

# 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

### January 1 - 5

No School: Holiday  
Break

### January 6

School Resumes  
BB vs. Sutherland  
@Sutherland 6pm

### January 10

Wrestling Amherst  
Invite @Amherst 10am

### January 13

JH BB vs. Twin Loup  
@Taylor 1pm



A BIG thank you to everyone that bought fruit from an FFA member. We sold 513 items! All of this will be used to fund FFA activities. Thanks again for supporting Sandhills FFA!

## Fall Leaves

by Courtney Swisher

The fall leaves fall down.

They crumble under your feet.

That means fall is here.



## Mushrooms

by Miriam Ganoung

Squat, little mushrooms

Hidden in the grass and weeds.

Growing by its friends.



During the month of Dec. the second grade students enjoyed spending their day learning all about different Christmas themed books. We started off with "Santa's Hat". Then the students wrote about what type of hat they would want Santa to wear and why. Next, we learned all about ginger bread men and read several types of ginger bread books. We created ginger bread ornaments and finished with each making a 3-D, foam ginger bread house. Finally, we ended the semester with the all time favorite "Polar Express". The students enjoyed the month filled with high-level vocabulary, book themed crafts, projects and comparing and contrasting. January's theme will be all about our favorite author Jan Brett. Have a wonderful Christmas!!!

## January 16

BB vs. Anselmo-Merna @Thedford  
6:30

Kids on the Block  
Presenter

## January 17

BB vs. McPherson  
County @Tryon  
5pm

Wrestling Knights  
Invite @Dunning  
9:30am

## January 19

FBLA Blood Mobile  
- Noon to 6pm

## January 22

BB vs Hyannis  
@Hyannis 6:30pm

JH BB vs Mullen  
@Thedford 2pm

## January 23

BB vs St Mary's  
@Dunning 6pm

Wrestling So Loup  
Invite @Callaway  
1pm

## January 26 - 31

BB MNAC Conf  
Tourn @Home Sites  
TBA

## January 31

MNAC Art Contest -  
North Platte  
(Callaway)

**Sandhills Public School  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
12/8/14**

***MINUTES***

**Regular Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members present except Teahon whose absence was excused. Also present: Dale Hafer.

**Verification of Publication and Notification:**

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

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Cox, second by Milleson to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

**Administrative Report:**

- a. Supt. Hafer discussed the following:
  1. Mr. Hafer reported the HS HVAC project continues ahead of schedule with the gym units being installed 12/9.
  2. Engineered Controls will be installing front door security systems at each building.
  3. CG Architect's will attend the January meeting to share information and services related to existing structures and future planning for the district.
  4. The district house developed a plumbing leak which is being repaired by Jason Hernandez.
  5. Mr. Hafer shared an update about attending the NASB State Conference.
  6. Taking admission for JH events was discussed. The AD will survey conference schools about the topic and report to the Coop Committee.

**New Business:**

- a. There were no patrons present to address the board.
- b. Motion by Milleson, second by Martindale to declare the Custer County Chief or District Public Posting Sites as the current method for meeting notice and the Chief and District Newsletter for publication of minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
- c. The item of business to authorize car surplus and replacement was tabled.

- d. Motion by Bass, second by Martindale to approve the Superintendent's evaluation and offer Superintendent Hafer 2 year contract beginning 7/1/15. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. Motion by Martindale, second by Milleson to adjourn at 9:10. Motion passed 5-0.

Official Meetings Notice: Regular Board Meeting 1/9/15 6:30 p.m. Sandhills High School Lecture Hall. The Superintendent's new contract is posted at [blog.sandhills.k12.ne.us/](http://blog.sandhills.k12.ne.us/). Agendas are kept continually current and available for inspection in the Supt's Office w/ reasonable notice.

