

WELCOME FALL!

Superintendent's News



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*Two special meals
this month:
Invite a Veteran &
Thanksgiving Dinner!*



As I write my November note I am reminded of the saying that "Time flies when you are having fun." Wow, we have completed the first academic quarter, our volleyball team has completed their season by a solid performance in Sub-district last evening against a very good Cody-Kilgore team. The Hay Springs Hawks Football team has advanced to the quarter-finals game to be held in Hay Springs on Friday afternoon, with hopes of going all the way to Kearney for the Championship game. Go Hawks! Keep up the hard work and good things will happen.

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. With the first quarter in the books some students find themselves needing to buckle down and get to work if they plan to advance in the educational process, while we have many high performing students. Our student enrollment is up for the year with several option enrolled students. I am pleased to say that once again this year our students taking the ACT test in the 2017-18 school year have outscored their state counterparts in all the academic categories. We are blessed to have high quality students that work hard on a regular basis to make the most of their educational opportunities provided at Hay Springs School. These students should be commended for their efforts and accomplishments and serve as role models for all students. We will be recognizing our twenty-seven students in second through twelve grade who have achieved all A performance during

the first nine weeks with a small acknowledgment of appreciation.

We are blessed to have a very hard working dedicated staff that spend endless hours preparing and delivering a quality education to our students. As we look for ways to continue to improve the academic success of our students, I ask for your support of this process. If you had struggling students during the first nine weeks, as parents and guardians of your child please make contact with their teachers on a regular basis during the remaining weeks of the semester to show your support for their academic performance. Middle level and high school students are not only provided the opportunity to improve academic performance by attending Friday school but are required to do so if they are struggling in two or more classes. Please encourage your students to make the most of this opportunity and to utilize the additional support provided by our staff. 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. 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.

At the elementary level we are blessed to have four Chadron State College education majors conducting our "After School Program" for our kindergarten through sixth grade students. Our After School staff work closely with the classroom teachers to be sure students are working on required educational material on a daily basis This program provides additional instructional support for

Superintendent's News

(continued from page 1)

struggling students to complete homework, prepare for tests, additional reading time as well as some educational based student activities while under the supervision of school personnel. If you believe your child would benefit from this program, please contact their classroom teacher, or the school office to enroll your student in this program.

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, vision and goal statement 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."

Hay Springs Goal

All students will demonstrate an increase in math proficiency across the curriculum.

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. As I conclude I am reminded of the closing comment that Don Loseke the school improvement team leader made at the conclusion of their report one year ago, about our Hay Springs educational system. His comment was that Hay Springs School is a school he would want his grandchildren to attend. This was powerful to me, and as a grandparent or a parent you want

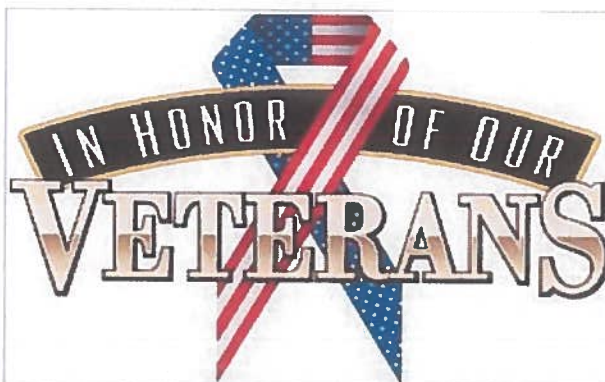
nothing less than the best education possible for your children and grandchildren. As a grandparent myself I think about how my own grandchildren would be blessed to be able to attend Hay Springs School. With that being said I am very aware that we have issues of concern on a daily basis and areas where we certainly need to continue to improve both academically and socially to provide a safe and caring learning environment for each and every one of our students. 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. Happy Halloween, and "GO HAWKS"!

Veteran's Day Program

By Mr. Bounous

I would like to cordially invite the surrounding community to attend the 2018 Veteran's Day Program. It will be held on Thursday, November 8th, 2018 at 10:30 am in the Hay Springs High School Auditorium. This year's featured speaker is Kris Pyle. Many of our elementary students', along with the Hay Springs band, being led by Mrs. Raime Varvel, will provide patriotic music. Veterans are invited to lunch following the program. Please RSVP with the office by Nov. 5th by calling 638-4434.



EducationQuest Foundation College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

November 2018

Seniors...a reminder of what to do this fall

There's A LOT going on right now with the financial aid and college admission processes, but don't get overwhelmed! Here's a recap of tasks you should complete this fall to stay on track to college.

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

First, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need it to access and sign the FAFSA. [Click here](#) for instructions.

Review our [FAFSA Checklist](#) for a list of items to gather before you start the form.

Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. You may also complete it via the new myStudentAid app for iOS and Android.

