

May 2017

Superintendent's News

3...2...1... Let the countdown to summer begin! I would like to thank all the parents, aunts, uncles, grandpa's, and grandpa's, for sharing their most prized possession with the staff at Hay Springs this school year. May is a very busy month and I would like to encourage everyone to review the calendar and website for activities, updated news, and times of events for the remainder of the year.

I personally would like to thank everyone for their support during my tenure. As I wrap up my stint with Hay Springs, I would like to reflect on some of the improvements and successes that we have had over the last few years. First, academics still remains high on our list. Our students continue to reach high academic achievement compared to students in the state or country. We have implemented several programs that have boosted Community Minded Schools. Some which includes, Hawk Talk at the Senior Citizens Building and Give Back to the Community Day. Our facilities are in great shape. With the help of donations and volunteers Hay Springs has upgraded the football field with new lights along with a new scoreboard, Lister-Sage has a new design on the gym floor, and the wrestling area has installed padding around all the walls and beams. There has been several HVAC units replaced throughout the building, new windows installed in the elementary school, and new carpet throughout a majority of the buildings. The district was able to pay off the 3 suburbans ahead of schedule. We were able to finance a newer activity bus for our students and paid cash for a better route bus. Our school budget has been strong the last few years and we



have been able to put a little into savings to help prepare for the state shortfall in state aid. All of the above items could not have happened without the strong support of the community, the students, parents and staff. Hay Springs is a special place with wonderful people. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your community! So for one last time....Go Hawks!!

\$5 Physicals in Chadron

Tuesday, May 2nd— 5th grade and 9 through 11th grade

Wednesday, May 3rd—6th grade through 8th grade

Bus leaves at 6:15 a.m. SHARP

Pre-physical 5/1 @ 8:15 am

Physical forms Must be signed by parent's and the \$5 turned into Adriene by Thursday, April 27th

Do you have a student that will be in 9, 10, 11, or 12th grade next year? Be on the look out for next year's registration form. A copy will be sent home with each student. If you have questions, please call Mrs. Marx at (308) 638-4434.

We've learned our A,B,C's and 1,2,3's...
to tie our shoes and when to say "please." Its time to move on, we've had lots of fun, but
look out first grade...HERE WE COME!

The Kindergarten class will conclude the music concert season with their performance of When I Grow Up. This concert will be on May 23 at 6:30 in the auditorium. Included in this performance will be honors, awards and graduation certificates.

The 2016-2017 Kindergarten class is graduating!



2017 Senior Graduation

On Sunday, May 21, 2017 Hay Springs High School will graduate another group of fine young people. Commencement exercises will begin at 2:00 PM at Lister-Sage.

This year's class will include Ashley Agler, Garrett Weyers, Drew Letcher, Kobe Encinia, Nathan Tobiasson, Alexis Olson, Sydney Tlustos, Brandy Running Hawk, Devinity Randall, Tanna Badje.

Colors: Hunter Green and White

Song: Young - Kenny Chesney

Motto: We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun.

Flower: Green tipped white rose



Mandatory Summer School

June 5—June 29

Students not scoring proficient on assessments, those failing a class, and/or based on teacher recommendation will be required to attend.

Parents of students required to attend will be receiving a letter in the mail from Mrs. Marx.

Senior transcripts and
2nd semester report
cards will be available
in the
office on June 6th.

Summer Fun Camps

Due to lack of volunteers
we will not be having
summer camps this year.



Student Check-Out Procedures

Each student grades K-12 will receive a check-out slip. Outstanding obligations will be added to the students check-out slip by the corresponding sponsor, librarian, teacher, etc; therefore the office will not be able to tell you what your child owes.

- Each classroom teacher will collect book fines for damaged books.
- The Librarian will collect payment for lost or damaged library books.
- Ms. Kudrna will collect payment for missing uniforms, sports equipment, etc.
- Adriene will collect Hot Lunch money.
- Mrs. Shimek will collect Yearbook money.



Each fee must be paid separately to the appropriate person/department before your child will be signed out!

Preschool-11th grade students' last day is May 25th, 2017—dismissed at regular times!!

Counselor Notes

By Mrs. Marx

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

Review these tips before you decide how much to borrow in student loans:

Borrow only what you need, even if it's less than the amount offered in your award letter.

Try to use your student loan money *only* for tuition, room and board, books and fees. Get a part-time job during college to pay other expenses.

Apply for financial aid each year you attend college by completing the [FAFSA](#).

Continue to look for scholarships while you're in college.

Keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at nslds.ed.gov.

How to prepare for your freshman year of college

Visit the [College Students](#) section at EducationQuest.org for tips to help you prepare for your freshman year of college. You'll find information on these topics:

- Achieving academic success
- How to manage your money

- How to select a major

Juniors... here's your summer to-do list

Narrow your college choices to three or four by the time school starts. If you haven't already, [schedule campus visits](#) to your top contenders.

Become familiar with the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Beginning **October 1, 2017**, you and your parents can complete this form to apply for college financial aid.

Update your [Activities Resume](#) at EducationQuest.org. Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards, and part-time jobs.

Look for scholarships. Check out [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships, and pay attention to scholarships current seniors have received.

Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses. Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

May "To Do" List

Seniors

- ___ Apply for student loans, if necessary.
- ___ Register for new student orientation at your college.
- ___ Start a list of dorm room essentials.
- ___ *Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.*

Music Notes

By Raime Varvel



District Music contest results Congratulations to the following students who received 1's on their solo's or small group at District Music contest held in Alliance on Tuesday, April 18th. Payton Schoenhals-vocal solo; Jessi Badje-flute solo; Ciara McCance-alto sax solo; Samantha Kearns-trumpet solo; Thomas Scherbarth-tuba solo; Payton Schoenhals & Jessi Badje-girls duet; Payton Schoenhals & Nathan Tobiasson-mixed duet; Sydney Tlustos, Payton Schoenhals, Brandy Running Hawk, Nathan Tobiasson, Devinity Randall, Alexis Olson & Jessi Badje-small vocal ensemble. Also congratulations to the ML/HS band for receiving a rating of 1. Special congratulations to Jessi Badje for being honored as an outstanding soloist on her flute solo. So proud of all our performers! Keep on making music!

4th & 5th graders are so excited to share all their hard work with you on the musical **GO WEST!** The musical, as well as the 5th & 6th grade bands and the 6th grade Musical Planet, will be performed on Tuesday, May 9th at 7pm in the auditorium.

Spring Concert & Contest dates have been set. Please add the following dates to your calendars!

Tuesday, May 9th 7pm 4th-6th Grade Spring Concert

Thursday, May 18 3:15 pm ML/HS Band to Pioneer Manor

Tuesday, May 23rd 6:30 pm Kindergarten Graduation

Thursday, May 25th TBA End of the Year Talent Show K-11th grade

Like our facebook page at **HS Hawks Music Notes** to keep up with what's going on in the music room.

Café'teria News

By Miss Wendy

Summer Food Program Starts June 5, 2017: All children 18 years old and younger can enjoy Breakfast and Lunch for Free for the months of June and July 2017.

Breakfast is served from 8-8:30 a.m. Monday - Thursday

Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Monday- Thursday

This program is open to all children even if they don't live in Hay Springs. Plan on eating with your friends here at school all summer long June 5, 2017 through July 27, 2017.

July 3rd and 4th the kitchen will be closed for the 4th of July holiday.

Special meal dates that guests are invited to eat lunch with us:



Monday- May 8 - Mothers Day (Let us cook for you Mom.)

2017 Academic Fair and ML/HS Awards Night

The annual academic fair and the 6th-12th grade awards night will be combined again this year, May 17th. PK-12th grade student projects will be on display in Lister-Sage from 4:30-6:30 pm. The 6-12th grade awards program will begin promptly at 7:00 pm in the Old Auditorium.

Teachers are sponsoring a meal the night of Academic Fair beginning at 4:30 pm in the cafeteria. \$3 sandwich, chips and dessert

2017 Academic Elementary Awards

1st grade through 5th Grade Academic Awards will be, May 24th. Awards will begin promptly at 2:30 pm in the Old Auditorium. Parent's are welcome to attend awards, we anticipate they will last a hour or more. Elementary students will be dismissed when awards are over.

2016-2017 Yearbooks

Now on sale!

\$45

Talk to any Journalism student!

Devinity, Garrett, Emma, Ashely A., Jake, Addie, Mrs. Shimek

NO CASH PLEASE!!

FOR SALE!

American Government Class

By Mr. Bounous

On Tuesday, April 11, 2017 the Hay Springs American Government class consisting of the Seniors, attended a session of the Nebraska Court of Appeals. The students got a chance to see the legal system in a first hand experience. They had the experience of seeing four cases presented in front of the three judge panels. It was an excellent first-hand experience!



4H Opportunities

4-H Design Camp

A new challenge to 4-H'ers creativity will take place this summer at the 4-H Design Camp, June 13 and 14 at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp at Halsey. Future fashion designers and fashionistas will use watercolors to design two 4-H projects. One is a yard of fabric, and the other is fabric to create a garment, both of which can be entered in Beyond the Needle. They will also use engineering design principles to create a simple Wear Tec project.

4-H'ers must be enrolled in "STEAM Clothing 2 – Simply Sewing" or "STEAM Clothing 3 – A Stitch Further" and be 10 years of age or older to participate in the camp. They may bring a pattern for a top, skirt, pants or shorts, simple dress, or romper to sew from their fabric. Campers should also bring a sewing machine and sewing notions.

The fashionistas will also have the opportunity to enjoy the 4-H camp experience by tubing down the river, zipping down the zipline and spending a night at the camp. Cost is \$125 per 4-H'er, which covers all fabric, watercolors, the Wear Tec project, and camp expenses. The camp will begin Tuesday, June 13th at 9:00 a.m. CDT and conclude at 4:00 p.m. with a runway style show with everyone modeling their original creation. Melissa Mracek will be providing transportation to this camp if a youth member needs a ride.

Contact the Nebraska Extension Sheridan County Office for enrollment forms and more information at 1-308-327-2312, or Melissa Mracek at mmracek2@unl.edu.

Wilderness Wonders

Wilderness Wonders camp is a great first overnight camp for youth in grades 3rd through 5th for Fall 2017. The camp takes place at Camp Norwesca on June 2nd and 3rd. This year youth will learn more about bugs while experiencing the great outdoors. Activities include learning about a Biofarm, Nature Pond Adventures, crafts, water slide, and more! The cost is \$75 and includes meals, lodging, and activities. Space is limited so please pre-register by May 24th. Registration forms can be found at the Nebras-

ka Extension Sheridan County office.