Respectfully Submitted: Dale J. Hafer, Recording Secretary

## December 2014 Expenditures

Check Date	Check Num	Payee	Description	Amount
12/08/2014	27577	Ace Hardware	Supplies	\$ 42.43
12/08/2014	27578	Activity Fund	Board Members, Pep Band Distr.	\$ 271.00
12/08/2014	27579	Adam Marten	Health Ins. Deduc. Reimb	\$ 250.47
12/08/2014	27580	AS Central Services	Dist. Learning	\$ 236.79
12/08/2014	27581	Broken Bow Public School	Brit. Lit	\$ 150.00
12/08/2014	27582	Brown & Saenger	Supplies	\$ 59.72
12/08/2014	27583	Cash-Wa Distributing	Supplies	\$ 315.30
12/08/2014	27584	Consolidated Telephone	Phone, Fax	\$ 167.00
12/08/2014	27585	Cornhusker International Trucks, Inc.	Repairs	\$ 142.00
12/08/2014	27586	Corporate Payment Systems	Credit Cards	\$ 682.89
12/08/2014	27587	Custer County Chief	Board Minutes	\$ 24.94
12/08/2014	27588	Custer Public Power District	REA	\$ 2,908.00
12/08/2014	27589	Dana F Cole & Company, LLP	Audit August 2014	\$ 4,671.60
12/08/2014	27590	Eakes Office Solutions	Meter Readings	\$ 2,808.33
12/08/2014	27591	EDU Safe LLC	Materials	\$ 30.00
12/08/2014	27592	ESU 10	Tech Service, Workshops	\$ 235.00
12/08/2014	27593	Harding & Shultz, P.C., L.L.O.	Legal Service	\$ 314.50
12/08/2014	27594	Hodges	Diesel, Gas	\$ 4,412.52
12/08/2014	27595	Hometown Leasing	Copiers, Printers	\$ 595.52
12/08/2014	27596	Island Supply Welding	Cyl. Rental	\$ 8.40
12/08/2014	27597	Kris Ganoung	Reimb, Music Supplies	\$ 47.90
12/08/2014	27598	Lea Essman	Reimb, Science Supplies	\$ 32.00
12/08/2014	27599	MCI	Long Distance	\$ 22.48
12/08/2014	27600	Midwest Floor Specialists	Court Cleaner	\$ 177.20
12/08/2014	27601	N A S B	State Conf. Fees	\$ 277.00
12/08/2014	27602	National Ice Beverage Cooler	Rent	\$ 85.00
12/08/2014	27603	Neal Lumber Co., Inc	Supplies	\$ 78.41
12/08/2014	27604	Norm's Auto	Fuel, Service	\$ 598.49
12/08/2014	27605	Oper Reimb	Reimb	\$ 390.00
12/08/2014	27606	Platte Valley Comm	Repairs	\$ 70.29
12/08/2014	27607	Presto X Company	Service Contract	\$ 99.54
12/08/2014	27608	Quill	Supplies	\$ 15.49
12/08/2014	27609	Sandhills Education Coop	SPED	\$ 5,315.87
12/08/2014	27610	School Specialty, Inc.	Supplies	\$ 50.23
12/08/2014	27611	Shawn Harvey	Reimb	\$ 15.00
12/08/2014	27612	Thomas County Treasurer	Election 2014	\$ 120.12
12/08/2014	27613	Two Rivers Wellness	Weight Room Rent	\$ 150.00
12/08/2014	27614	Vickey Jensen	Reimb, Supplies	\$ 7.04
12/08/2014	27615	Village of Thedford	Elem Trash	\$ 260.00
12/08/2014	27616	Wenquist	Repairs	\$ 143.88
12/08/2014	27617	Western Nebraska Bank	DD Payroll	\$ 50.00
12/08/2014	27618	Western Nebraska Bank, Purdum	Safety Deposit Box	\$ 10.00
			Total Vendor	\$ 26,342.35
			Payroll & Liabilities	139788.56
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 166,130.91</b>

Total Resources Available	\$	3,426,505.00
<b>Total Budget Available for Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,051,505.00</b>
December Beginning Balance	\$	2,620,599.92
Less: December Expenditures	\$	166,130.91
Plus: Checks thru 9000	\$	-
December Ending Balance	\$	2,454,469.01
<b>Balance of Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,454,469.01</b>

**GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS**

Received to Date (11-01-14)	\$	453,851.08
11/04/14 United State Treasury	\$	774.51
11/05/14 State of Nebraska	\$	53.32
11/05/14 State of Nebraska	\$	588.38
11/12/14 Patrons	\$	60.00
11/12/14 Patrons	\$	252.00
11/13/14 Patron	\$	24.00
11/13/14 Chris Christie	\$	250.00
11/14/14 Custer Co Treas	\$	391.13
11/18/14 Logan Co Treas	\$	634.28
11/18/14 Blaine Co Treas	\$	13,904.59
11/18/14 Thomas Co Treas	\$	2,513.91
11/25/14 ESU 10	\$	1,000.00
11/25/14 Patrons	\$	80.00
11/25/14 State of Nebraska	\$	2,227.39
11/28/14 WNB	\$	55.51
	\$	<i>November Total</i>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>476,660.10</b>

BANK BALANCE FOR GENERAL FUND

BALANCE 11-01-14	\$359,410.80
Receipts	\$22,809.02
Expenditures	\$194,075.16
<b>BALANCE 11-30-14</b>	<b>\$188,144.66</b>

Certificate of Deposits  
 CD #10114, \$107,263.76  
 CD # 9867 \$ 101,188.14

**PLEASE NOTE!** The date of the receipts do NOT necessarily reflect the date in which it was received by the office or the date that it was deposited. If you have any questions feel free to call the office.



