

The Knight Times

Life is a journey; Education is the roadmap and compass.



What's Inside

School Board Minutes
Revenue/Expenses
Elementary News
Guidance Counselor Info
Box Tops For Education
Monthly Calendar's

Upcoming Events

November 2

VB Sub-Districts - TBA
FFA Fruit selling begins

November 4

FB 2nd Round Playoffs
- TBA

One Act Practice
BEFORE school

ST little kids
cheerleading practice
6-7pm

November 9

DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK
JUDGING @ CURTIS

JR/SR Fin Aid night @
6:30p



FFA Fruit Sales Begin November 2nd

There is A LOT going on in the month of November. Please take a look at the district calendar. All new updates are current, and can change so check the schools website for the most current district calendar events!!



Thank you

The Halloween Party is Sunday, October 25 -- See the flyer in the newsletter

NO School for STUDENTS November 16th

NO School for Thanksgiving Break

November 26 AND 27



Kindergarten with Smokey The Bear



Sandhills FFA officers recently spent the afternoon with the elementary students teaching them about farm safety. Sandhills FFA would like to thank all of the community members who participated in the Silent Labor and Horseshoe Auction. It was a great success! Your donations allow students to attend National and State Conventions as well as many other activities throughout the year. Please keep in mind we will be handing out fruit and cheese orders on November 1st. Also this year the students will have Horseshoe order forms for a Horseshoe Christmas Tree and a Horseshoe Snowman. The Sandhills FFA Chapter would again like to thank everyone for their support.

Thanks Again,

Justin Nollette & Sandhills FFA Chapter

November 11

K-12 Veterans Day Program @

Elem - TBA

One Act after sports practice

November 12 - 14

State VB in Lincoln

November 16

Advanc-ED in-service data work

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

November 20

Jr Hi Wrestling Mullen Invite @

Mullen 11am

ST Community One Act Night &

Dinner 6pm THS

November 23

FB Final Playoffs @ Memorial

Stadium - TBA

One Act practice after school

November 25

Early Dismissal 2pm (5-12) and

1:45 (K-4)

November 26 - 27

NO SCHOOL

Thanksgiving Break

**Sandhills Public School
Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 13, 2015**

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. All board members were present except Milleson whose absence was excused. Also present were Brenda Masek, Justin Nollette, and Stephen Granger.

Verification of Publication:

Motion by Martindale, second by Bass to verify publication of minutes in the Custer County Chief. Motion passed 5-0.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Bass, second by Teahon to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

Administrative Report:

Administrative Report:

- a. Supt. Hafer discussed the following:
 1. Brenda Masek presented information from the beef boosters related to local beef in the school lunch program. Supt. Hafer will be contacting NDE for more information.
 2. Justin Nollette discussed shop equipment needs for the Ag/FFA Shop. The board authorized the purchase of welding equipment to meet those needs.
 3. Stephen Granger presented feasibility and repair cost estimates for the elementary as well as an updated plan possibility for the high school.
 4. Mr. Hafer reported the school has purchased 2 AED's with funding received from the Loup to Loup group. The school sincerely thanks the Loup to Loup road race folks for all of their effort and support.
 5. Due to daylight savings time, board meetings will be held at 6:30 pm starting 11/9/15.
 6. Mr. Hafer information the board of the district status as "Needs Improvement" related to federal accountability for NCLB and will be working with esu10 to complete necessary requirements.

S-T Coop: No report

New Business:

- a. No patrons were present to address the board.
- b. Motion by Cox, second by Martindale to approve the second reading of revised board policy 804.02 regarding Data or Records Retention. Motion passed 5-0.
- c. Motion by Teahon, second by Bass to recognize and adopt the new Math State Standards as recommended by NDE. Motion passed 5-0.
- d. Motion by Teahon, second by Martindale to authorize Supt. Hafer to advertise for bids to sell the district's house property. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. Motion by Cox, second by Bass to approve the elementary secretary / bus driver contract for Brenda Bowers. Motion passed 5-0.
- f. Board president Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Sandhills Board of Education will be 11/9/15 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the HS lecture hall and are open to the public. Agendas are kept continually current and available for inspection in the Supt.'s office during regular business hours with reasonable notice.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dale J. Hafer
Recording Secretary

