your shopping sites...just to name a few. Now think about what could happen if someone found one of those passwords out. Not only could you stand to lose financial assets, but ask yourself what kind of trouble could be caused by someone posing as you on a social media platform or email. Your contacts might not immediately realize that it is not you who wrote that rather nasty message or that it is not you who is sending them a link in the email to a virus. There is much evil a person could do with your passwords, indeed.

There are many things you can do to protect your password, depending on how badly you wish to keep it secret. Some of the higher security institutions require you to change your passwords on a regular basis and have very strict requirements on the type of password you can choose. For most home and school uses, that may be a little bit extreme,

but there are some very simple things you can do to protect your password. First of all, it is never a good idea to leave a password written on a sticky note on your laptop or monitor.



Anyone could easily observe the note and file the password away in memory for later use. Secondly, as much as we dislike the thought of it, we should always use different passwords for different accounts. Let's say that the troublemaker saw the password to your computer login(the one written on the sticky note attached to the computer). She will most likely try that same password on other accounts she knows you access. And if you have used the same password everywhere, she will have access to everything.

In summary, stop and really think about password security and take some steps to protect yourself. If you don't, you might find yourself in a bad situation!

JH Girls Basketball Preview

By Coach Tlustus

I am honored to be coaching Jr. High Girls Basketball. I have six eighth graders, which are Bailey Scherbarth, Jaiden Anderson, Joce Varvel, Rylee Wolken, Hannah Wohl, and Ruth West. There are also three seventh graders Jazlyn Smith, Laney Smith and Ashley Tobiasson. We finish out the team with four six graders, Hally Johnson, Samantha Morrison, Mia Skin-

Busketball

ner, and Breely Smith. The girls are eager to learn and practice basket-ball every single day. They continue to work unconditionally hard for me. This group of girls have a very bright future ahead of them. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to help these girls learn the game of basketball. We have five games left to finish the season. We Play Gordon-Rushville on Monday the 5th Hay Springs at 5pm. I look forward to seeing everyone at the game supporting the girls.

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Assessment News

by Mrs. Marx

ACT SELECTED TO PROVIDE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM

The Nebraska State Board of Education has selected ACT to provide the standardized college entrance exam for Nebraska students in the 11th grade. Beginning in the spring of 2017, the exam will be administered to all high school juniors and will replace the current Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessment at that grade level.

In April 2016, the Nebraska Legislature passed Legislative Bill 930 requiring public school students in the 11th grade to take a college admission test. In addition, the requirement for a statewide writing assessment will end after the 2016-17 school year and will be replaced with a statewide reading English Language Arts assessment, containing a writing component. "The selection of ACT represents our continued effort to provide equal opportunities across the state. All juniors will now have access to a college admission test, as there will no longer be a registration fee," said Commissioner of Education Matthew Blomstedt. "This exam will also provide a clearer picture of where Nebraska students are in terms of college and career readiness."

A committee of reviewers received two proposals and selected ACT as the top proposal overall. Director of Statewide Assessment Valorie Foy said, "We are excited to partner with ACT to administer this exam. The ACT test content parallels the assessments that students have taken over the past seven years on NeSA: English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, Science and Writing."

The ACT will provide students with a score that can be used at colleges or universities to contribute to application and admission decisions. ACT is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides assessment and research in education and workforce development.

Hay Springs Public Schools is also excited about this opportunity for our students. Our Juniors will take the ACT in April. In order to help our students do their best on the ACT we are again contracting with John Baylor Test Prep. We will be offering Friday John Baylor sessions prior to the April test date. Participating students will view all twelve sessions of the JBTP ACT Prep course. (Please see Mrs. Marx if you are interested in sessions for an ACT test prior to April.) In addition, we will be providing students with at-home access. JBTP recommends that students participate in both the at-school (Friday) sessions and the at-home components. Students have already received their log-in information for the John Baylor site. Parents if you would like to know if your student is actually utilizing the course you may contact Mrs. Marx.

John Baylor has some parent videos, including *How to Get Into the Best College at the Lowest Cost*, that may be of interest. These can be viewed at https://www.johnbaylortestprep.com/jbtp-public-vignettes

We are excited to do even more to maximize your child's chance to get into the best college at the lowest cost. Thanks for helping us ensure students prioritize this test.

Also John Baylor has started a weekly, one-hour radio show, the John Baylor College Prep Show. It is available at the following address: http://www.johnbaylorcollegeprepshow.com/ There is a link on the hshawks homepage as well.

High School Wrestling Preview

By Coach McCance



I'm very impressed with the talent we have in the room . We have 5 hard working wrestlers out this year and look to be focused on the goals to make the trip to Omaha in February. They are Baiden Planansky, Bryce Running Hawk, Austin Anderson, Coy Wolken and Nathan Tobiasson. We have been practicing for about two weeks now preparing for our season which starts with the Crawford Invite Dec 2. We will be home on Dec 8 and it is also Parent's Night. I hope we can pack the house with fans, the louder the better for us. So come out and support your Hawks on their journey to greatness.

Library Stories

By Mrs. Matthews

December 5-9 is Computer Science Week.

The elementary students are learning a little more about Computer Science. They are doing activities with programming, robotics, and binary notation.

A computer isn't necessary to learn a little programming. This board game teaches students that each move is an action (or command) and to reach a goal you have to do things in the correct order.





Binary is the language of computers. Open and closed, on and off, or in this case two colors. These second graders are coding their initials and making a binary bracelet. In the background their classmates are working on a program from code.org to learn programming using a drag and drop program similar to Scratch.