Sheep & Goat Weigh in

The Sheridan County 4-H Sheep and Goat Weigh-in will be held on Sunday, May 21st from 1 to 2:30 pm at the Sheridan County Fairgrounds. If you cannot attend this weigh you may attend the Sheep and Goat Weigh-ins in Dawes County or Box Butte County. The Box Butte County Weigh-in will be held on Thursday May 18th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in Hemingford. The Dawes County Weigh-in will be held on Tuesday, May 30th from 3 to 5 pm in Chadron.

Nebraska Youth Range Camp

The 54th Nebraska Youth Range Camp will be held on June 5-9 at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp in Halsey. Students between the ages 14-18 are eligible to attend. The cost is \$200 but students should be able to get a part or all of the fee reimbursed through their local Natural Resource District, FFA Chapter, or 4-H Council. Applications can be found at: <http://www.nesrm.org/YouthRangeCamp.html>.

Fort Robinson Horse Camp

Historic Fort Robinson State Park will once again host the 4-H Horse Camp on June 8-10, 2017. All individuals, ages eight and older, are welcome to attend with activities for junior, intermediate, and senior / adult. The 4-H code of conduct will be in effect but membership is not mandatory.

Pre-registration is required by May 19, with a \$50 fee per camper. Adult guardians will get a \$10.00 discount if registering with a paid youth camper. Training topics will include bareback equitation, showmanship, ranch horse pleasure, hippology, and the AQHA Trail Challenge. Optional horse judging and a Trail Challenge competition will also be offered.

An informational brochure and registration form at the Nebraska Extension Sheridan County office.

4H is working on summer camps to be hosted in Hay Springs during the summer.

NOTICE OF MEETING

On May 10, 2017 at 3:30 p.m., a meeting conducted by Sheridan County School District #3 will take place in the school cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an opportunity for parents and representatives of nonpublic schools to participate in the development of a plan for providing special education services to children with disabilities who attend nonpublic schools and home schools which are within the Sheridan County School District #3 for the 2017-18 school year. Parents of a home-schooled child or a child attending a nonpublic school who has been or may be identified with a disability and attend a nonpublic school within the boundaries of Sheridan County School District #3, are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact the office at (308) 638-4434.

Title VII Meeting

On May 10, 2017 at 3:45 p.m., a meeting conducted by Sheridan County School District #3 will take place in the school cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an opportunity for parents and representatives of Title VII students to participate in the development of a plan for services within the Sheridan County School District #3 for the 2017-18 school year. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact the office at (308) 638-4434.

Kindergarten Round-up and Preschool Open house will be May 4, 2017



Incoming Kindergarten students will join Mrs. Mintken from 3:00-4:00. A parent open house will follow.

Preschool open house will be held from 4:15-5:15.

Call 638-4434 if you have any questions if you need more information.

All School Play

By Coaches Marx and Weyers

Ten people alone on an island, trapped by the weather. One mysterious letter and a madman begins picking them off one by one. With no phone service or other means to contact police on the mainland they must rely on their own wits to stay alive.

Where There's a Will There's a Murder

Directed by Kerisa Marx and Morgan Weyers

May 8th at 2:30 and 6:30 pm



Elementary Track and Field Day 2017

By Mrs. Mandelko and Ms. Sherlock

Who: Kindergarten through 6th Grade Students

When: May 11th at 9am—3:30 ish (rain date is May 18th)

Where: Hay Springs Football Field

The students will be split into groups and will all participate in all the field events. The field events will include cup stacking; obstacle course; frisbee throw; running long jump; bouncy ball races; and tarp throw. The students will be able to choose their running events. This will be an all-day event. Parents/ Friends/ Grandparents are all more than welcome to come watch. Please let the office know if you would like a sack lunch for yourself. Parents be looking for notes coming home that will have more information.

Preschool Track

Preschool will have their track day on Wednesday, May 10th. Morning preschool will start about 10:00 and afternoon preschool will start after lunch at about 12:30. Preschool will be participating in several fun physical activities set up on the field.



**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW
BEING ACCEPTED
FOR THE
EXCELLENCE
IN
TEACHING AWARD**

A cash award of \$500 will be presented to one classroom teacher employed by Hay Springs Public Schools in grades pre-K through twelve at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year.

The Excellence in Teaching Award is sponsored by Security First Bank along with the American Legion. This award seeks to encourage and recognize the professional and leadership excellence of Hay Springs educators essential for quality education, increase awareness of the positive aspects of education in Nebraska, and promote pride in the school and community.

The nominee must be a certified employee for Hay Springs Public Schools. The teacher should be exceptionally skilled, dedicated and have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn. The teacher should have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues, and should play an active and useful role in the community as well in the school.

Nominations can be made by anyone residing in the Hay Springs School District by filling out the application on the reverse side and mailing it to **Adriene Kelly, PO Box 280, Hay Springs, NE 69347** or dropping the application off at the school office.

Nominations must be received by Thursday, May 4, 2017.

1. Name of person being nominated for the award: _____
2. Please state why you believe this individual should receive recognition. Give specific examples of the person's actions and contribution. Consider the criteria listed on the front of this form. Supplemental pages may be attached if needed.