Cash Receipts

Customer Name	Description	Amount
10 - Blaine Co Treas	Blaine Co Receipt	\$ 387,206.38
11 - Brown Co Treas	Brown Co Receipts	\$ 11,395.67
13 - Patrons	purchase books	\$ 83.00
15 - Western Nebraska Bank	Interest	\$ 99.26
17 - Custer Co. Treas	Custer Co Receipts	\$ 26,403.50
2 - Thomas Co Treas	Thomas Co Receipt	\$ 63,369.31
26 - Chris Christie	House Rental	\$ 750.00
3 - State of Nebraska	State of NE	\$ 104.51
3 - State of Nebraska	Medicaid	\$ 5,204.49
3 - State of Nebraska	Distance Learning	\$ 8,000.00
30 - Loup 2 Loup	Donation	\$ 2,000.00
34 - DOEP Treasury	REAP	\$ 10,000.00
4 - Broken Bow PS	MIPS Admin	\$ 211.28
5 - ESU 10	Stipends	\$ 1,300.00
7 - Douglas Co Schools	Medicad Admin	\$ 254.62
8 - Logan Co Treas	Logan Co Receipts	\$ 13,253.46
9 - Loup Co Treas	Loup Co Receipts	\$ 8,882.25
	TOTAL	\$ 538,517.73

Payee	Amount
NASB ALICAP	\$ 37,881.00
Ace Hardware	\$ 134.25
Arrow Seed	\$ 562.25
AS Central Services	\$ 227.47
Cash-Wa Distributing	\$ 464.70
CCTReal Estate LLC	\$ 150.00
CG Architects, LLC	\$ 658.00
Chadron State College	\$ 1,290.00
Christina Brown-Treer	\$ 7.50
Colorado/West Equipment, INC	\$ 49.39
Conditioned Air Mechanical Systems & Services	\$ 937.50
Consolidated Telephone	\$ 493.03
Corporate Payment Systems	\$ 1,319.12
Custer County Chief	\$ 243.07
Custer Public Power District	\$ 4,746.65
Dunning Water	\$ 349.00
ESU 10	\$ 3,064.03
Harris	\$ 2,025.00
Higher Ground	\$ 49.68
Hodges	\$ 2,032.66
Hometown Leasing	\$ 595.52
Island Supply Welding	\$ 8.40
J&J Sanitation, Inc.	\$ 686.21
John Baylor Prep	\$ 1,600.00
K C Electric	\$ 167.50
Lou's Sporting Goods	\$ 2,573.00
MCI	\$ 112.77
Mead Lumber	\$ 60.39
Mid Plains Community College	\$ 2,400.00
National Ice Beverage Cooler	\$ 85.00
Nebraska Council of School Administrators	\$ 907.00
Nebraska Link	\$ 479.01
Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laborato	\$ 15.00
Nebraska Rural Comm Schools Assn	\$ 700.00
Nebraska Safety & Fire Equipment Inc.	\$ 1,748.00
Nebraska Safety Center	\$ 225.00
Norm's Auto	\$ 2,871.92
North Platte Telegraph	\$ 166.20
Northern Agri-Services , Inc.	\$ 98.06
Operational Fund_2	\$ 182.00
PGH&G Attorneys At Law	\$ 1,134.00
Presto X Company	\$ 101.97
Quill	\$ 86.69
Sandhill Oil Company	\$ 17,682.95
School House Graphic Products	\$ 1,365.00
Simplex Time Recorder Co.	\$ 2,450.00
Think Safe	\$ 2,333.00
Thomas Co Herald	\$ 50.00
Thompson Co. (The)	\$ 393.72
Payroll and Liabilities	\$ 147,197.67
	\$ 245,160.28

Farm Safety Day at the Elementary: Presented by the FFA Officers





Art News 2015

On Thursday, September 17, five Sandhills Art Students attended the Halsey Art Workshop held at the Nebraska National Forest. Students were able to participate in two different sessions that were taught by professional artists and art teachers. Kyra Kennedy, Keesha Albrecht, Greg Schukei, Taylor Downing, and Thomas Peterson took time out of their busy week to attend.

Joan Swim, art teacher from Keya Paha, taught pencil drawing. She emphasized doing a sketchbook and using their phones to take pictures of random objects. Students picked out the best photos of their still life arrangement and did several practice drawings during the session. She also had the students go outside to take photos of shadows. They then took the photos and picked out different ones to do timed drawings from.