For *free* help with the FAFSA, see [FAFSA Tools](#) at EducationQuest.org or call EducationQuest to make an appointment: Omaha – 888.357.6300, Lincoln – 800.303.3745, Kearney – 800.666.3721, or Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

Apply to your top college choices

If you attend one of nearly 200 Nebraska high schools holding *Apply2College* events this fall, you'll get help (or already have) with your applications. If not, [here are steps](#) you should take to apply.

Retake the ACT and/or SAT. Colleges use your best scores for college admission and scholarships.

Get serious about applying for scholarships. See [Schol-](#)

[arshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships and a list of national search sites.

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

Review [College Profiles](#) at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the [Midwest Student Exchange Program](#) to learn about tuition discounts.

Meet with college representatives who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.

Once you've narrowed your choices, schedule campus visits. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session.

For more tips, see the [Selecting a College section](#) at EducationQuest.org.

November "To Do" List

Seniors...complete these tasks in November to stay on the path to college:

___ Complete the [FAFSA](#).

___ Apply to your top college choices.

___ [Register](#) by November 2 for the December 2 SAT.

___ [Register](#) by November 3 for the December 9 ACT.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDS AT 2:00 AM
NOVEMBER 4TH, 2018**



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

NO SCHOOL

November 21 & 22



Getting Involved—Around the Community



Junior Hawk Basketball: We are excited to announce that we will once again be participating with Chadron Recreation with Hay Springs Girls and Boys basketball in grades 3-6. Practices will be held in Hay Springs probably starting in Mid November and will happen every Tuesday/Thursday after High School practices are finished. Our first games will be held in December and occur each weekend through January except through the Holidays. Sign-ups are happening now so if your son/daughter is interested please call Jim Varvel at (308)320-4445. If you are interested in helping with this program don't hesitate to contact me at the number above. Go Junior Hawks!

4H Fun

by Melissa Mracek



4-H Registration is Open!

Interested in joining 4-H? Enrollment for the 2018-2019 year is now open! Below are some easy steps to help you get enrolled.

1. Visit ne.4honline.com.
2. Click create a new family profile. Select Sheridan County, enter your email address family name, and password. The password must include 8 characters including one capital letter and symbol.
3. Complete your family profile by adding your address and phone number.
4. Then select add youth from the dropdown menu and select Add Member.
5. Add all of the youth information that has asterisk areas.
6. Read through the waivers and select yes or no and type your signature.
7. The Health Information is optional but needs to be completed if youth are planning on attending camp, state, or national event. We would like you to complete if allergic or if have any health issues we may need to be aware of.
8. Add a club from the drop down menu. If in more than one club you can add them all and just select which one as your primary club.
9. Add a project. You can add as many projects as you would like.
10. In the invoice section you can select to use a credit card or send in cash or a check. For Clover Bud members (ages 5 to 7) are free.

November Baking Basics

The next session of Baking Basics will be on November 30th starting at 9 am and will end at 3 pm. The youth will continue to work on their sewing projects. For the cooking project they will experiment with ways to make coffee cake healthier. The fee for the workshop is \$10. Please register by November 26th by contacting Melissa Mracek at 308-327-2312 or mmracek2@unl.edu.

Music Notes

By Raime Varvel



CALLING ALL SINGERS! We will once again be having a community choir for the Nights, the Lights and Music concert. Rehearsals began on Sunday, October 28th from 6:30-8:00 pm in the music room. Mrs. Jungck will again be our fearless leader! Spread the word and bring a friend!

Please join us in honoring our veterans at our Veterans Day Program on Thursday, November 8th at 10:30 am.

High School Band is going to spend the week of December 10th-13th playing a big game of BAND BINGO! Each high school band member will be submitting an audition for Class D All State Band held in Kearney in February. In an attempt to get them prepared for this audition, students will receive a BINGO card that has many performance opportunities around the school, home and community. If a student asks to play for you, please sign the corresponding box on their BINGO card. Hopefully you see (and hear) these kids out and about trying to fill up their BINGO cards. Students who fill 5 slots on their sheet will receive a pop; those who get a blackout will receive a pizza party the following week.



The high school band continues to prepare for our trip to Branson, MO at the end of May 2019, where we will have the opportunity to be the opening act for one of the professional theaters in Branson (we are hoping for the Haygoods), as well as do some sightseeing. There are monthly bake sales at Security 1st Bank (our next one will be on Friday, November 16th); as well as music students working concession stands at home sporting events. Thanks to all who have been so supportive and generous through these fundraisers!

Upcoming dates:

- Veteran's Day Program ~ Thursday, November 8th @ 10:30 am
- The Night, The Lights and Music (7th-HS) ~ Friday, December 7th @ 7:30pm
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade Christmas Program ~ Monday, December 17th @ 7pm
- *Kindergarten, 4th, 5th & 6th grade will have a concert in the Spring.

Weather can change quickly and winter is fast approaching!

Please keep a close eye on the weather and make sure your child has a hat, gloves, and coat with them each day! Please make sure you are signed up for the Parent/Student Notices on Remind!