**Clip and flip! Save 10 Box Tops and these fishy friends will flip!**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.  
For more collection worksheets and projects, go to [www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter](http://www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter)

# Sandhills Public Schools



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

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

Dear Sandhills Parents and Patrons,

The purpose of this letter is to officially report to you our performance and status related to state required assessments and federal accountability related to "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB). Each year, school districts across Nebraska assess their students and are held accountable through the eyes the state and federal government for both performance and improvement.

The Nebraska Department of Education does a thorough job of providing the public an avenue to view school district performance and ratings relative to the current accountability requirements. This is made possible by the "State of the Schools Report". The public can access the department of education's website at any time to view current or past performance data for each school district in Nebraska. I invite you to view our district's data, along with any other district you chose, by going to [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov) and clicking on the "State of the Schools Report" link at the lower left side of the page under "NDE Quick Links". Once there, you can select which year to view related to assessment data, accountability, etc., related to Nebraska Districts. It is fairly simple to search for our district or other districts to view their data. Included with this letter are NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) and Federal Accountability (NCLB) summaries for our district. Again, please refer to NDE's website for a more thorough look at data via the State of the Schools Report for 2013-14.

Federal NCLB requirements mandated that all Nebraska schools would have 100% proficient performance of all students by the 2013-14 school year. This means that every single student in the state would have to be proficient on ALL state assessments. Although we take assessment and student performance seriously, we also realize this political goal is not possible. There are numerous factors from mobility to disability/ability which prevents any district from achieving a perfect rating of 100%. Due to this federal requirement, our district along with the rest of Nebraska, are labeled as "Not Meeting" NCLB requirements. Our commissioner of education has addressed this situation and the state board is working alongside the commissioner to work with the federal requirements to achieve what is best for Nebraska's students. I highly encourage you to read Commissioner Blomstedt's letter that is included after this letter. The commissioner and state board are taking an excellent approach to responding to the unrealistic requirements of NCLB and the fact our districts are being unfairly rated at not meeting requirements.

The bottom line is our teachers and staff take student assessment, achievement, and improvement very seriously. Our assessment results of 2013-14 obviously show this. Overall, 8



out of every 10 students district wide are proficient or above in reading and math. 7 out of 10 students are proficient or above in science. We have many areas to celebrate the academic success and growth of our students. For example, our elementary students are 93% proficient or above in reading! That is amazing and proof positive we are effectively educating students at a high level at Sandhills. However, the federal government rates us and other Nebraska districts as a district that has not met requirements. Sandhills officially shares the view of the commissioner and we do not agree with nor support this rating. We do fully support the commissioner's work on developing a new accountability system for Nebraska districts which looks at a whole system, not just test scores. Please refer to the commissioner's letter which explains "A QuESTT" which stands for "Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow". I invite you to view the information on the department of education's website related to "A QuESTT". Nebraska is headed in the right direction in order to maintain the level of educational excellence that Nebraskan's have enjoyed for generations.

Thank you for the support you give our students and our district. If I can be of assistance in explaining state assessment, NCLB, or other accountability type issues please call. The staff, board, and I are dedicated to maintaining our excellent track record of student performance now and in the future.

Sincerely,

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

Dale Hafer  
Superintendent



**Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner**  
**Scott Swisher, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner**

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PO Box 94987 Fax: (402) 471-0117  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987 Web: [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov)

To: Parents and Caregivers  
From: Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education  
Subject: Nebraska's Commitment to Every Student, Every Day  
Date: September 30, 2014

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.

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 2013-14 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 mislabeled 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 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 2013-14 school year.

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.

*To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.*

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 is developing 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.

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.

**Official Nebraska Government Website**  
**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** HOME | LINKS | HELP | FEEDBACK |

**2013-2014 State of the Schools Report**  
**A Report on Nebraska Public Schools**

State District School  
 Printed Report

Nebraska Accountability	Federal Accountability	National Student Performance	Career Education	Special Education	Student Characteristics	Teachers	Schools	Compare
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**SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 05-0071-000

**Nebraska State Accountability: NeSA Scores**  
**Percent Proficient: Meets/Exceeds Combined**  
**Combined Results for All Grades Tested**

	Reading	Mathematics	Science	Writing
2009-2010	84 %			
2010-2011	85 %	90 %		
2011-2012	89 %	83 %	88 %	
2012-2013	82 %	75 %	91 %	62 % ^
2013-2014	80 %	80 %	71 %	-- ^^

^ Students at grades 8 and 11 experienced formatting issues with the NeSA-Writing online test administration. While research into the score results does not indicate an effect on student results, it also does not assure there was no effect. Scores should be interpreted with caution and are not included in Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS].