This pair of students is learning to run the robot, Dash. They have set up an obstacle and will drive Dash though the chair legs. Dash and its partner, Dot, were acquired through a grant from the Western Library System. Students in Kindergarten through fifth grade will rotate through all four stations, learning new skills and knowledge. If you are interested in learning more about these activities check out Mrs. Matthews website through the link on the HS Hawks homepage.





Hay Springs Public Schools

407 N Baker / PO Box 280 Hay Springs, NE 69347 Phone: (308)638-4434

Fax: (402)915-5126

hshawks.com

Accredited by: Nebraska Department of Education

2016 - 2017 School Profile

Community and School

Hay Springs, Nebraska is a small rural community of about 600 people located in Northwestern Nebraska at the junction of US Route 20 and State Highway 87.

Hay Springs Public School is located on the northeast side of town. The school serves students from preschool through grade 12. Total enrollment for the 2016-17 school year is 189.

Hay Springs High School provides a full high school program including math, science, language arts, social studies, music, physical education, business, industrial technology, world languages, and special education. Dual credit classes are offered as well as the opportunity to access online college classes. Activities include athletics, band, choir, and drama.

Enrollment

Preschool 20
Elementary 87
Middle School 40
High School 42
Total 189

Academic Program

School year calendar: semesters

Block scheduling: No Grading Scale: 4.0

Calendar:

Monday through Thursday

Preschool 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Or 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Elementary 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Middle Level 8:00 am - 4:15 pm

High School 8:00 am - 4:15 pm

Class Schedule:

Middle Level & High School 7 periods per day 64 minutes per period

Credits:

High School

5 credits for semester course 10 credits for year course 240 credits for graduation

GPA:

High School only; Unweighted

Grading Scale

A 93 - 100

B 85 - 92

C78 - 84

D 70-77

F 0 - 69

Graduation Requirements

Subject	Credits			
English	40			
Math	40			
(including senior year)				
Science	30			
Social Science	40			
Phys Ed/Health	10			
Fine Arts	10			
Foreign Language	10			
Career/Tech	20			
Electives	<u>40</u>			
Total	240			

Post High School Information

2013 – 14 Graduates 79% attending college

2014 – 8 Graduates 63% attending college

2015 – 19 Graduates 84% attending college

2016 – 10 Graduates
60% attending college
20% joined military

ACT Scores

2016 – 17 students tested					
	Hay Springs				
English	19.8	20.9			
Math	19.8	20.8			
Reading	19.7	21.8			
Science	20.5	21.5			
Composite	20.0	21.4			

Nebraska State Assessment Data Students are tested grade levels:

Grade				
3	Language	Math		
4	Language	Math		
5	Language	Math		Science
6	Language	Math		
7	Language	Math		
8	Language	Math		Science
11	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
	English			

100% of students were tested at each grade and subject.

No students were exempted from NeSA assessments

Changes to the NeSA Assessments

Starting with the 2016-17 school year all third year high school students will take the ACT test, including the writing portion. There will no longer be a separate writing test at grades 4 and 8. The Reading test will be a Language Arts test that will include Reading and English. Writing will also be included in the Language Arts test at grades 5 through 8

Graduation Rate

Hay Springs High School 100% Nebraska 89%

For more information see the Nebraska State of the Schools website:

http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/ or for Hay Springs information:

http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/Default .aspx?AgencyID=81-0003-000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				JH WR @ Bennett County 4pm 1	G/B BB @ Cody- Kilgore 3 pm HS WR @ Crawford 4H Sewing Class - Cafeteria 2	*G/B BB vs Arthur County 2pm HS WR @ Custer, SD 8:30 am 3
4	*JH G/BB vs. Gordon/Rushv ille 5pm (rescheduled from 11/17) 5	WNCC College Visit 1:30 Community Development Meeting 7:00 pm - Cafeteria 6	One Act State 7	G/B BB @ Crawford 4pm *HS WR vs. Crawford/Hmfr d Tri. 6pm WR Parent's Night 8	4H Santa's Bakeshop – Cafeteria 8- 2pm 9	HS WR @ Gordon/Rush 8am *JH G/BB vs. Crawford 10 am *G/B BB vs. Mullen 2 pm 10
11	JH G/BB PANCO @ Hemingford TBA Board Meeting 6pm 12		14	JH G/BB @ Morrill 4pm 15	*Santa Soup Cook-off 4:30-7 *Nights, Lights and Music Concert 7:30 4H Movie Night @ Gordon 3:30	G/B BB @ McPherson County 3pm HS WR @ Sidney 9am 17
18	19	*1st, 2nd & 3rd Christmas Concert 7pm Boys BB @ Oelrich's 6pm	21	Christmas Dinner End of the Quarter 22	Sports Moratorium – Dec. 27 23	24
25	Christmas Vacation 26	Christmas Vacation 27	Christmas Vacation 28	Christmas Vacation 4H Winter Art Camp - Gordon 29	30	New Year's Eve 31
New Year's Day 1	Christmas Vacation *G/B BB vs. Morrill 4pm 2	Girls BB vs. Bennett County 3	4	5	G/B BB @ Banner County 3:30 pm 6	*G/B BB vs. Leyton 1pm JH B/BB @ Sioux County 10am HS WR @ Garden County 9am 7





NOTES:

Report cards - Will be available for pick

up by Jan. 5th

*Bold - HOME GAMES

DECEMBER 2016











Hay Springs School

* PK - 12 Lunch Menus *Breakfast menus

*All menus are served with milk. Water is

lunchroom area. available in the

*Garden Bar is offered daily unless posted.