[illegible]

- _____

**Adriene Kelly
PO Box 280
Hay Springs, NE 69347**

BUILDING READERS®

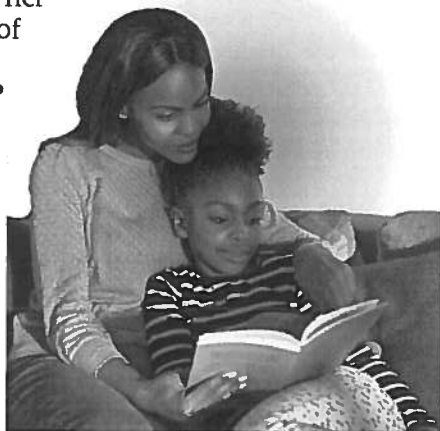
How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Hay Springs Public Schools

Ask questions to get your child thinking and talking about reading

It is critical that your child read over the summer. Help her reflect on what she reads and improve her comprehension by asking a lot of questions! You might ask:

- **Who were the main characters?**
What did you like or dislike about them? Do they remind you of people you know? How?
- **What happened in the story?**
How did it start? What happened in the middle? How did it end? Were you happy with the way the book ended?
- **Have you ever experienced**
something that happened to the characters in the story?
- **What would you change** about the book if you were the author?
What plot would make a good sequel?



"Books are a uniquely portable magic."

—Stephen King

Help your child improve reading habits

There is no such thing as too much reading—it just has to be done responsibly! Here are three common reading problems followed by easy ways to turn them around:

1. **Tattered books.** Choose a special spot for books where they won't get trampled—like a basket or a shelf.
2. **Overdue library books.** Set a weekly schedule to visit the library with your child. Make sure he returns items on time. Then have fun browsing for new material to check out.
3. **Late night reading.** On school nights, tuck him in early so he has time to read in bed before lights out. On occasional weekend nights, it's OK to let your child stay up later to read.

Source: "Breaking Bad Reading Habits," Scholastic, nswc.com/improving-reading_habits.

Keep your child reading over the summer



If your child needs some encouragement to keep reading over the summer, do what you can to make reading appealing. Suggest that he read:

- **A series of books**, like Magic Treehouse or Nancy Drew.
- **A joke book.** Ask your child to find the funniest one he can.
- **A "choose your own adventure" book.** Your child may enjoy creating his own path as he reads.

Source: M. Leonhardt, *Keeping Kids Reading: How To Raise Avid Readers in the Video Age*, Crown Publishers.

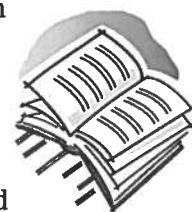
Enjoy reading aloud to your child

Your child benefits many ways when you read aloud, even if she is able to read on her own. You can expose your child to new concepts and words. And reading aloud is an opportunity to spend quality time together.



Task your child with being the family fact checker

To help your child engage with reading, give him the job of being your fact checker. When you have a question about something, ask him to get the facts. If you need to double-check an ingredient in a recipe, ask him to read it to you. If you want to know the capital of Bulgaria, have him look it up. He'll have to read to find out!



Use newspapers to inspire reading games

Spice up your regular reading routine by reading a newspaper or magazine—either in print or online—and playing a few games. You can:

- **Recreate cartoons.** Read a comic strip with your child. Then cut apart the squares. Can she put them back in order? Or, rearrange the squares and create a story together to go along with the new order.
- **Go on a scavenger hunt.** Make a list of things for your child to find in the pages. She might look for a food coupon, a sports statistic, one of her spelling words and the name of your town.
- **Retell stories.** Read a short, simple (and interesting!) article aloud. Encourage your child to summarize what it says. Then switch roles with a new story.



Source: "Fun Ways to Encourage Your Children to Read," Family Works, University of Illinois Extension, niswc.com/newspaper_games.

Plan family reading activities this summer

Get the whole family involved in reading this summer by planning exciting reading events. Here are some to try:

- **Trivia night.** Choose a book that everyone in your family can take turns reading. Or, read a short book together. Then, have each person write three trivia questions about the story. Take turns quizzing each other. Who remembers the most?
- **Themed dinners.** What do the characters in your child's books have for dinner? Base a meal around a favorite book. If the story takes place in another country or time period, help your child



research what to include on the menu.

Source: B. Hyde, "Family Reading Activities," Old Fashioned Living, niswc.com/reading_night_activities.



Q: When my child has trouble reading, he gets frustrated and says, "I can't read this!" How can I encourage him?

A: Remind him that every new skill takes practice. Show him examples of books he now finds easy, and remind him that at one time, they were a challenge for him. Reassure him that he is able to learn how to read—and that he will. But it takes determination, patience and hard work!

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Turn writing mistakes into grammar challenges

Exercise your child's skills by giving her this sentence to fix: *Can You correct this Sentence!* (Then show her the right answer: *Can you correct this sentence?*) Challenge her to fix other grammatical errors. Include things she's been learning all year, such as punctuation, capitalization and verb tenses. Throw in a few spelling mistakes, too!



For lower elementary readers:

- ***The Hole Story of the Doughnut*** by Pat Miller (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Learn how this tasty treat came to be—all because of a boy who was a ship's assistant cook.



- ***Can I Tell You A Secret?*** by Anna Kang (Harper). A small frog named Monty confesses a big secret: He is afraid of water.