^^ In 2014 students in grades 8 and 11 experienced technology issues with the online test. Valid results are not available for all districts or for the state for NeSA-Writing at grades 8 and 11.

**2013-2014 State of the Schools Report**  
 A Report on Nebraska Public Schools



Nebraska Accountability	Federal Accountability	National Student Performance	Student Characteristics	Teachers	Schools	Compare
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**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT HALSEY**  
 05-0071-002

**Nebraska State Accountability: NeSA Scores**  
 Percent Proficient: Meets/Exceeds Combined  
 Combined Results for All Grades Tested

	Reading	Mathematics	Science	Writing
2009-2010	93 %			
2010-2011	90 %	93 %		
2011-2012	89 %	82 %	*	
2012-2013	85 %	74 %	*	*
2013-2014	93 %	83 %	80 %	-- ^^

<sup>^</sup> Students at grades 8 and 11 experienced formatting issues with the NeSA-Writing online test administration. While research into the score results does not indicate an effect on student results, it also does not assure there was no effect. Scores should be interpreted with caution and are not included in Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS].

<sup>^^</sup> In 2014 students in grades 8 and 11 experienced technology issues with the online test. Valid results are not available for all districts or for the state for NeSA-Writing at grades 8 and 11.

Official Nebraska Government Website  
**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
 HOME | LINKS | HELP | FEEDBACK |

2013-2014 State of the Schools Report  
 A Report on Nebraska Public Schools

State District School  
 Printed Report

Nebraska Accountability	Federal Accountability	National Student Performance	Student Characteristics	Teachers	Schools	Compare
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**HIGH SCHOOL AT DUNNING**  
 05-0071-001

**Nebraska State Accountability: NeSA Scores**  
**Percent Proficient: Meets/Exceeds Combined**  
**Combined Results for All Grades Tested**

	Reading	Mathematics	Science	Writing
2009-2010	74 %			
2010-2011	80 %	87 %		
2011-2012	88 %	84 %	88 %	
2012-2013	77 %	77 %	94 %	65 % ^
2013-2014	68 %	76 %	68 %	-- ^^

^ Students at grades 8 and 11 experienced formatting issues with the NeSA-Writing online test administration. While research into the score results does not indicate an effect on student results, it also does not assure there was no effect. Scores should be interpreted with caution and are not included in Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS].

^^ In 2014 students in grades 8 and 11 experienced technology issues with the online test. Valid results are not available for all districts or for the state for NeSA-Writing at grades 8 and 11.

**2013-2014 State of the Schools Report**  
 A Report on Nebraska Public Schools

State District School  
 Printed Report

Nebraska Accountability	Federal Accountability	National Student Performance	Career Education	Special Education	Student Characteristics	Teachers	Schools	Compare
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**SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 05-0071-000


District Level AYP Status: NOT MET

Click to choose:   

**Federal Accountability: School District**  
 Students in Elementary School  
 2013-2014

	Rating
Federal Accountability (AYP) 2012-2013:	MET
Federal Accountability (AYP) 2013-2014:	NOT MET
AYP Details 2013-2014	
Reading:	NOT MET
Math:	NOT MET
Other Academic Indicators:	
AYP Status Decision for Consecutive Years of Progress	
2012-2013:	MET
2013-2014:	NOT MET

Click 'Data Definitions and Explanations' for full explanation of the AYP Status Decision.

 Data Definitions & Explanations

**AYP STATE Goals for 2013-2014**

	NeSA Reading	NeSA Math
Elementary	100%	100%
Middle	100%	100%
High	100%	100%

**Official Nebraska Government Website**  
**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** HOME | LINKS | HELP | FEEDBACK |

**2013-2014 State of the Schools Report**  
 A Report on Nebraska Public Schools

State District School  
 Printed Report

Nebraska Accountability	Federal Accountability	National Student Performance	Career Education	Special Education	Student Characteristics	Teachers	Schools	Compare
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**SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 05-0071-000

District Level AYP Status: NOT MET

Click to choose:

**Federal Accountability: School District**  
**Students in Middle School**  
**2013-2014**

	Rating
Federal Accountability (AYP) 2012-2013:	MET
Federal Accountability (AYP) 2013-2014:	NOT MET
AYP Details 2013-2014	
Reading:	NOT MET
Math:	NOT MET
Other Academic Indicators:	
AYP Status Decision for Consecutive Years of Progress	
2012-2013:	MET
2013-2014:	NOT MET

Click 'Data Definitions and Explanations' for full explanation of the AYP Status Decision.