ONE ACT PREVIEW

By Coach Mr. Bounous

The Hay Springs One Act play team will be performing the romantic comedy "The Blind Date" by Forrest Musselman. We will be competing at the Panhandle Conference competition on Friday, November 16 in Crawford. The district competition will be held on November 27th in Hyannis. The evening public performance will be November 20th at 7 pm. The performance for the school will be November 26th at 3:15 pm. Free will donations are welcome.

KEEP
CALM
WE'RE
JUST
ACTING

Jr. High Volleyball Wrap-up

By Coach Marx

Another season has come to a close and it was sure exciting! Not only did our A Team come away with an 8-4 record, but we also came home with some medals. We were able to get into the Hemingford Junior High Invite when another team was unable to attend and ended up placing second out of eight teams. It was a long, but oh so exciting day! Our B Team girls were 4-4 to finish the season and I couldn't be prouder of all their hard work and improvements! There were even a couple games where their serving percentage was higher than the older girls, and both percentages were above 85%, which is so exciting!! Every game both teams were always very high and our whole team average was between 80-90% for almost every game.

As a coach it is so rewarding when I can see the girls' confidence in their skills grow, especially when they finally master something. There was so much of that this year between a large group of younger girls and everyone being willing and excited to learn something new. Like always, I'm sad to see the season come to an end and have the 8th graders all move on. But I'm also so excited to see what they can do at the next level as well as what my 6th & 7th graders can do as a team again next year. We are also looking forward to Midnight Madness this spring as a final opportunity to play together.

JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL WRAP-UP

By Coach Ehrman



The Hay Springs Junior High Hawks finished the football season with flying colors and a 4-2 record, much better than just a season ago. We welcomed the new 7th graders to the team and never looked back. Coach Becker and I were extremely happy with the efforts and skills that each new player brought to the field. We had a very good group of boys that took in all the new information and had some great input and feedback for us as well. The returning 8th graders brought back some great experience to the team and they set great examples for our younger players. They will be missed next year, but we look forward to seeing them on the high school field to continue the success of the high school team. Coach Becker and I would like to thank all the parents and fans for their continued support. It is great to see the following that we have, as even the away games can feel like home when we hear the cheers from our crowd.



Hawks

We are proud of you!!

Junior High Girls Basketball Preview

By Coach Kudrna

The Junior High Girls Basketball team will consist of ten girls from grades sixth through eighth. They are very excited about the season and we have been working hard on fundamentals. I am expecting great leadership out of my eighth graders! We are looking forward to our first game on Saturday, November 3rd in Sioux County.



**GO BIG
GREEN!**



Seniors be sure to get your FAFSA filled out. Be sure to check your email and the Scholarship Tab regularly for Scholarship updates.

Café'teria News

By Mrs. Kozal and Mrs. Young

Invite a veteran to lunch on Thursday, November 8th, 2018.

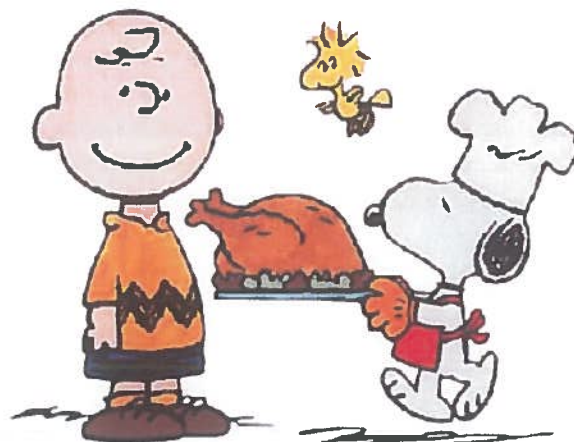
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Please contact the Office at 638-4434 and let them know that you are coming by November 5th, 2018

Thanksgiving Dinner November 20th, 2018: Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m.

Our Turkey dinner is tender and delicious. We usually feed an additional 100 people for this meal. It is very important that you call the school by November 13th, 2018 to let us know you are eating with us. Once the desserts and turkey are made there is no way we can make more if we run out.

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

November 8th –	Veteran's Day
November 20th –	Thanksgiving Dinner
December 20th –	Christmas Dinner
January 31st –	Super Bowl
February 14th –	Valentines Day
March 18th –	St. Patrick's Day
April 18th –	Father's Day
May 13th –	Mother's Day



Library News

Mrs. Matthews

Looking for Volunteer Workers

Our milk crate seating in the library is so popular that we have purchased the materials to make some more. Now we are looking for some volunteers and some additional tools. Here is the plan:

1. Sand the board so there are not sharp corners. **NEEDED:** volunteers with sanders or sandpaper
2. Attach the fabric and foam to the boards. **NEEDED:** volunteers with heavy duty staplers
3. Attach the cleats to the bottom of the boards so they stay in place. **NEEDED:** volunteers with drills and screw bits

Join us on Sunday, November 11 at 2:00.