For upper elementary readers:

- ***Little Joe*** by Sandra Neil Wallace (Alfred A. Knopf). Nine-year-old Eli is given a newborn calf he names Little Joe. Follow along as Little Joe grows and Eli learns how to take care of the animal.
- ***Eureka! Great Inventions and How They Happened*** by Richard Platt (Kingfisher). Ever wonder how the hot air balloon was invented? Or the vacuum cleaner? Learn all about inventions and the creative minds that produced them.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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Book List

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

Meaniehead by Bruce Eric Kaplan (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). Henry and Eve are siblings who get into a huge fight over an action figure. See what happens as this fight blows out of proportion and ends up getting completely out of hand! (*lower elementary; fiction*)

Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine

by Gloria Whelan (A Paula Wiseman Book). All Queen Victoria wanted to do on a hot day was go for a swim—something that was not appropriate for the Queen of England. Prince Albert brainstormed, and he concocted a plan that allowed the queen to take a dip. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

The Stranded Whale by Jane Yolen (Candlewick Press). Sally and her brothers are walking home from school when they find a beached whale on a cold Maine shore. Together, they do everything they can to help the whale get back into the ocean. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

The Greatest Skating Race: A World War II Story from the Netherlands by Louise Borden (Margaret K. McElderry Books). Piet dreams of being a famous skater and winning the Elfstedentocht, a speed skating race, that takes place throughout the Netherlands. Before he can do that, he is given an important task that involves skating on the canals in his Nazi-occupied Dutch town. (*upper elementary; historical fiction*)

Chess! I Love It I Love It I Love It! by Jamie Gilson (Clarion Books). Richard and Patrick are avid members of the Sumac School Chess Club. They spend Mondays after school battling it out, each trying to be the best. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

Runt by Nora Raleigh Baskin (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). Several sixth graders learn about themselves and others as they adjust to life in middle school. Told from multiple perspectives, this book looks at the many forms bullying can take, including cyberbullying. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

I Am Henry Finch by Alexis Deacon (Candlewick Press). Each morning, the finches wake up and begin talking—and talk all day until they go to bed. But Henry Finch wakes in the middle of the night and begins to think about what it means to have his own identity. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina (Candlewick Press). When Mia's grandmother comes to live with her family, Mia worries about being able to communicate. Over time, Abuela teaches Mia Spanish while Mia teaches Abuela English and they come to be close friends. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

Fly Away by Patricia MacLachlan (Margaret K. McElderry Books). Lucy's family travels to North Dakota every summer to see her Aunt Frankie. This year, they take on the task of helping Aunt Frankie prepare for an impending flood, even though she is convinced she doesn't need any help. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

The 2016–2017
BUILDING READERS®
Book List

Help! We Need a Title! by Hervé Tullet (Candlewick Press). Some characters in a book are greatly disturbed when they realize that someone—the reader—is watching them! While they worry that the book isn't finished, they also brainstorm ways to entertain the reader. *(lower elementary; fiction)*

The Girl and the Bicycle by Mark Pett (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). In this wordless picture book, a girl sees a beautiful bicycle in a shop window and works tirelessly to raise money so she can buy it. When she finally raises enough money, she finds that the bike has been sold—but she decides on something else to purchase.
(lower elementary; fiction)

Rainbows Never End and Other Fun Facts by Laura Lyn DiSiena (Little Simon). Did you know that rainbows are round? And that they appear after rain, which is recycled water from lakes, rivers and oceans? Learn about natural elements—including tornadoes, deserts and the Northern Lights—in this book that highlights a ton of cool facts.
(lower elementary; nonfiction)

Willowood by Cecilia Galante (Aladdin). Lily and her mom move to the city right before she starts fifth grade. Even though her mom says she'll get used to it, she misses everything about home—especially her best friend Bailey. Over time, Lily begins to meet people as she slowly adjusts to her new school and life. *(upper elementary; fiction)*

Panda Kindergarten by Joanne Ryder (HarperCollins). Join the panda kindergarten class at China's Wolong Nature Reserve. Young panda cubs are raised together in this protected environment. And it isn't too different from school—there is even a panda playground! *(lower elementary; nonfiction)*

Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France by Mara Rockliff (Candlewick Press). Ben Franklin used the scientific method to prove several of his theories. While in France during the American Revolution, he used it to uncover the truth behind Dr. Mesmer's strange treatment of his patients.
(upper elementary; nonfiction)

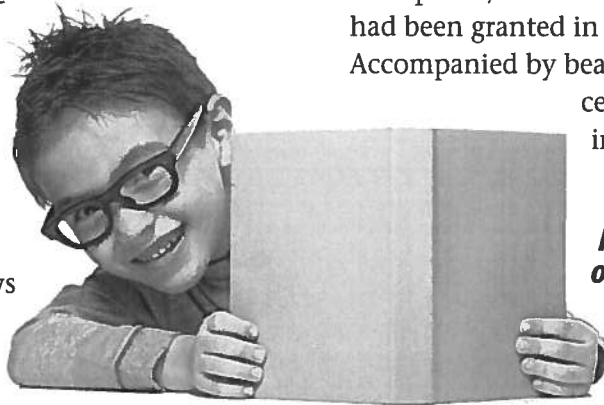
All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). What seemed like an ordinary day turned out to be quite different and special, as slaves learned that their freedom had been granted in the midst of the Civil War. Accompanied by beautiful paintings, this book celebrates an important event in history. *(lower elementary; nonfiction)*

If: A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers by David J. Smith (Kids Can Press). It can be hard to conceptualize just how old the Earth is or when certain inventions shaped history.