Data Definitions & Explanations

**AYP STATE Goals for 2013-2014**

	NeSA Reading	NeSA Math
Elementary	100%	100%
Middle	100%	100%
High	100%	100%





**2013-2014 State of the Schools Report**  
A Report on Nebraska Public Schools



Nebraska Accountability	Federal Accountability	National Student Performance	Career Education	Special Education	Student Characteristics	Teachers	Schools	Compare
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**SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

05-0071-000

District Level AYP Status: NOT MET

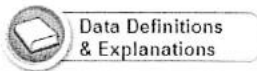
Click to choose:



**Federal Accountability: School District**  
Students in High School  
2013-2014

	Rating
Federal Accountability (AYP) 2012-2013:	MET
Federal Accountability (AYP) 2013-2014:	NOT MET
AYP Details 2013-2014	
Reading:	NOT MET
Math:	NOT MET
Other Academic Indicators:	
AYP Status Decision for Consecutive Years of Progress	
2012-2013:	MET
2013-2014:	NOT MET

Click 'Data Definitions and Explanations' for full explanation of the AYP Status Decision.



**AYP STATE Goals for 2013-2014**

	NeSA Reading	NeSA Math
Elementary	100%	100%
Middle	100%	100%
High	100%	100%



### My Christmas Vacation Plan

Do you have the presents packed and your suitcase? We are ready to go to Rapid City to see my grandma. We need to make sure we have a full tank and make sure that we have enough room. We are going to my grandpa's restaurant and getting Shirley temples and steak to eat. We need to dress nice when we are going to a restaurant. Don't forget mom and dad's gifts! We will have fun shopping for gifts. I will buy mom a necklace and dad a belt.

It will soon be time for all of us to gather for the feast we will have pumpkin pie to eat. Don't spill food on you and don't throw food either. We will probably get money for gifts. It's time to open gifts. This is my favorite part of Christmas, but my very favorite part of my Christmas vacation to spend time with my family. By Dakota Micheel

### My Christmas Vacation Plans

What are your Christmas vacation and traditions? We like to drink egg nog as we set up our Christmas tree a few days after Thanksgiving. We listen to music while setting up our tree and also play with some of the ornaments that have wheels that can roll. It takes awhile to set up the tree but at least we get it done. It is fun to see the ornaments that our loved ones that have passed away gave me. It brings back memories of them. One year I found some that my grandma Carol gave me and my grandpa Dale gave me.

We make ornaments too. My sister Brooklyn and my brother Colton help me. We make them then paint them or color them and let them dry. Finally, we put them in a paper bag. I remember making shapes then painting or coloring them. Once I made an ornament for my mom it was a square. I colored it and put a cross in the middle the square. I just painted water on top of it. It kind of made it glow a little bit. It was so cool!

Sometimes we go to North Platte to have Christmas at my grandmas house. It is exciting because we get to go shopping for presents at a whole bunch of stores. One time grandma got me a BB gun and D.V.D. player. My mom got me an electric piano keyboard, scarf and maybe I'll get a Wii game It 's so fun because we get to eat out at restaurants. I love to eat out at restaurants its so fun because sometimes we get to see people we know. Having Christmas at grandmas is the best!

By Emily Leach

### My Christmas Vacation Plan

Grab a present and open the present. I open presents on Christmas do you? I also open presents on Christmas Eve. I will play with my new dog Wesley. He is a playful pup and likes to nip you. I love to play with him, do you have dog? I will open presents right by Wesley.

We also go on trips to go to California on Christmas. Do you go somewhere special? I visit my cousins and play. I also have 4 brothers that play with me when I'm alone. Do have someone that plays with you?

I will bake cookies and make cocoon Christmas Day. I will help my mom and dad with cleaning up and silverware when we eat. I plan to have the best Christmas a boy can have. I can't ask for anything more then my perfect family.

By Brayden Guggenmos

### My Christmas Vacation Plan

I plan to help my mom with the new baby. I also plan to enjoy my break and play games. On Christmas Eve night we get to open one gift, on Christmas day morning we get to open our gifts from my mom. Then we will go to Morrill NE to see my grandpa and grandma. On the 27<sup>th</sup> we will go visit my dad in Casper, WY and have Christmas with him.