Linda Lacy is a professional artist from Arthur, Nebraska. She did a clay hand-building project with the students. Each student made a “Crooked House” out of clay using the slab method of hand building. She gave step-by-step directions and by the end of the session students had their own “Crooked House” that were unique with textures and details.

North Platte artist Patsy Smith shared her expertise about painting during her workshop. She had the students do an outer space painting using several acrylic painting techniques.

Cozad artist, Susan Hart, had students do a low relief sculpture using a hot glue gun and aluminum foil. Students started out with an abstract linier design. They applied layers of hot glue over the top of their line drawing to add dimension. The next step was adding aluminum foil over the top along with layers of acrylic paint for color. Susan really emphasized finding design and color ideas from magazine pictures.



Some action shots from the day!

We are now in the middle of the fall sports season, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) & the Return to Learn/Play policy has come to the forefront. All sports, not just football, have been at the center of the TBI debate. With that said, thanks to exhaustive research from multiple physicians, there is a Return to Learn/Play policy.

To help keep students safe, all coaches are required to take and pass the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) *Concussions in Sports* class year. Also, freshmen, juniors, any new student-athlete, and any student with a brain-injury history are required to take the ImPACT test, which is a test used to get a "baseline" for students prior to any brain-injury. The ImPACT test is given, free of charge, thanks to the Nebraska Sports Concussion Network.

If a student were to incur a brain injury, the student must be cleared by a doctor, as well as follow through with the Return to Learn/Play Policy, should the injury be severe enough. Also, even though a doctor may clear a student-athlete, the coach must also "clear" the athlete to play the game. Meaning, if the coach(es) feel the student-athlete is not in a proper frame of mind to participate in the upcoming event, it is ultimately up to the coaches to "clear" him/her for play.

Attached to this note, you will find the policy that both Sandhills & Thedford administration is planning on using when a student has TBI. The policy the administrations will be using comes from multiple sources, including research done by the Brain Injury Institute of Vermont & the Nebraska Sports Concussion Network. Also, you will find an informational page on concussions in sports.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call either Mr. York or Mr. Hafer at the schools.

Thank you.

RETURN TO LEARN/PLAY

Step	Progression	Description
1.	Home--Total Rest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can only handle >30 minutes of mental exertion at a time. • No computer, texting, video games, or homework. • Stay at home. • No driving.
2.	Home--Light Mental Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can handle up to 30 minutes of mental exertion. • No prolonged concentration. • Stay at home. • No driving.
3.	School--Part-time Maximum accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can handle > 60 minutes of mental exertion. • Provide a quiet place for scheduled mental rest. • No significant classroom or standardized testing. • Modify rather than postpone academics. • Provide extra time, extra help, modified assignments.
4.	School—Part-time Moderate accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can handle up to 60 minutes of mental exertion. • No standardized testing. • Modified classroom testing.

RETURN TO LEARN/PLAY

5.	School—Full-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can handle < 60 minutes of mental exertion.• No standardized testing.• Classroom testing OK.• Some modification of assignments.• May begin practice.
6.	School—Full-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend all classes.• Full homework<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-game participation.

****Note** Progression is individual, all concussions are different. Students may start at any step as symptoms dictate and remain at that step as long as needed. Return to previous step if symptoms worsen.**

CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS



WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION?

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs of a concussion:

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE:

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”

SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes



[INSERT YOUR LOGO]



DANGER SIGNS

Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. Your child or teen should be seen in an emergency department right away if s/he has:

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?

1. **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY**
A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to regular activities, including sports.
2. **KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF PLAY.**
Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play the day of the injury and until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon - while the brain is still healing - risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Repeat or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
3. **TELL YOUR CHILD'S COACH ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONCUSSION.**
Coaches should know if your child had a previous concussion. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION OR OTHER SERIOUS BRAIN INJURY?

- Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. Protective equipment should fit properly and be well maintained.
- Wearing a helmet is a must to reduce the risk of a serious brain injury or skull fracture.
 - However, helmets are not designed to prevent concussions. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for kids and teens to avoid hits to the head.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL SAFELY AFTER A CONCUSSION?