Common Sense Media

www.common sense media.org

Common Sense Media is a valuable resource for parents as well as teachers. Common Sense Media has been my source for Digital Citizenship curriculum for many years. They have a KG-12 curriculum with appropriate topics for each grade. They also update their curriculum, adding new pieces and deleting old pieces. They have just finished redoing the Grade 3-5 materials and are working on the other grades. The curriculum includes lesson plans, student worksheets, videos, and posters.

In addition to their Digital Citizenship materials they also have review sites for books; music; movies and TV shows; apps, games, and websites. The reviews are from parents and kids. The reviewers don't always agree, so there are many differing opinions.

Movies

The review for Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween. CCM say age 8+, parents say 10+, and kids say 9+. In addition to age they also give information about Educational Value, Positive Messages, Positive Role Models & Representations, Violence & Scariness, Sexy Stuff, Language, Consumerism, and Drinking, Drugs, & Smoking. A section called "What Parents Need To Know" sums up some of these topics and explains some in more detail.



THANK YOU!!

**Our Scholastic
Book Fair added
47 titles to our library**



Thank you for your support.

Annual Food Drive

Pre-K through 12th Grade

Sponsored by Student Council



Classroom Contest

(number of non-perishables divided by number of students in the class)

ML and HS Classrooms as follows:

6th – Mrs. Marcy

7th – Ms. Garrett

8th – Ms. Kudrna

9th Grade – Mrs. Young

10th – Ms. Bila

11th – Mrs. Shimek

12th – Mr. Bounous

Paper products are welcome

You can begin bringing items at any time!

Contest ends **December 6, 2018.**

NO expired products please

Do not separate packaged items (i.e ramon noodles, these count as one item)



FEES/PRICE LIST

ADMISSION PRICES AND PARTICIPATION FEES

	2017-2018	2018-2019
Varsity Events		
Adult	5.00	5.00
Senior Citizen	3.00	3.00
Student (K-12)	3.00	3.00
Pre-Kindergarten	FREE	FREE
JV or Jr. High Event		
Adult	3.00	3.00
Senior Citizen	3.00	3.00
Student (K-12)	3.00	3.00
Pre-Kindergarten	FREE	FREE
Passes (Family Pass includes: Parents and students 0-12th grades residing in the same household.)		
Family Pass	100.00	100.00
Adult Pass	40.00	40.00
Student Pass (K-12)	30.00	30.00
Participation Fees (includes free admission to home activities)		
High School	65.00	75.00
Middle School	55.00	65.00

LUNCH PRICES

	2017-2018	2018-2019
Hot Lunch Meal or One Trip Salad Bar		
Adult	3.50	3.65
6 th – 12 th Grades	3.25	3.25
PK-5 th Grades	2.75	2.75
Breakfast PK-12th Grades	1.50	1.50
Seconds/Extras		
Main Dish	1.00	1.00
Salad Bar Only	2.00	2.00
Dessert	.50	.50
Milk	.40	.40

OTHER FEES

	2017-2018	2018-2019
Copies		
Black & White	.50	.50
Color Copies	1.00	1.00
Faxes		
1-Page	2.00	2.50
Telephone		
Local	FREE	FREE
Long Distance	1.00	1.00
Lamination		
Any width	\$2.00/linear foot	\$2.00/linear foot



988170 Nebraska Medical Center • Omaha, NE 68198-8170 • 1-800-222-1222 • www.NebraskaPoison.com

Serving Nebraska, Idaho, Wyoming, American Samoa, and Federated States of Micronesia

Be safe in the Season of Fall

Carbon Monoxide (CO): Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless dangerous gas. It can be produced by:

- ✦ Burning charcoal indoors
- ✦ Gas-fueled water heaters
- ✦ Heating a home with a gas stove
- ✦ Improperly functioning gas furnace
- ✦ Vehicle exhaust
- ✦ Wood stoves

CO can mimic other illnesses such as the stomach flu or food poisoning. Early symptoms are headache and feeling sick to your stomach and/or vomiting. Other symptoms can also include drowsiness and dizziness. Always keep a CO detector in your home.

Antifreeze: Antifreeze is available as radiator antifreeze (often contains ethylene glycol) or windshield wiper solution (contains methanol). Both are highly toxic substances.

- ✦ The colors and sweet taste may be attractive to young children.
- ✦ Keep antifreeze products out of the reach of children.
- ✦ Always keep antifreeze in its original container and stored in locked cabinets.

Halloween: The Nebraska Regional Poison Center wishes you a happy and safe Halloween. Listed below are Halloween tips for parents with youngsters.