This book puts these events and other big concepts into perspective and helps readers visualize them in an approachable way. *(upper elementary; nonfiction)*

Ace Dragon Ltd. by Russell Hoban (Candlewick Press). As John is walking down the street, he sees a manhole cover with the words Ace Dragon Ltd. printed on it. After knocking and encountering the dragon that lives there, he develops an unlikely friendship. *(lower elementary; fiction)*

Goatlocks and the Three Bears by Erica S. Perl (Beach Lane Books). In this silly take on the classic fairy tale, Goatlocks explores her neighbors' house—and eats and eats and eats! From the spoon in the porridge bowl to Baby Bear's bed, everything is food for Goatlocks!
(lower elementary; fiction)



Elementary School Parents[®]

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Hay Springs Public Schools

make the difference!



Support your child as the end of the school year approaches

By May, some kids act like summer vacation has already started. They “forget” their homework. They stop giving their best effort and start avoiding anything that seems difficult or challenging.

But the school year isn’t over yet. Kids need to stay focused on learning until the last day of school. Here’s how to help your child:

- **Review old homework papers,** quizzes and tests. Use them to talk with your child about how much she has learned this year. Having these papers close at hand will also be useful as she studies for end-of-year tests!
- **Shape year-end learning** around your child’s interests. If she has one more book report due,

suggest she choose a book on a topic she loves. If she has a social studies project, she should focus on something she is interested in learning about.

- **Help your child manage** her end-of-year projects. Long-range assignments can be overwhelming. So, in addition to helping your child break a big project down into smaller steps, encourage her to apply this rule of thumb: Move the deadline for finishing any big project earlier by two days. If a report is due on Wednesday, your child should plan to get it finished by Monday. That way, she’ll have a cushion if (OK, *when*) something comes up!

Source: D. Goldberg, *The Organized Student*, Fireside Books.

Fun learning ideas for the month of May



There’s more to May than Mother’s Day, Memorial Day and Victoria Day.

Here are some other holidays that offer fun learning opportunities for you and your child:

- **May 1—Mother Goose Day.** Read favorite Mother Goose rhymes with your child.
- **May 4—National Weather Observers Day.** Go outside and observe the clouds with your child. Or make a collage of weather-related pictures cut from magazines.
- **May 18—International Museum Day.** Talk with your child about the importance of museums. Make plans to visit one online or in person.
- **May 20—Armed Forces Day.** Have your child write a letter or draw a picture to thank someone for their military service.
- **May 21—**On this day in 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross. Head to the library or the internet to learn more about this compassionate leader of charitable causes.

Help your child maintain a love of learning all summer long



Even if your child complains about school, chances are he likes learning. Here are some ways to maintain your child's interest in learning all summer long:

- **Make time to talk.** Studies have shown that kids whose families have frequent discussions about many subjects tend to have higher IQs.
- **Build on your child's interests.** For example, if your child loves playing the guitar, read books about the instrument, go to a free concert, or encourage him to write to a famous guitarist.
- **Try a new activity you can do with your child,** such as a sport. Choose something he's excited about.

Show how interested you are in learning and improving—and that you never give up.

- **Become tourists in your own town.** Try to see your town through fresh eyes. Check out an exhibit at a local museum or library. Explore a different trail at a local park.
- **Set an example by learning more about the things you love.** If you enjoy cooking, take a cooking class, check out a cookbook at the library or try a new recipe. Invite your child to help.

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

Teach your dawdling child to be more responsible with time



It's a busy morning. You need to leave the house on time but your child seems to be set on super-slow-motion.

Adults live in a time-oriented world. You check the time on your watch. You glance at the clock on your phone to be sure you're at work on time. But kids? Their views of time seem to be a lot more flexible.

To help your child become more responsible with time:

- **Be a good role model.** When you're in a mad dash to get out the door, you're not showing your child the importance of getting ready early.
- **Build in routines that help.** Take five minutes in the evening to prepare for the next day. Create a

“launch pad” by your door where your child can put all those things (backpack, gym shoes, permission slips) that she will need.

- **Don't nag.** You'll make your child anxious—but you probably won't make her hurry up. Instead, look for concrete actions that will actually make a difference. Help her put on her coat. Pick up her backpack and hand it to her.
- **Make it a game.** Most kids love competition. So challenge your child to put on her shoes before you finish counting to 20.
- **Follow a predictable schedule** as much as possible. It's the best way to help your child develop a sense of time. Say, “In five minutes, it will be time for breakfast.” Or, “After dinner, we'll read a story.”

Are you helping your child prepare for year-end tests?



The end of the year often means lots of tests for students. Are you preparing your child to do her best on them?

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out:

___ 1. Do you write down test dates on your family calendar and avoid planning big activities on the day before a test?

___ 2. Do you encourage your child to study a little each day instead of cramming the night before a test? Research shows this is the best way to learn and remember facts.

___ 3. Do you make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before a big test?

___ 4. Do you encourage your child to wear comfortable clothing and dress in layers on test days?

___ 5. Do you tell your child that you have confidence in her and know she will give her best effort?

How well are you doing?

Mostly *yes* answers mean you're giving your child the support she needs to do her best on tests. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

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The Parent Institute®, 1-800-756-5525,
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It Matters: Summer Learning

Treat reading as an enjoyable summer activity!



To keep your child reading over the summer, treat it like any other summer activity.

Let it be something he

can do whenever he feels like it. Show him that reading can be fun. And never make summer reading feel like homework.