By Mason Weickum



JANUARY 2015

# SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE MRS. RODOCKER

## Senior Scholarships

- \*Elks Past Exalted Scholarship: January 15th
- \*Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association: January 23rd Student majoring in the field of education or fine arts.
- \*Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association 2015 Gary Fisher Fine Arts Scholarship: January 23rd Student majoring in the field of fine arts.
- \*Loup & Loup Scholarship: February 1st
- \*Sandhills Cattle Association Scholarship and Howard Wright Memorial Scholarship February 1st
- \*FFA Scholarships: February 1st Contact Miss Lander for the online application url.
- \*The Susan Thompson Buffet Scholarship: February 1st online application
- \*Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship: February 13th
- \*Neal and Pauline Keller Scholarship: February 15th
- \*Consolidated Companies Scholarship: March 2nd



## SENIOR PARENTS!!!

**Graduation is fast approaching! It is time to start working on the slideshow presentation. Please provide me with 3 childhood pictures and one senior picture. I will scan the pictures and give them back to you when finished. I would like to have the pictures by the end of January. Please call if you have any questions!**

## University and College Scholarship Deadlines

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| University of Nebraska Lincoln: January 15th    | Mid-Plains Community College: March 1st  |
| Chadron State College: January 15th             | Central Community College: March 1st   |
| Northeast Community College: February 1st       | The college deadline is a priority date. STILL apply for the college scholarships even if the date has passed! |
| University of Nebraska at Kearney: February 1st |  |
| Southeast Community College: February 22nd      |  |

### ACT TEST DATES

February 7, register by January 9th. Sandhills is not a testing site for this date.

April 18th, register by March 13th. Sandhills is 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 \$37.50

### SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES

- <http://www.educationquest.rog/scholarshipquest.asp>
- <http://www.fastaid.com>
- <http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com>
- <http://www.scholarshipexperts.com>
- <http://www.schoolsoup.com>
- <http://www.scholarships.com>

### FAFSA

It is time to complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid or FAFSA form. This process is for CURRENT college students and those going to be attending college for the first time, GRADUATING SENIORS. This process is necessary in order to receive Pell Grants and Student loans.

EducationQuest in Kearney is a great resource to use when filling out the FAFSA! Call for an appointment!

## **Captain John Smith**

**By Matthew Dailey**

Captain John Smith was everyone's idol right? I'm not so sure, but I'll let you decide that.

Captain John Smith was a soldier for hire, explorer, author, mapmaker, and geographer. From 1600-1604 he traveled 11,000 miles of the world.

Captain John Smith was chosen to go with colonists to America to claim land for England. When the ship stopped for supplies, he was falsely accused of mutiny and was kept in the ship's brig until they reached Jamestown, Virginia.

Later Captain Smith's grip on the town closed when he was elected chief agent to President John Ratcliff. He then ran for president of the colony himself and made it into office. The rest of the council members died that year giving him complete control over the town. Smith commanded the assassination of turncoat colonists and renegades. As he tortured natives, they wanted to kill him. Captain John Smith was captured by the Powhatan tribe and was to be killed when Pocahontas wrapped her arms around his head to stop her tribe from killing him.

The Chief gave Captain Smith land down river, where he founded Williamsburg. Smith then tried to capture the fort at Richmond from Captain West, but failed. During his return to Jamestown he received a wound and returned to England.

After Captain Smith healed, he came back to America and scouted New England for a new colony. He was almost chosen to help the pilgrims but Miles Standish was chosen instead. He returned to England where he wrote his life story. He died before the New England colony was started.

If not for his pen, most of early American history would be lost. Now, do you think Captain John Smith was the hero everyone thought he was, or is he just another person made famous by history?

# Helping Children Learn<sup>®</sup>

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



January 2015

Title I Cooperative

Educational Service Unit 10

## Demonstrate and expect respect and your child will, too

Children must have respect for authority, peers, belongings and themselves to learn and achieve in school. As a parent, you are uniquely qualified to teach your child to be respectful. Your child learns from everything you say and do. To encourage your child to have respect for people and property:



- **Be a role model.** If you want him to say *please* when asking for something, remember to say *please* yourself—both to your child and to others.
- **Discuss respect.** What is it? What does it look like? Who shows it? Who doesn't? Why is it important? How does it feel to be treated with respect or disrespect? Role-play situations in which your child should show respect.
- **Set high expectations.** If you're clear about what you expect of your child, he will be more likely to follow through. "I expect you to raise your hand in class and wait patiently for your turn."
- **Praise success.** Look for respectful words and behaviors. Compliment your child's efforts. "You listened to the coach even when the other kids were joking around. I was impressed!"
- **Criticize constructively.** Be precise and respectful. "Next time, please hold the door for Grandpa. That will make life easier for him."