- ✦ Check treats thoroughly before allowing children to eat them.
- ✦ Check wrappers for holes, tears and signs of rewrapping or tampering.
- ✦ Throw away unwrapped candy or fruits if the source is unknown.
- ✦ Be watchful of glow sticks and jewelry. If one breaks, avoid skin, mouth and eye contact.
- ✦ If your children use make-up rather than a mask, watch out for possible skin irritation, such as a rash or itching. If this occurs, remove the make-up immediately and thoroughly cleanse the area with soap and water.
- ✦ Dress children in light-colored clothing, short enough to prevent tripping and apply reflective tape for added safety.
- ✦ Carry a flashlight after dusk and watch for cars. Try to finish before dark.
- ✦ An adult should accompany young children and Halloween visits should be limited to familiar, local neighborhoods.
- ✦ Make sure children can see well enough through facemasks to prevent falls.
- ✦ Dry ice can be used in punch bowls but should not be used in individual glasses. Frostbite can occur if skin comes into contact with dry ice.

*Call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 and talk immediately to a
Registered Nurse or Pharmacist 24/7/365*



NOVEMBER 2018



Hay Springs School Cafeteria

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Menus are subject to change without notice.				1 Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza Lunch: Chicken Enchilada Bake	2	3
4 Breakfasts include: cereals/and cereal bars/ yogurt/cheese	5 Breakfast: Omelets & Breakfast Ham Lunch: Turkey Sub/BLT Wrap/Chips	6 Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Lunch: Spaghetti/Garlic Bread	7 Breakfast: Sliders Lunch: Burritos/Chicken Queso/Tots	8 Breakfast: Pancake On A Stick Veterans Day Lunch: Beef To School & Noodles/Mashed Potato & Dessert	9	10
11 Fruit and Veggie bar is available each school day	12 Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza Lunch: Variety of Soups/Bread Stick	13 Breakfast: Dutch Waffles & Sausage Patty Lunch: Breaded Beef Patty/Mashed Potato & Gravy	14 Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwich Lunch: Chicken Fajita/Chicken Nuggets/Churro	15 Breakfast: Breakfast Burritos Lunch: Beef To School Burgers/Chicken Patty/Fries	16	17
18	19 Breakfast: Cinnamon Rolls Lunch: Corn Dogs/Mini Corn Dogs/Baked Beans	20 Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Turkey, Mashed Potato, Dessert Thanksgiving Dinner	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23	24
25	26 Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy Lunch: Chili/Corn Bread/Dessert	27 Breakfast: Omelets & Danish Lunch: Mandarin Orange Chicken/Rice	28 Breakfast: Breakfast Casserole Lunch: Tator Tot Casserole/Green Beans	29 Breakfast: Waffles/Sausage Patty Lunch: Sloppy Joes/Hot Dog	30	
Notes: Thank you goes out to Sheridan County Livestock and Judd Hoos for donating beef to our School Breakfast and Lunch Program. Thank you to Security First Bank (processing), BNSF Railroad 2 Freezers, Russ & Sue Lechtenberg 1 freezer, Sandhills State Bank \$100, Greg Heiting & Brian Forney (Transporation)						
Lunch menu choices available each day is: PBJ/Nacho Bar/Pizza						

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				JH WR @ G/R 1pm	*HS FB Quarter Finals State Playoff vs Spalding 4pm 1 Teacher In- service	JH G/BB @ Sioux Co. 10 am JH WR @ Scottsbluff 10 am 3
Daylight Saving Time Ends 4	5	6	7	Veteran's Program 10:30 am Auditorium JH WR @ Hemingford 12pm 8	HS FB Semi Finals TBA 9	JH G/BB @ Hemingford 10 am JH WR @ Chadron 9am 10
Veterans Day 11	12	Picture Retake Day 13	"HAWK TALK" 14	*JH G/BB vs G/R 4pm National Guard Humvee Program 15	HS FB State @ Kearney Music Bake Sale @ SFB 16	JH WR @ Alliance 9am PANCO One Act @ Crawford TBA 17
	*JH G/BB vs St. Agnes 5pm 18	Thanksgiving Dinner 19	Thanksgiving Break 20	Thanksgiving Break 21	22	23
25	26	JH WR @ Bayard 9am One Act Districts TBA 27	28	JH WR @ Bennet Co. 4pm *JH G/BB vs. Cody-Kilgore 5pm 29	HS G/B BB @ Cody-Kilgore 3pm 30	24

NOVEMBER

NOTES:

PLEASE RSVP FOR VETERAN'S DAY BY NOV. 5TH AND

THANKSGIVING DINNER BY TUESDAY, NOV 13TH.

***BOLD** = HOME GAMES

GO HAWKS!



November 2018
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Elementary School Parents[®]

Hay Springs Public Schools

make the difference!



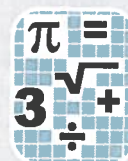
Five strategies to give your child's vocabulary a boost!

Readng at home is one of the best ways to boost your child's vocabulary. That's because reading exposes your child to new ideas, concepts and words.