If you help your child make the connection between books and the simpler pleasures of childhood, his desire to read may last a lifetime.

To take a summer approach to reading:

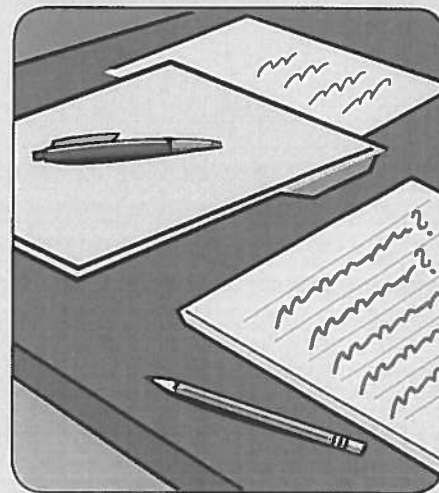
- **Suggest that your child** reread a favorite book. Then find another book by the same author. Or find one on the same topic.
- **Connect books** with summer activities—sports books for a summer league player, for instance, or camping books for a camper.
- **Let your child** stay up past bedtime when a book is just too good to put down.
- **Start your child** on a series of fiction or thriller books. These page-turners hook kids into a reading habit.
- **Encourage a change** of venue. Read books at the beach or pool, in a tent or at the park.
- **Watch movies**, videos and plays based on children's books. Then read the book together and compare it with what you saw.
- **Share your favorite books** and magazines with your child.
- **Encourage your child** to retell stories or parts of stories from the books he reads.

Inspire journal writing this summer with creative ideas

The summer is a great time for your child to begin writing in a journal. All he needs is an empty notebook and a few ideas to get started.

Suggest that he keep:

- **A research log.** Have your child pick a subject he loves, such as skateboarding. Over the summer, he can research and write about it. What are some cool skateboard tricks? How long are skateboards? Who holds records for skateboarding?
- **A travel log.** Each time he goes somewhere special—whether it's far away or close to home—he can keep a record by taking pictures, drawing or writing notes. What did he see? Who did he meet? What did he think about what he saw?
- **An observation log.** Suggest that your child observe something over a period of time, such as a summer vegetable as it grows. Or he can pick something to describe in great detail, such as a bug or an animal.



Don't let your child waste the summer in front of a screen



The lazy days of summer can lead to lazy hours in front of the TV, computer or game system. But experts say it's important to limit recreational screen time.

Encourage your child to:

- **Be the entertainment.** Instead of watching a show, your child can create one! Have her choose an exciting story line and act it out with friends or stuffed animals.
- **Play classic games.** Fill a bucket with traditional summer toys, including sidewalk chalk, balls, bubble stuff and water sprayers. When the weather is right, have your child take it outside for hours of fun.
- **Plan a treasure hunt.** Hide lots of clues, with each one leading to the next. This can be done outside or inside. The last clue should lead to a treasure, such as a yummy snack or a fun activity.
- **Get some exercise.** Go for a walk or ride bikes together. Toss or kick a ball around. Play a game of hopscotch on the sidewalk.

Everyday tasks can help your child strengthen math skills



Most people read every day. They probably do math, too, although they may not realize it. Math is a natural part of life, and it's important to include your child in daily math activities.

With your child, you can:

- **Take a trip.** Before leaving, measure the air pressure in your car or bike tires. Also calculate how many miles you'll go. If you are driving, how much gas will you use? As you travel, say a number between 1 and 10. Who can find a license plate with numbers that add up to the number you called out?
- **Follow recipes.** When preparing meals, let your child help with weighing and measuring. Discuss sizes, shapes and fractions. Find answers to questions such as, "How could we double this recipe?" and "When we add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, what do we get?"
- **Go shopping.** Use a calculator to keep a running tally of purchases. Use coupons to inspire math problems. "If we use this coupon, will the item cost less than other brands?" "Which of these items is really the best deal per pound?"
- **Save money.** Help your child choose a goal, such as saving for a book. Make a chart to help. How much does she need to save each week? How long will it take her to reach the total? Keep track of how well she is doing. Then have fun shopping together!
- **Play games.** There are lots of fun math games you can play together. Try dominoes, Uno and Connect 4.

How to handle situations that often result in school absences



Your child woke up late and can't get going. He has a big test today and forgot to study for it last night.

Things like this happen all the time. And parents sometimes wonder if missing a day of school here and there is really a big deal.

The answer is yes. Attending school regularly is important—right up to the very last day.

Here are a few of the top reasons kids miss school and some ways to prevent those absences:

1. **Your child feels sick.** If he doesn't have a fever and isn't showing signs of illness (vomiting, coughing, diarrhea), he can probably
2. **Your child won't get up.** Make his bedtime earlier. Help him get ready for school the night before.
3. **He isn't prepared.** Forgetting to study for a test and running out of time to complete a project are not valid excuses for missing school. Expect your child to plan ahead and let him face the consequences when he doesn't.
4. **Your child is worried.** Talk with him. Is he struggling in a class? Is a classmate bothering him at school? Talk with the teacher.

go to school. If you do keep him home, don't make it a vacation. A child who is too sick to go to school is too sick to watch TV, text friends or play on the computer.

Q: My son is starting middle school next year. He won't be attending the same school as most of his friends. He's very anxious about this move. What can I do over the summer to help him make the adjustment?