Source: R. Silverman, "10 Tips on Teaching Respect to Children: You can't get it if you don't give it," [drrobynsilverman.com](http://drrobynsilverman.com), [niswc.com/expectrespect](http://niswc.com/expectrespect).



## Realistic resolutions jump-start change

A new year is a good time to talk with your child about how the school year is going. And making New Year's resolutions can be a good way to start positive change. Try these tips to help your child make resolutions she can keep:

- **Start small.** She probably won't go from reading 10 minutes a week to finishing an entire book in that time. Help her figure out smaller steps. "How about if you read for 30 minutes before bed?"
- **Think about the rewards.** If your child needs to raise her math grade, help her focus on the benefits of doing that. It will be easier to make the necessary changes.
- **Plan for obstacles.** If she always watches TV after school, help her think about what to do instead.
- **Celebrate successes.** Change is not always easy. If she didn't read for 30 minutes a day, but did manage to read on four days this week, that's still a lot more reading than she was doing before!

Source: S. Shellenbarger, "How to Keep a Resolution," *Wall Street Journal*, [niswc.com/new](http://niswc.com/new).

## Math: one step at a time

When children are in a hurry, they can forget that solving a math problem involves taking things step by step.

If your child is stuck on a problem, ask him to talk you through it. If he still can't figure it out, let the teacher know. Your child may need to review that material.

Source: K.A. Zahler, *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Raise a Child Who Loves Math*, ARCO Books.

## Visualize for better reading

One way to improve your child's reading comprehension is to help her create mental images of the story. To start:



1. **Ask your child to** describe what is happening in the book.
2. **Have her sketch** on a sticky note a picture of a character, the setting or a conflict. She'll learn to read for details.
3. **Have her stick the note** to the book and keep reading. At the next stopping place, she should do another drawing.

In time, your child will stop thinking about the words, and the story will come alive.

Source: C. Blachowicz and D. Ogle, *Reading Comprehension: Strategies for Independent Learners*, The Guilford Press.

## Self-control leads to success

Research shows that self-control is twice as important as intelligence in predicting your child's academic achievement. Build his self-control by offering him chances to:

- **Take responsibility.** Assign chores he can master, such as clearing the table. If he's responsible for a routine, post a chart with the steps.
- **Practice patience.** Make and enforce rules such as "Finish homework before watching TV."



Source: N. Shute, "For Kids, Self-Control Factors Into Future Success," *NPR*, [niswc.com/control](http://niswc.com/control).



## How do I stop my child from comparing herself to sister?

**Q:** I have two daughters. My older child is popular, a good student and a great athlete. My younger daughter is quiet. She has some learning challenges, so school is harder for her. She's not athletic at all. She compares herself to her older sister and says, "I'm the failure in this family." How can I help her realize that we love her just the way she is?



**A:** Younger siblings often feel as though they're running to catch up. But with your love and support, your child can find ways to grow into her own special self.

Research shows that self-esteem is directly linked to school achievement, so it is important for her to carve out some areas where she can be successful. Success in one area truly does lead to success in another.

To help her find her niche:

- **Look for activities that are different** from her sister's. What are your younger child's interests? If her sister is a soccer star but she has two left feet, perhaps she could try another sport, such as swimming. Maybe she'd be happier playing violin or acting in the school play.
- **Point out the things she does well.** Whether it's her sense of style or her kindness to others, make it clear that you are as proud of her achievements as you are of her sister's soccer goals.

## Practice tests aid studying

Many students reread the text when studying for a test. But research shows that taking practice tests may be more helpful. The process of recalling information over and over is a learning activity. Your child can:

- **Focus on quizzes in class.** Quizzes do more than prove what's been learned. They are chances to recall material.
- **Work with others.** It's helpful when kids quiz each other.
- **Make practice tests.** Create questions from textbook section headings, vocabulary and review questions.

Source: S. Sparks, "Research Finds Students Short on Study Savvy," Edweek.org, niswc.com/recall.

## Specific compliments are good discipline

The best discipline strategies are positive, not harsh. Try to focus on what your child does right.

Be specific when you compliment your child. "You started your homework without being reminded. Great job!" Your child will be more likely to repeat good behaviors if he understands what you expect.

## Strive for a healthy weight

More than one-third of all children in this country are considered overweight. In addition to increased health risks, overweight children also often have low self-esteem and become victims of bullying—and both negatively affect grades. All parents should:

- **Encourage children** to get an hour of physical activity per day.
- **Promote healthy eating** habits. Offer fruits and vegetables, not chips and candy.