Here are five effective strategies that will help you increase your child's vocabulary:

1. **Read different kinds of books** to your child. If you usually read fiction, go to the library and get a book that explains how something works instead. Check out a book about a sport or activity your child enjoys. Or, read a biography about a person she admires.
2. **Look for words** your child might not know as you read. "It says here that George Washington went to school to become a *surveyor*. What do you think that word means?"
3. **Listen for new words** as you're watching TV. News programs often include words your child may not know. "Have you ever heard the word *tsunami* before? Let's look it up to see what it means."
4. **Pull out the thesaurus.** Find synonyms for words your child uses often when writing or speaking.
5. **Help your child create her own dictionary.** All you need is a notebook with a page for each letter. When your child discovers a new word that she wants to remember, have her write it and its definition in the notebook. Review those words from time to time.

Help your child have some fun with fractions!



Understanding fractions can be a challenge for some children. To help your child learn

fractions, have fun with hands-on activities like these:

- **Measure up.** Give your child measuring spoons and cups. Have him pour one cup of water into one glass. Then have him guess: How many half cups will it take to fill another glass the same size? How many quarter cups or third cups?
- **Take a fraction walk.** Have your child count how many cars you pass. Then figure how many (what fraction) of them are a certain color. Take turns choosing a color and seeing who has the largest fraction.
- **Change that recipe.** Ask your child to rewrite the amount of each ingredient to double the recipe or cut it in half.
- **Eat your fractions.** Give your child 12, 24 or 36 pieces of cereal. Let him divide them into halves, fourths, etc. Or, share a pizza and ask some questions. If the pizza is cut into 12 slices, how many slices equal one-half or one-third of the pizza?

Model the respectful behavior you'd like to see from your child



Being respectful is critical to success in school and life. However, when it comes to teaching your child about respect, the idea isn't to *teach* her at all. It's to *show* her. By demonstrating what respect looks like, you'll go a long way toward helping your child become respectful.

Here are some simple ways to demonstrate respect every day:

- **Be honest.** Tell your child the truth. Admit your mistakes instead of blaming others for them. Apologize (even to your child) when you are wrong.
- **Be dependable.** If you tell your child you'll do something, do it. Earn her respect by proving that you're reliable. And when you can't do something, be honest about it.
- **Be kind.** Don't insult or belittle your child when she makes a mistake.
- **Be fair.** Don't pass judgment on your child or punish her for something before learning all the facts. Show respect by taking the time to get her side of the story.
- **Be polite.** Say *please*, *thank you* and *excuse me* when talking to your child. Don't barge into her room, either. Knock first.

"The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life."

—Richard Bach

Celebrate Geography Awareness Week with learning activities



You probably remember filling in the locations of countries and continents on blank maps when you were in school.

But geography is about much more than maps. It's about how places shape people and how people shape places.

Help your child celebrate Geography Awareness Week (Nov. 11-17) with these learning activities:

- **Look it up!** When you and your child hear a news story about an unfamiliar place, locate it on a map. Then, challenge each other to learn a few facts about the location and the people who live there.
- **Go on a virtual trip.** Visit your library and check out books about a country you and your child would like to visit. Together, research fun things to do on your "trip."
- **Explore your community.** Help your child discover why your town is located where it is. Who first settled there? How are you and your child connected to the rest of the world?
- **Make a map.** Challenge your child to draw a map of how to get from your house to school, church or a friend's. Then, follow the map.
- **Share family history.** Tell your child where your ancestors came from. Find these places on a map. If possible, learn about the routes your ancestors traveled when they came to this country. Where do your relatives live now? Again, check the map.

Do you let your child take charge of homework?



In homes everywhere, parents and kids argue about homework. To avoid conflict, some parents simply do the homework for their children!

Are you making sure your child takes responsibility for homework? Answer *yes* or *no* to each question below to find out:

- ___ 1. Have you told your child that homework is his responsibility? You offer support, but don't do the work.
- ___ 2. Does your child have a regular study time every day? Does he do schoolwork during that time?
- ___ 3. Do you give your child some choice in *how* he does homework, such as choosing which subject to tackle first?
- ___ 4. Do you look over your child's homework to see that it's finished?
- ___ 5. Do you contact the teacher if your child faces regular struggles with homework?

How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean your child is taking responsibility for homework. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

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Parents
make the difference!

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Eliminate morning 'rush hour' with routines, games & themes



In many families, "rush hour" begins before anyone even walks out the door:

Your child doesn't have time for breakfast. He may race out the door while leaving homework and school supplies behind. And even then, he may miss the bus.