Children and teens who return to school after a concussion may need to:

- Take rest breaks as needed
- Spend fewer hours at school
- Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments
- Receive help with schoolwork
- Reduce time spent reading, writing, or on the computer

Talk with your child's teachers, school nurse, coach, speech-language pathologist, or counselor about your child's concussion and symptoms. As your child's symptoms decrease, the extra help or support can be removed gradually.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION [L➔ www.facebook.com/CDCHeadsUp](https://www.facebook.com/CDCHeadsUp)

TO LEARN MORE GO TO >> WWW.CDC.GOV/CONCUSSION

Content Source: CDC's Heads Up Program. Created through a grant to the CDC Foundation from the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).

Turn Markers



Into Energy!

Keep Loup Basin Beautiful Project Coordinator, Mary Hughes implemented a new program in our 13-county region during the 2014-15 school year. Hughes contacted 37 area schools asking them to participate in the Crayola Marker Recycling Program. This amazing new program is devised to turn used markers into energy. This program takes any kind and brand of marker.

This past school year, area students and teachers collected used markers that were ready to be discarded and collected them until the end of the school year. Hughes then traveled to all the schools to pick up the used markers.

Hughes commented "I was very pleased with how quickly all the schools embraced the marker recycling program. And I have had 4 more schools ask to be added to our list of schools participating for the 2015-16 school year! I hope to keep adding any schools in our 13-county region that would like to participate."

"I hope to see a significant increase each year in the number of pounds of markers collected in our 13-county region and keep these markers out of our landfills."

"So far this year, I have collected over 84 lbs of markers to be sent in to be recycled."

In the first year of my program, I am awarding prizes to the top three (3) schools for the largest amount of markers collected.

The winners are as follows:

1ST PLACE:

BURWELL ELEMENTARY, KATHY CURRY, School Coordinator with *24 lbs 3oz.*

PRIZE: \$50 IN CRAYOLA PRODUCTS

2ND PLACE:

SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL, LEA ESSMAN, School Coordinator with *9 lbs.*

PRIZE: \$30 IN CRAYOLA PRODUCTS

3RD PLACE:

CEDAR RAPIDS/RIVERSIDE SCHOOLS, SHARON BENNETT, School Coordinator with

PRIZE: \$20 IN CRAYOLA PRODUCTS

8 lbs. 11 oz.



EVENING DINNER THEATER

*Presented by Sandhills
& Thedford High Schools*

NOVEMBER 20 6:00 PM
THEDFORD HS GYM

Act I – **Fighting Demons** by Angela Hill
Performed by **Sandhills High School**

Soup, Salad, Baked Potato and Pie
FREEWILL DONATION MEAL

Act II - **Monster Soup** by Tim Kelly
Performed by **Thedford High School**

COME ENJOY THE EVENING WITH US!



Nursing Notes

It's time to get vaccinated for Influenza if you haven't already! Influenza (flu) is a contagious disease that is spread mainly by sneezing, coughing and close contact. Anyone can get influenza. Symptoms can include: cough, headache, runny or stuffy nose, fever/chills, fatigue, muscle aches, sore throat. Influenza is more dangerous in adults over age 65, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions or weakened immune system. A dose of flu vaccine is recommended every flu season for ages 6 months on up. It takes about 2 weeks to develop protection from the flu shot. Good handwashing is the number one way to prevent the spread of germs!

Thursday, November 19 is designated as Great American Smokeout 2015. This began in 1970 in Massachusetts when a man asked people to give up smoking for one day and donate the money saved to the local high school scholarship fund. Smoking is responsible for 1 in 3 cancer related deaths. Life expectancy for smokers is 10 years less than for non-smokers. If you are a smoker call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for support in quitting. Other websites that can help: smokefree.gov, ucanquit2.org or www.cancer.org.

In Good Health,
Lori Zutavern, RN-C
School Nurse



Smokey the Bear and Alex from the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey visited our school on October 8th.

They taught us about firefighting tools and what they are used for. All of the students were given the option to shoot the fire hose on the truck, too.



The first graders posed with Smokey, for a picture!





Twin Day



**1st Graders
celebrating
Homecoming
Week**



Color Day



Spirit Day



Sandhills Public Schools

P.O. Box 29, 107 Gandy Ave.
Dunning, NE 68833

Phone: 308-538-2224
Fax: 308-538-2228

Official Public Notice – October 19, 2015

Advertisement for Bids

The Sandhills Board of Education is accepting **SEALED BIDS** for the purpose of selling the district's property located at 312 Cowles (South 120' of lots 1, 2, & 3, Block 23, Original Town of Dunning, NE).

