

Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools



**May, 2017
Newsletter**

Dear parents,

When we think of times for us to reflect on how thankful we are, we might think of November. However, a month that I like to reflect on how thankful I am is the month of May. We are about to wrap up the 2016-2017 school year and there's so many people who have taken a big part in making it successful. I'm thankful for the students, teachers, staff, administration, school board members, and parents that have helped make this another great year at Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools. We have a lot to be thankful for.

This year a lot of that gratitude is directed toward our four retiring teachers who together have taught for over 160 years. I can't say enough about the sacrifices these people have made to make a great experience for the students in our school district.

For many years, our upper elementary has been anchored by Mr. Dave Rehnstrom and Mrs. Kristi Bult. These two teachers have been the staples of math and social studies in the elementary shaping young minds as they start to make that transition to junior high and high school. In the high school, Mrs. Sue Brodersen and Mr. Jerry Bult will be retiring. Mrs. Brodersen has not only taught Family and Consumer Science but has been a strong leader in our school improvement process for years and Mr. Bult has served in many coaching roles in addition to teaching math and physical education.

Our school will not be the same without those people. Our experiences shape us and these four retirees have shaped countless young minds and lives over the years. For that, we are eternally grateful.

Edward Sandford Martin said, "Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow." Yes, this is May, but the time to give thanks should be any time we feel grateful. To the retiring teachers and all of the students, teachers, staff, administrators, school board members, and parents, thank you for making this a great year to be a Wildcat!

Good luck to all the graduates! To those returning, school starts August 15. I hope you all have a relaxing summer. I can't wait for another great year.

Sincerely,

A. J. Johnson
Superintendent

PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

Corey Uldrich, 7-12 Principal

Hello everyone! The 2016-2017 school year is down to just two and a half weeks! As the year ends, let's all keep in mind that we need to finish this school year strongly and with a positive attitude. The weather is getting warmer and summer plans are on our minds. Please continue to stress to your children that attendance at school and hard work in the classroom and extracurricular activities is vital to finishing this great year we've enjoyed.

The 7-12 student class schedule for the 2016-2017 school year is complete. I have students tentatively scheduled for classes next year based on the requests they've made. Parents, you will be getting your student's class schedule and will be asked to return it with a signature. If you would like to discuss their schedule further, please indicate that on the sheet sent home. If you are fine with the classes they have chosen, a signature is all that is needed. I would like to have as many schedules finalized and completed by the end of this school year as possible, but am willing to meet with you throughout the summer if we need to discuss schedules more in depth.

I would like to take this chance to congratulate our 2017 Senior Class. I know that we have a group of talented, bright students. This is a group that will go out and do great things in our world in a variety of different areas. The seniors practice for graduation on Friday, May 5 at 9:00 a.m. Attendance at practice is mandatory, so please help to get them there. Graduation will be on Saturday, May 6, at **1:00 p.m.**

Upcoming Events:

- May 1st – Conference Golf @ Laurel (TBA)
- May 1st – Seniors' Last Day
- May 2nd – 9-12 Awards Night 7:00 p.m.
- May 3rd – Noon Dismissal for Inservice
- May 3rd – Elementary Spring Fling @ Newcastle Site 6:30 p.m.
- May 4th – Track @ Norfolk Catholic 2:00 p.m.
- May 5th – HNS JH Track Invite @ Hartington 2:30 p.m.
- May 6th – Graduation 1:00 p.m.
- May 8th – Golf @ Randolph 1:00 p.m.
- May 8th – JH Awards Program 7:00 p.m.
- May 9th – Elementary Spring Fling @ Hartington Site 7:00 p.m.
- May 11th – District Track @ Hartington 11:00 a.m.
- May 15th – District Golf @ Beemer (TBA)
- May 15th – Kindergarten Graduation @ Hartington Site 7:00 p.m.
- May 17th – Students' Last Day – Noon Dismissal (No Lunch Served)
- May 19th & 20th – State Track @ Omaha Burke
- May 23rd & 24th – State Golf @ Kearney Country Club

Please have a safe, enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you all in the fall, and we are excited about what the future holds for Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools!

Dear Parents,

As we close another year, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their outstanding efforts and dedication to HNPS. What a wonderful place to be.

Best wishes to Kristi Bult, retiring from 4th grade and Dave Rehnstrom, retiring from 5th grade on their next adventure! They will be missed by the students, staff and community of HNPS. They have left lasting memories with the children they have touched. Please keep them in your thoughts and thank them for their ongoing dedication to our children.