Questions & Answers

A: Middle school is a really big adjustment for any child. Instead of having one teacher, your son will have several. Instead of staying in one classroom, he will have to move from room to room. Instead of being in the highest grade level in the school, he will now be in the lowest.

It is completely normal for your son to feel anxious about this transition. To help him feel a little more confident:

- **Sign up for a tour.** See if he can take a tour while classes are in session. Just walking around the building and seeing students will give your child a better idea of what to expect (and even what to wear) on his first day.
- **Buy a combination lock** and have him practice opening it. Lockers are a big source of anxiety for many kids. Even if your child has to learn a new combination when school starts, he'll feel confident that he can open and close his locker.
- **Remind him** that he won't be the only new kid in his school. Everyone will be starting fresh. Assure him that he'll still have opportunities to see his old friends, even if they're at a different school.
- **Check out school activities.** If your son can get started on a team or in the band over the summer, he'll make some new friends and start school knowing some kids.

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 It's Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Look for a new physical activity you can enjoy together as a family.	2 Decide on a location anywhere in the world. Take turns telling one thing you would like to see there.	3 Let your child see you keep your temper when you are angry. Instead of yelling, calmly talk about how you feel.	4 Choose a number, then have your child list all the things she can think of that come in that number.	5 It's Cinco de Mayo. With your child, learn about why this holiday is celebrated in Mexico.	6 Give your child some sidewalk chalk. Do math problems outside together.
7 Ask your child to keep a to-do list. Writing things down makes them easier to remember.	8 Ask your child what he would do if he were invisible for a day.	9 Praise your child for something she did today. Make your praise as specific as possible.	10 Pick a category and a letter. How many items from the category can your child name that begin with that letter?	11 Make a "touch box." Fill it with cotton balls, rocks and bark. Can your child guess what he's touching without looking?	12 Create an art gallery. Frame your child's artwork. Rotate the work on display frequently.	13 Go to the library and check out two books with your child. Check out some books for yourself, too!
14 Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a friend or neighbor.	15 Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family how they used math.	16 Watch the news with your child. Locate one place mentioned on a world map.	17 On a map, have your child find the country from which your ancestors came.	18 Ask your child to tell you about the nicest thing a friend has ever done for her.	19 Teach your child to use a magnifying glass. Investigate things together.	20 Go on a picnic with your child today. After eating, stretch out on a blanket and read together.
21 Remind your child that you enjoy his company and let him know you love him.	22 Pick a new word out of the dictionary. Everyone try to use that word at least three times today!	23 Play Alphabet Mixup. Choose a word and put the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?	24 Have a pattern day. Ask your child to notice patterns around her, such as a striped shirt or a flowered sheet.	25 Learn a tongue twister. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.	26 Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.	27 Have each family member make a list of his or her strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
28 Have your child draw an upside-down picture today.	29 Cover the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page to your child. Can she guess what's in the picture?	30 Ask the school about dates for year-end tests. Make sure your child gets enough sleep the nights before.	31 Think of some "what if" questions to ask your child: What if we walked on our hands? What if cats could talk?	May 2017		

MAY 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Menus are subject to change	1 Breakfast: Sausage Muffin Lunch: Beef Patty, Mash Potato/PBJ/Pizza	2 Breakfast: Breakfast to go available @ 6:15, Reg Breakfast @ 7:30 Lunch: Meaty Nachos/PBJ/Pizza	3 Breakfast: Breakfast to go available @ 6:15, Reg Breakfast @ 7:30 Lunch: Cheeseburger Casserole/PBJ/Pizza	4 Breakfast: Pancakes Lunch: Fried Chicken /Chicken Strips/PBJ/Pizza	5	6
7 Breakfasts include: cereals/and cereal bars/ yogurt/cheese sticks/ fruits/ 100% Juice and Milk	8 Breakfast: Egg Omelette/Lunch: Chicken N Noodles /PBJ/Pizza Mothers Day Lunch	9 Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito Lunch: Spaghetti/PBJ/Pizza	10 Breakfast: Sausage Muffin Lunch BBQ Pork/ Mini Corn Dogs/PBJ/Pizza	11 Breakfast: Biscuit n Gravy Lunch: Sack Lunch for Field Day	12	13
14	15 Breakfast: Egg w/cheese: Lunch: Mandarin Chicken/PBJ/Pizza	16 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, Pudding Lunch: Hamburgers/Chicken Patty/PBJ/Pizza	17 Breakfast: French Toast Stix Lunch: Chicken Fajitas/PBJ/Pizza	18 Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza Lunch: Corn Dogs/Mini Corn Dogs/PBJ/Pizza	19	20
21 Fruit and Veggie bar is available each school day	22 Breakfast: Sliders Lunch: Hoagies with Chips /PBJ/Pizza	23 Gravy Lunch: Tator tot Casserole/PBJ/ Pizza	24 Breakfast burritos Lunch: Burritos/ Chicken Queso/ PBJ/Pizza	25 Breakfast: Pancake on a stick Lunch: Tacos/PBJ/Pizza	26	27
28	29 SCHOOL IS OUT	30	31			
Lunch menu choices available each day are: PBJ/Box	NOTES: Choice of 1% white Milk, Skim Chocolate or Strawberry Milk served Daily.					

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Hay Springs School Cafeteria

- *Breakfast menus
- *PK - 12 Lunch Menus
- *All menus are served with milk. Water is available in the lunchroom area.
- *Garden Bar is offered daily unless posted