The house is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath dwelling with several recent updates to exterior/interior paint, heat/air, carpet, bath remodel, etc. Additionally there is a 2 car garage and smaller shed on the property as well.

Sealed Bids must be received on or before NOON December 14, 2015. Send or deliver bids to the main office at the high school, attention Supt. Dale Hafer. The bids will be opened and considered during the December 14th regular board meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. in the high school lecture hall. As per board policy 904.02, the board may decline to sell or re-advertise if bids are deemed inadequate. The property is being sold AS IS. The winning bidder must settle with payment in full on or before December 28, 2015.

The property will be available for viewing in November. Interested persons wishing to view the property must set up an appointment by contacting the main office at 308-538-2224.

The Sandhills FBLA Chapter has already been very busy this fall.

The FBLA held a bloodmobile at the Open Bible Church on August 7. Landen Hopkins was the student chairman; he was responsible for publicity, recruiting and lining up members to help with the blood drive. Thanks to his hard work and the hard work of the members, the chapter exceeded the goal set by the Red Cross.

The FBLA-FFA kickoff was held on August 20. There was a great turnout of current and prospective members. After information was shared with the students, everyone enjoyed a dinner of Pizza Hut pizza.

August 25 was highway clean up and over 20 members helped pick up trash along Highway 2. Mrs. Rogers treated all the hard workers to ice cream for their efforts.

The FBLA took a trip to Kearny on September 29 for Fall Leadership Conference. Officers and members attending were Greg Schukei, Jaylee Simonson, Jacy Hafer, Paige Martindale, Liz Peterson, Heidi Saner, Landen Hopkins, Keesha Albrecht, Amanda Payne and Kyra Kennedy. After the Nebraska State Officers covered information about the state goals, dressing for success, and the National Leadership Conference and upcoming Fall National Leadership Conference attendees were treated to a fantastic keynote speaker. Mr. Kevin Wanzer gave a fast-paced, hilarious, yet touching keynote address. Following the keynote address, they attended officer-training sessions and learned how they could better fulfill their officer positions. Members in attendance had the opportunity to have a small group presentation with the keynote speaker where he shared methods to promote a positive climate and presented a variety of ideas to help enhance building connections with our chapter members and the rest of the student body.

As a fundraiser to help raise money for us to go on trips to events like FLC and NFLC we sell Little Caesar Pizzas and Eileen's Cookies. Our top seller was Madison Stump. THANKS to everyone who supported this fund-raising effort.

Our fall blood drive was held on October 12. After a rather sluggish start to the day, we finished strong and missed the goal by a single unit. Thanks again to everyone who took time out of their day to donate. The next blood drive is scheduled for January 18, 2016—mark it down on your calendar and we will see you then!

New Venture Adventure was on the docket for six members on October 15. Members were split into groups of Retail, Service or Manufacturing businesses and the work began. Members attending were Thomas Peterson, Landen Hopkins, Kyra Kennedy, Heidi Saner, Amanda Peterson and Dixie Kennedy. After deciding on a name and a product; team members made a business plan, applied for a loan and created a business card and ad jingle. To round out the day, the teams presented to a panel of three judges and answered some very difficult questions. League champions were announced to finish out the day's activities. Thomas Peterson was on the winning team for the Retail business and Dixie Kennedy was on the Service league championship team. Way to go!

Plans are in progress for the Halloween Party that is October 25 at the Elementary School from 3:30-5:00 pm. The party is open for children pre-school through 6th grade.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and activities are planned at the high school.

Ten members and Mrs. Rogers will be attending National Fall Leadership Conference in Omaha, November 6-7.

The chapter members will also be hosting a reception for the National Honor Society Induction later in November.

Liz Peterson, Reporter

November 2015

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TESTING INFORMATION

ACT TEST DATES

October 24th register by September 18th. Sandhills is a testing site for this date.

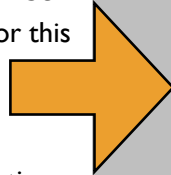
December 12th, register by November 6th. Sandhills is a testing site for this date.

February 6th, register by January 8th. Sandhills is not a testing site for this date.

April 9th, register by March 6th. Sandhills is not a testing site for this date.

Register at <http://www.act.org>.