Thank you to the Little Cats and HNPS Booster Club members for all of your support this year! I know the future is bright with exciting new activities and partnerships that we can bring into the next school year based on all of the fun that was planned for this year.

Your children gave extraordinary effort while completing the NeSA testing for grades 3-6. I am proud of all of their efforts. The test does not always show their hard work and progress throughout the year, their character, growth in maturity and their willingness to work with others, but we know! We know we have some of the best students around and as a staff we are proud to call them “our kids!” Thank you for trying your best.

Families and friends of the community have given the elementary another successful year! The children have worked diligently and are ready to enjoy their summer activities. I cannot wait to see how they have all grown and hear about all of their summer experiences come August. The time will go quickly, so take the time to spend it with family and friends. (Oh and READ, READ, READ!)

Teachers and staff-thank you for continuing to take me under your wings. Together we will continue to build relationships and that will strengthen the culture of our schools and communities!

Have a wonderful summer.

Sarah Edwards
Elementary Principal

Please see the calendar for activities for the remainder of the year.

NEWS FROM KEN KNEIFL

Remaining ACT Dates

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 19, 2017

***Note: We will attempt to offer the John Baylor ACT Test Prep Program before each testing session. The schedule for this program in preparation for the June 10, 2017 ACT is yet to be determined.**

You may register for the ACT either online at www.actstudent.org. Mr. Kneifl has ACT Preparation booklets in his office for the students to take. The high school code for Hartington-Newcastle Public School is 281-035.

SAT Dates

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
May 6, 2017	April 7, 2017	April 21, 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017	May 19, 2017

The easiest way to register for the SAT is to go online at www.collegeboard.com. A paper registration form may be obtained from Mr. Kneifl. Again, the high school code for Hartington-Newcastle Public School is 281-035.

Students who wish to take the SAT test should be aware that we do offer the John Baylor SAT Test Prep Course. See Mr. Kneifl for further information.

2017 Graduates & Parents Notes

Graduates and parents, please take the time after graduation to write a nice thank-you to the donors of any local scholarships that you may have been awarded. I will include the payment information, names, and addresses of the scholarship(s) that the graduate has been awarded in your graduation packets. Include in your thank-you where you are going to college and what you intend to major in. These donors are very generous and this is something they do not have to do. We feel so fortunate that we have so many donors who understand the cost of college and are doing what they can to help defray the cost. Every dollar helps.

I will be sending final high school transcripts to the college that the graduate plans on attending. I will do this in the days immediately following graduation. Also two transcripts will be included in your senior packets. Please try to file these in a place that you know as you may need to access them in the future for such instances as transfer or possibly employment.

Finally best wishes to all of the graduates and their parents. If there is anything that you need from my office in the future please do not hesitate to call. Again, best wishes.

Mr. Kneifl

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

It is hard to believe after 39 years of teaching I am writing my last newsletter article! I have enjoyed celebrating many 'lasts' this year and I had a great group of students to celebrate with! Thanks, Class of 2025!

The 20 fourth grade students have agreed that fourth grade is a very busy year of school! We started off the month by going to Norfolk to see a play at the Johnny Carson Theater.

On Wednesday, April 26 the fourth graders celebrated Arbor Day with a program sponsored by the Nebraska Public Power District. Jennifer Swerczek, Energy Education Specialist, also came to talk to our class about Arbor Day. Arbor Day was first celebrated in Nebraska by J. Sterling Morton.

On Thursday, April 27 the fourth graders went to the Yankton Avera Health and Safety Fair. It was a very fun and educational morning.

We were especially happy when our NeSA Reading and Math testing was over!

On Friday, May 5 we are looking forward to spending a day as pioneer school children at the one-room school house at Combs School in rural Homer, NE. We will also spend part of the day at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Sioux City and the Floyd Welcome Center.

The 4th graders will be walking to the Cedar County Museum in May. I'm sure the students will be surprised at all the items and information there – right in our home town!

On May 9 the upper elementary will have their AR Reading celebration with a Bowling party in Yankton. It will be a fun way to celebrate reading! This class has really turned into a great group of readers – they are reading a variety of genre for the enjoyment of reading! I hope they continue to read over the summer.

We are amazed at how quickly the school year has gone! May 17 will be here before we know it!