If this sounds familiar, it's time for you to develop a new morning "traffic pattern." To tame the chaos:

- **Prepare for the day the night before.** Help your child make his lunch and pick out his school clothes. Have him make sure his backpack and other items are ready to go and by the door.
- **Help your child figure out how much time he really needs in the morning to get ready.** Tell him it is his responsibility to set his alarm clock—and get up when it goes off.
- **Use charts and checklists.** Post a list of all the steps your child must take to get ready in the morning: brush teeth, brush hair, get dressed, make the bed. Post another checklist of things that need to go to school. If it's Tuesday, where's the library book? If it's Wednesday, does your child have his shoes for gym?
- **Make it a game.** Try playing Beat the Clock. If it took 20 minutes for your child to get to the kitchen for breakfast yesterday, can he do it in 18 minutes today? Let's be honest. Some kids are late because they dawdle.
- **Create fun breakfast themes—**Waffle Wednesday, Fruity Friday, etc. Having a schedule takes the guesswork out of breakfast and may motivate your child to actually sit down and eat!

Take advantage of opportunities to strengthen thinking skills



To develop your child's thinking skills, challenge him to apply concepts he's learned to various situations. A child who

has learned to count, for example, can get out the correct number of plates when setting the table.

Help your child strengthen his thinking skills in common elementary school subjects, such as:

- **Language arts.** Before, during and after reading, encourage your child to ask and answer questions that start with *What*, *Why* and *What if*. "What do you think the character will do?" "Why is the character doing that?" "What if the character had made a different decision?"
- **Math.** Challenge your child to catch mistakes. For example, you might count by twos and say, "2, 4, 6, 7." Can he figure out what's wrong? Do activities together that involve building and sorting. "Let's build a tiny model of our car." "Can you help me reorganize this shelf of canned food?"
- **Science.** Watch nature programs and read books about nature. Encourage your child to use what he learns. "The leaves are falling off that tree. What's that type of tree called?" "The flowers we planted last year grew back. Are they *annuals* or *perennials*?" "Look at that fly. Do flies have four wings or two?"

Q: Last year, my daughter put off her science project until the very last minute. She finished it on time, but stressed out our entire family in the process! What can we do to make sure this year is different?

Questions & Answers

A: Science fair projects teach students—and sometimes parents—valuable lessons. Last year, you learned what *not* to do.

Your daughter is obviously a person who can meet a deadline. So your job this year is to help her set *a lot* of deadlines before the science project is actually due.

Encourage your child to:

1. **Select her topic early.** The sooner she knows what she is going to do, the more time she will have to do it.
2. **Make a list of all the things** she will need to do to complete the project. She should include the trip to the store for supplies and the time it will take to create a display. Have her build in at least two days for the unexpected that often seems to happen.
3. **Set a deadline** for each part of the project. Make sure your child knows the consequence for missing a deadline. (If she hasn't done her work, for example, she certainly doesn't have time to watch TV.)
4. **Post the list of deadlines** in a place where you'll both see it every day. Then, as your child achieves each step, have her cross off that deadline.

If she follows these steps, your daughter will not only learn something about science this year, she'll also learn some valuable time management skills. Good luck!

It Matters: Homework & Study Skills

Preparation is key to your child's test success



Your child's teacher announces there will be a test next week. "Please start preparing now," she tells families.

What steps should you follow?

It's a good idea to:

- **Clarify what will be tested.** Have your child check with the teacher to find out what the test will cover. She should also find out what kind of test it will be (fill in the blanks, multiple choice, etc.).
- **Make a plan.** Studying works best when it's done over time—not at the last minute. Help your child schedule several study sessions and write them on the calendar.
- **Think of ways to reinforce the material.** Your child could make flash cards or take a practice test. You could quiz each other on the material.
- **Encourage good habits.** In addition to doing homework and studying, your child needs rest and nourishment to do her best in school. A regular bedtime and healthy meals go a long way!
- **Make attendance a priority.** It's hard for students to keep up when they miss school or arrive late. Reduce stress on test day by making sure your child gets to school on time.
- **Ease anxiety.** Make plenty of positive comments. "You are prepared for this test. You're going to do great on it!" There's no need to pressure your child. Support and preparation are all she needs!

Five ways to make the most of your child's report card

Report card time can make parents almost as nervous as students. Is your child on track? Is he learning what he needs to know? Are you doing all you can to support him in school?

Use your child's report card as an opportunity to review his progress in school and talk about your expectations. Be sure to:

1. **Take it seriously.** A report card can't tell you everything about how your child is doing, but your child's teacher spends a lot of time making sure that the report card shows a snapshot of where your child is now. Read it carefully.
2. **Remain calm**—especially if your child's grades weren't what you'd expected. Wait until you can talk calmly about what you and your child can do to improve his grades.
3. **Find something to praise.** Did your child earn a higher grade in math than he did last year? Did the



teacher make positive comments about his behavior or work habits?

4. **Let your child know** what you expect. Say things like, "You don't have to be the best. But I do expect you to do your best." Remind him that effort is as important as ability.
5. **Contact the teacher** if you or your child has any questions about his report card.

Stay involved and review your child's homework every day



Homework is a vital link between home and school. In addition to helping students master concepts, homework gives parents a sneak peek into what their children are learning in school.