Practice questions and tips for taking the test are also provided at this website. Testing fee is \$39.00



**Junior and Senior Parents
Plan to Attend:
Financial Aid Night
Presented by EducationQuest
Monday, November 9th @ 6:30pm
Mrs. Rodocker's Classroom**

Powerschool: <https://sandhills.powerschool.com>

Senior Scholarships

Ak-sar-ben Horatio Alger Scholarship: October 24th www.horatioalger.org/scholarships/apply.cfm

Coca-Cola Scholarship Applications: October 31st www.cocacolascholarsfoundation.org/applicants/#programs

Nebraska State College System Scholarships: Please visit the following website for instructions.
<http://www.nscs.edu/scholarships.htm>

ELKS Most Valuable Student Scholarship: December 4th <http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm>

ELKS Vocational Scholarship: December 4th

ELKS Legacy Scholarship: January 29th <http://www.elks.org/ENF/scholars/legacy.cfm>

This is not a complete list of scholarships that are available. These are the ones that the school has received notification of. Scholarship searches are available online for further assistance. Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance!



Sandhills Public Schools

P.O. Box 29, 107 Gandy Ave.
Dunning, NE 68833

Phone: 308-538-2224
Fax: 308-538-2228

October 20, 2015

Dear Parents,

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) requires that all states create high academic standards for the core areas of reading, writing and math. The goal of NCLB is for every student to meet or exceed these standards by the school year 2014. The measure of annual progress toward these standards is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is based primarily on the results of the Nebraska state assessments given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance/dropout rate, to make AYP.

In addition to measuring each school, NCLB also requires the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to annually review the progress of each school *district*. Based on Nebraska State testing results, Sandhills Public Schools was identified by the NDE as a district in need of improvement for the 2015-16 school year. A district is identified for improvement if it meets this criterion:

Does not make AYP in all grade spans within the district--elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12)--for two consecutive years in either content area of math or reading, considering all eligible student subgroups. Overall, Sandhills students have scored well on assessments. But, due to the 100% proficient requirement of the Federal Accountability under NCLB, the district falls short even though 80% & 87% of students in reading and 80% & 77% of students in math proved proficient in 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. In addition, Sandhills did have subgroups who met 100% proficiency. We are proud of our students and teachers efforts. To be removed from the district improvement status, the district must meet the grade span achievement standards for two consecutive years. If you would like to compare achievement scores in the district to others across the state, you may access the information on the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) *State of the Schools Report* at <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov>.

As a Title 1 district identified in need of improvement, Sandhills Public Schools is required to communicate the district improvement plan strategies specifically addressing the teaching and learning needs of low-achieving students. The goals and strategies identified in the plan intentionally focus on optimizing instruction for all learners using researched based practices with on-going professional learning for staff. Sandhills Public Schools is dedicated to providing all students with a quality education that prepares them to be career and college ready.

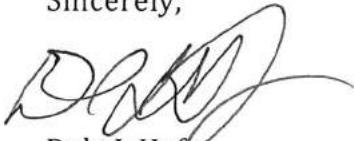
Sandhills Elementary is also identified as a school in Need of Improvement. According to 2014-2015 state student assessment (NeSA) results Sandhills Elementary is in Year 1 of Title I in Need of Improvement for the 2015-2016 schoolyear under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. We are required to meet reading and math goals of 100% proficient in multiple subgroups in order to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). If one of these subgroup goals is not met, the school is labeled as not meeting AYP. In 2014-2015, we did not meet AYP in 2 subgroups in Reading and 2 subgroups in Math.

The identification of being in Year 1 of Title I school improvement for the elementary school requires Sandhills to offer Public School Choice. However, because Sandhills is the only elementary school in our district there is no transfer option available to our students.

You are encouraged to contact the district office for further information on any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in school improvement efforts. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. Participating in parent/teacher conferences, attending parent/family nights and providing "at home" strategies to support reading and math learning are also key to supporting the home/school partnership. We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year. Also, please read the accompanying letter by NDE Commissioner Dr. Matt Blomstedt who does an excellent job of pointing out the issues with this unreasonable rating imposed on the Federal Level which is tied to district Title I funding. We appreciate NDE's and Dr. Blomstedt's support recognizing our district is doing good work and is committed to serving our district's children.

Please contact me should you have questions or concerns regarding this matter. We are happy to assist you and discuss our ongoing continuous improvement efforts to educate children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hafer', written in a cursive style.