Kristi Bult

NEWS FROM DAVE REHNSTROM

The 2016-2017 school year will soon be over. Once all the statewide (NeSA) testing is over, the fifth graders will be looking forward to four special events.

On May 8th, the fifth graders will travel to Wayne State College to take part in AquaFest. It's believed that this is the 25th year for this field trip that has been available to all fifth grade classes throughout Northeast Nebraska.

The following day, the fifth graders will travel with the fourth and sixth graders to Yankton. Students have been reading to earn AR points and the opportunity to go bowling while in Yankton.

That evening, the elementary band will be performing in this year's Spring Fling. All 20 of the fifth graders are part of the band.

Finally, the Upper Elementary Track and Field Day will be held on May 15. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in events throughout the day. Should there be inclement weather on the 15th, we will reschedule the activity for the following day.

SUMMER DR. ED. CLASSES

Driver Education Classes will begin on May 22nd. Classes are held in the Vo. Ag. Building from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon (May 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26). Classroom attendance is mandatory and there will be no make-ups. After successful completion of their classroom part, drive times will be assigned with some accommodations for family vacations and sports camps. Also, we can work out driving times for those that car pool.

After successful completion of the classroom part drive times will be assigned in groups of three through the rest of the summer until each student has logged five hours behind the wheel experience and passed a drive test. The instructor will assign the drive dates that consist of three consecutive dates and the student will have to free up those dates. Some allowance will be made for family vacations, religious camps, or sports camps, etc.

Students are eligible to take Dr. Ed. if they have reached the age of 14 by August 15, 2017. Cost of the class is \$250.00. Any questions – please call Ron Rolfes at 402-357-2130.

UPPER ELEMENTARY SCIENCE

In science, the fourth graders have just finished a unit on body systems. During this unit, they learned basic information about the skeletal, muscular, respiratory, circulatory, and nervous systems. During the nervous system section, the class tested their senses with a variety of activities.

The fifth graders are presently studying ecosystems and biomes. By the end of these units, the class will be able to describe interactions that occur within an ecosystem and identify the characteristics of each of the six major land biomes in North America.

The class will also complete a mini-unit on owls. They will finish this unit by dissecting owl pellets and then identifying the owl's prey.

During this last quarter, the sixth grade class has covered units about cells, genetics, and heredity. The class learned about dominant and recessive traits and then identified which traits they possessed. In addition to these units, the sixth graders will end the year with a unit about aerodynamics and Bernoulli's principle. This unit will be culminated with each student constructing a straw kite and then flying it.

La Donna Kneifl

NEWS FROM MR. STEVE MARTINI

After Easter, physics transitioned from the study of classical physics to the study of modern physics which basically includes the theories of relativity and quantum mechanics. We have learned why time slows down when something travels near the speed of light and how mass causes a warping of time and space. We have also learned about the weirdness that results in the world of things that are smaller than atoms which is explained by the laws of quantum mechanics.

Chemistry has been studying acids and bases as well as an introduction to organic chemistry and biochemistry. We performed the play “Bye, Bye Proton” to learn about one of the conceptual definitions of acids and bases. We learned how chemists can organize the vast number of organic chemicals into a system that can be learned more easily much like biologists organize the incredible number of species into phyla, classes, orders, etc. We learned the uses of proteins, carbohydrates, and nucleic acids.

In both physics and chemistry, time was in short supply in April and May so we could only hit the high points in many areas. Senioritis and the related disease junioritis were approaching epidemic proportions. However, learning was still occurring.

JUST A REMINDER:

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – Teacher Inservice – we will have noon dismissal.

Newcastle Preschool Hatches Seven Baby Chicks

The Newcastle Preschool class has seven new additions to their classroom! The preschool class has been studying and preparing for several chicken eggs to hatch for the last 21 days. Every day one student was in charge of coloring the countdown egg. The kids were so excited to see their patience pay off. On the 20th day of their countdown, the first cracks appeared. The next morning, there were two chicks walking around the incubator. It was super exciting for preschool as well as the other students and teachers. In the next two days, five more chicks hatched. There are three black, three yellow and one brown chick. The kids named them, Cotton Ball, Pirate, HeHe, T, Rex, Hulk and Lucky (who was born last and by egg evacuation.) They are loved by all the students and teachers and have become our cutest little distractions. It was such a cool project and the preschool class is so proud of their fuzzy little babies.