Experts say that reviewing your child's homework is important no matter what grade she is in—even if you don't understand it. Your daily interest sends the message that learning is important.

Be sure to:

- **Set aside time every day** to look at your child's homework. Even if you're not at home when your child does her homework, always ask to see it.
- **Ask your child** to tell you about her homework. What did she like best about an assignment? Was it easy or was it challenging?
- **Praise your child's effort.** Compliment homework that is completed and neat.

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Hay Springs Public Schools

Show your child strategies for reading different types of material

Reading a novel in language arts and reading a science textbook require different skills. When your child is reading to learn in a subject such as math, social studies or science, suggest that she use these strategies:

- **Before reading.** Even before she opens the book, have your child think about what she already knows about the topic. She can jot down a few notes to get her mind going.
- **During reading.** Your child should highlight, underline or write down important information. Have her write down questions she has about what she is reading.
- **After reading.** Encourage your child to summarize what she has read. If she is confused about something, have her go back and reread that section. Then, she can try to connect what she's read to something she already knows.



Venn diagrams help your child make comparisons

Venn diagrams are graphic organizers that your child can use to clarify the similarities and differences she comes across while reading. All she needs is a pencil and paper. Then she should:

1. **Draw** two overlapping circles.
2. **Write** the similarities between the objects she's comparing (such as two characters) in the overlapping section.
3. **Write** the differences in the sections that do not overlap.



Try biographical nonfiction

Many kids stick with fiction when choosing books at the library. But don't overlook biographies and autobiographies! They're exciting because the stories are true. Explain that to your child. Then ask, "Who would you like to learn about?" Look for books about that person's life.



Thanksgiving offers literacy opportunities

Holidays can bring more than big meals and football games on TV. They can also offer you and your child a great chance to work on literacy skills together. You can:

- **Work on writing.** In the U.S., the pilgrims observed the first Thanksgiving because they were thankful for their survival in a new land. Have your child write a list of things for which he is thankful. Post the list.
- **Read the poem** "Over the River and Through the Woods" by Lydia Maria Child with your child. It tells the story of a Thanksgiving long ago. As a family, write a story or poem about your own holiday traditions.
- **Set aside some extra time** for reading aloud. Consider delaying bedtime over the holiday to allow for a longer reading time.

Language skills improve reading

Oral language, which is made up of speaking and listening, is a vital part of your child's literacy development. Strong oral language skills go hand-in-hand with well-developed reading skills.

To hone your child's oral language skills:

- **Build** her vocabulary.
- **Model** correct grammar.
- **Ask** questions and converse daily.



Build your child's vocabulary by teaching new words naturally

You're reading a book aloud and you come to a word your child doesn't know. Should you stop, look up the word and give your child the definition? Experts say parents should try to explain the word naturally. For example:

- **Provide an easy-to-understand definition.** "Asphalt is the black stuff used to make roads."
- **Give an example of how the word is used.** "The driveway at our house is made of asphalt."
- **Suggest that your child use the word.** "I bet you can make up a sentence that includes asphalt. Go for it!"
- **Use the word repeatedly.** Over the next week and more, make a point of using the new word in conversation.



Simplify long pages of reading

Textbooks require lots of reading. If your child is intimidated by seeing many words on one page, have him use a sheet of paper to cover part of the page. This way, he'll focus on one paragraph at a time. As he reads down the page, he can move the paper down to uncover more paragraphs.



For lower elementary readers:

- ***Are You Awake?*** by Sophie Blackall. Edward isn't ready to sleep. He's curious about a lot of things! Despite his mom's answers, the questions keep coming.
- ***Flight of the Honey Bee*** by Raymond Huber. Follow Scout, a honey bee, on her journey to find a flower full of nectar. This book includes many fascinating facts about honey bees.



For upper elementary readers:

- ***I Am Jack*** by Susanne Gervay. After Jack is bullied at school, he'd rather be anywhere else but there. With the support of his family, he finds a way to prevail.
- ***Happy Happy Clover*** by Sayuri Tatsuyama. This story about a bunny's adventures is told in comic-book style, which may appeal to reluctant readers.

Ask questions to get your child thinking

When you get your child to talk about what he's reading, it boosts his memory, critical thinking and comprehension. Ask him the following questions:

- **Why did you select** this book?
- **What is it about?**
- **Where does the story** take place?
- **Who is your favorite** character?
- **What is the most interesting** part of the book to you?
- **What main idea** do you think the author was trying to get across?
- **What conflict** is important to the story?
- **Did you like** how the story ended? How would you have written it differently?
- **Does the story** remind you of other books you've read?



Q: My child picks books that are too challenging. Then she gives up after one chapter. How can I help her make better choices?

A: Choose a few books that match her reading level. (She should be able to read a full page without struggling with more than about five words.) Then,

let her pick from your selection of books. If she needs an extra boost to keep going, read part of it aloud. Consider taking turns reading to each other.

Building Readers®

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