Dale J. Hafer
Superintendent/Principal

www.education.ne.gov
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987
TEL 402.471.2295
FAX 402.471.0117



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

To: Parents and Caregivers
From: Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education
Subject: Nebraska's Commitment to Every Student, Every Day
Date: September 28, 2015

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), was passed in 1965 during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration as part of the War on Poverty. The act emphasized equal access to education, established high standards and accountability, and authorized federally funded education programs administered by individual states. Congress amended ESEA in 2002 and reauthorized it as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The law was scheduled to be reauthorized in 2007; to date Congress has not taken the necessary steps to update this law. In recent months, both the Senate and Congress have passed their versions of what they believe should be included in reauthorization of the ESEA. The next step is for members of both the Senate and Congress to form a Conference Committee to come up with a single plan for reauthorization. It is anyone's guess whether ESEA will actually be reauthorized by the end of this year.

When states and districts agree to accept federal funds, there are strings attached. Attached to NCLB Title I funding is the stipulation to have statewide assessments and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) decisions for every public school in the state. Under NCLB, the proficiency goal for school year 2014-15 for reading and mathematics assessments was set at 100%. According to the NCLB rules, every student - regardless of disabilities, English language proficiency, or other life-impacting circumstances -- must be proficient in reading and math as measured by state assessments. Because of this unrealistic goal, a number of Nebraska schools will be unfairly labeled as *Not Met* or *In Need of Improvement*.

The Nebraska Department of Education does not agree with the current federal policy. I do not believe that all of our schools are low performing. In fact, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has granted waivers from the unrealistic expectations of NCLB. Common sense tells us that one child in one grade in one subject area scoring just below a "proficiency cut score" should not brand an entire school community as failing. Yet that is exactly what has happened under NCLB. As a result of this faulty logic, some schools or districts in Nebraska have not met the NCLB requirement for the 2014-15 school year.

In April, 2015, Nebraska submitted a request to the USDE, for waivers from several of the NCLB requirements. NDE has had follow-up conversations with USDE staff, but to date no formal response has been received. This means that for the 2014-15 school year, all NCLB requirements must be followed. NDE was hopeful that some of the requirements, such as the 100% proficiency goals for

reading and math could be waived, but our real hope is that reauthorization takes place very soon, so that all states will be relieved of the unrealistic and harsh consequences of the current law.

Nebraska educators are committed to each and every young person reaching his or her full potential and we are proud of the significant academic progress of our students. While not all students have reached proficiency, the use of targeted resources to assist struggling students and schools has had an impact which is seen in performance data not taken into account by NCLB. Our students, staff members, and schools are not failures. By many measures, they are demonstrating unprecedented levels of achievement. We continue to strive for improvement and excellence in our public schools.

We are committed to continuous improvement. Gains in student achievement are due to the collaborative efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and community members through high-quality instruction, effective leadership, and partnerships. We know that tests are an important part of teaching and learning, but we also understand that basing a student's achievement on a single assessment does not capture everything that is important for our children's learning journey.

As a state, our biggest challenge is finding better ways to engage and support the learning of every student, every day. Nebraska continues to develop and refine a system for Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT). The State Board of Education believes that Nebraska citizens—through the Constitution, the Nebraska Legislature, the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and other policy makers—are responsible for the total design of this education system. While acknowledging that this education system will be influenced by others, (federal government, other state leaders, and local policy makers) this system will be dependent on and driven by local boards of education, administrators, teachers, parents, communities, and students. This belief requires that we listen well, communicate better, and engage leaders and stakeholders across the state. The goal is to build a quality accountability system that is meaningful to Nebraska. The AQuESTT system focusses on six tenets which are part of two broader principles. We believe that each tenet is equally important.

STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACCESS

Positive Partnerships, Relationships, & Student Success
Transitions
Educational Opportunities & Access

TEACHING AND LEARNING

College and Career Ready
Assessment
Educator Effectiveness

As a parent or caregiver, we encourage you to look at your own child's individual growth and learning, along with evidence your school provides related to your child's progress instead of an outdated mislabeling requirement imposed by the federal government. We also encourage you to work with your local educators to ensure that every child is challenged and supported, learning, and thriving. Schools prosper when parents and caregivers are involved as the first teachers of their children.



Come join in the fun!

FBLA HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Saturday

October 29


3:30 - 5 p.m.

Halsey Elementary

November

2015


Breakfast Menu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Biscuit w/ ham patty & cheese slice	3 French Toast Sausage Patty	4 Choc. Chip Muffin String Cheese	5 Cinnamon Roll String Cheese	6 Pancakes Sausage Link	7
8	9 Breakfast Pizza	10 Apple Coffeecake	11 Scrambled Eggs Toast VETERAN'S DAY	12 Donuts	13 Breakfast Tornadoes	14
15	16 Wafflesticks Sausage Links	17 Long Johns Cheese Sticks	18 Sausage Gravy Over a biscuit	19 Egg Omelet Toast	20 Breakfast Burrito	21
22	23 Raspberry Scones String Cheese	24 Hot & Cold Cereal	25 Pancake on a stick EARLY DISMISSAL	26 NO SCHOOL  Happy Thanksgiving	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 Bagel w/ Egg Patty & cheese slice		All Meals served with Cereal, Yogurt, Fruit Milk, & Juice			

November

2015

Lunch Menu

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
	Chicken Nuggets Tri Taters Green Beans	Hamburger on a WG Bun French Fries Baked Beans	Pizza Corn Jello Cups	Chicken Enchiladas Green Beans Rice	Runza Nach Chips & Cheese Mixed Vegetable							
8	Tator Tot Casserole Green Beans	9	Italian Dunkers Broccoli & Cheese	10	Chili Soup Crackers & Cheese Texas Sheet Cake VETERAN'S DAY	11	Beef Burrito Rice Pease	12	French Dip Sandwich Tri Taters	13		14
15	Sloppy Joe on a WG Bun Chips cookie	16	Walking Tacos w/ toppings Strawberry Shortcake	17	Chicken Patry on a bun Tator Tots Mixed vegetable	18	Thanksgiving Dinner Turkey, Dressing, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Pumpkin Dessert	19	Baked Potato Bar Diced Ham Broccoli	20		21
22	Corn Dogs Peas Tri Taters	23	Pork Chops Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Beans	24	Chicken Strips Tator Tots EARLY DISMISSAL	25	NO SCHOOL  Happy Thanksgiving	26	NO SCHOOL	27		28
29	Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn	30	Fruit/ Vegetable Bar Served with every meal		Milk & Water also Served with every meal							

November

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 VB Sub-Districts TBA FFA Begin Selling Fruit	3 VB Sub-Districts TBA FFA Mtg over lunch	4 FB 2nd Round Playoffs – TBA One Act Practice before school ST Little Kids Cheerleader Practice - 6 to 7 HS lecture Hall	5 VB District Finals TBA	6 NFLC in Omaha: TBA Jr Hi Wrestling Valentine Invite @ Valentine 10	7 NFLC in Omaha: TBA Jr Hi Wrestling Valentine Invite @ Valentine 10
8	9 District Livestock judging @ Curtis JR/Sr Financial Aid Night @ 6:30pm	10 FB Quarterfinal Playoffs – TBA One Act Practice after school	11 K-12 Veterans Day Program @ Elementary (TBA) One act after sports practice ST Little Kids Cheerleader Practice - 6 to 7 HS lecture Hall	12 State VB in Lincoln Jr Hi Wrestling Loup City-Burwell Invite @ Loup City 4pm One Act Practice after school	13 State VB in Lincoln Mini Peak Conference (FFA)	14 State VB in Lincoln
15	16 Advanc-ED inservice data work (no school for students) FB Semi-Final Playoffs - TBA	17 One Act Practice after school	18 ST Little Kids Cheerleader Practice - 6 to 7 HS lecture Hall Safety Committee Meeting Sandhills Leadership @ Cody	19 Learning Walks with ESU10 - All Day One Act Practice after school	20 Jr Hi Wrestling Mullen Invite @ Mullen 11am Sandhills & Thedford Community One Act Night & Dinner 6 pm THS	21
22	23 FB Final Playoffs @ Memorial Stadium – TBA One Act Practice after school	24 Jr Hi Wrestling Ainsworth Invite @ Ainsworth 4pm MNAC One Act in Thedford - TBA	25 Early Dismissal - 2:00 (5-12) 1:45 (K- 4) National Honor Society Induction Ceremony in the Gym @ 1:40	26 No School - Thanksgiving Break	27 No School - Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30 One Act Practice after school					