Source: "Childhood Obesity Facts," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, niswc.com/obese.



## Do you teach listening by example?

Your child's ability to listen well is critical for academic success. It will help him absorb and understand more, and that comprehension will help him communicate. Are you modeling listening skills for him? Answer *yes* or *no*:

1. **Do you try** to give your child your undivided attention when he's talking? If you're busy, say, "I'd love to talk about this after dinner."
2. **Are you patient** when you listen? Let him make his point.
3. **Do you avoid** interrupting your child? Do you ask him not to interrupt you?
4. **Do you "listen"** to what your child's behavior is telling you about his needs?
5. **Do you avoid** chiming in with the "right" answer?

Instead, let your child try to sort out what to do.

### How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean you're taking steps to raise a good listener. For each *no*, try that idea.

"If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders."

—Abigail Van Buren

### Helping Children Learn®

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# *First Grade Friday Reading*

Beginning January 16, 2015

2:00-2:20 p.m.

(Most Fridays)

Sandhills Elementary

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Room

Listeners Welcome

**\*Call the elementary office  
to let us know if you would like  
to come and listen.**





## The Mayflower By Cecilia Wonch

Imagine you are on the Mayflower. You are at the bottom of the boat. Your head is scraping the ceiling. You feel sick and want a breath of fresh air. You go up to the main deck and look around. The Mayflower has been on this voyage for three weeks. Then you wonder, "What will it feel like when we finally reach land?"

On my mom's side of the family, my 12<sup>th</sup> great-grandpa was on the Mayflower. His name was Edward Fuller, brother of the doctor of the Mayflower, Samuel Fuller.

Life on the ship was no picnic with seasick people. With no fresh air below deck, I bet it smelled awful with the sick and sweaty odors. The Pilgrims did not have toilets on board. They had a chamber box. The chamber box is a wood bucket used as the bathroom. God helped the Pilgrims on their voyage. When the Mayflower's main beam cracked, they were saved when a carpenter had a great iron screw for the repair.

Forty- one of the people on the ship were Separatists. The Separatists spent most of their time on the ship praying and singing. On Sunday they had all-day sermons.

The rest of the passengers were mainly tradesmen, craftsmen, laborers, servants, and orphans. There were 30 children on the ship, 11 girls and 19 boys. One of the boys was Samuel Fuller, my great-grandpa who was named after his uncle. A few family pets, dogs, cats, and birds, were allowed on the ship. I bet they made the kids happy! But, the Mayflower was cramped and unhappy. When would they ever reach land?

KA- BOOM! Splash! Could you ever imagine what the fierce storms did to the Mayflower? The Mayflower was tossed around by the waves, but it never did sink. Like a duck, it glided with the waters. Because of the storms, instead of landing in Virginia, the Pilgrims landed in what today is Massachusetts. On the voyage, two men died, and one baby was born. The baby was named Oceanus.

The Mayflower had 6 cannons for protection from pirates.

They finally landed at Plymouth Bay. Most stayed at the boat eating biscuits called hardtack, a watery cereal called gruel, dried or salted meat or fish, and cheese. This was all washed down with beer.

Finally they all went on land in November of 1620. The courageous Pilgrims had been at sea for 66 days.

## January 2015 Breakfast

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Juice & Milk served every Brkfst	Menus subject to change change			<b>1 NO SCHOOL</b> 	<b>2 NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5 NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>6 WELCOME BACK!!</b> Biscuit with ham patty & cheese cereal fruit yogurt	<b>7</b> Choc. Chip Muffin String Cheese Cereal fruit yogurt	<b>8</b> Breakfast Tomado cereal fruit yogurt	<b>9</b> Cinnamon Rolls string cheese cereal fruit yogurt	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Donuts string cheese Fruit cereal yogurt	<b>13</b> Breakfast Pizza cereal fruit yogurt	<b>14</b> Early Risers Toast cereal fruit yogurt	<b>15</b> Hot & Cold cereal fruit yogurt	<b>16</b> Tac-N-Go cereal fruit yogurt	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bagel w/ egg patty & cheese slice cereal fruit yogurt	<b>20</b> Apple Cinnamon coffeecake cereal fruit yogurt	<b>21</b> Egg Omelet Toast cereal fruit yogurt	<b>22</b> Sausage Gravy over a biscuit cereal fruit yogurt	<b>23</b> French Toast Tomatoes cereal fruit yogurt	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Pancakes sausage links cereal fruit yogurt	<b>27</b> French Toast Sticks Sausage links cereal fruit yogurt	<b>28</b> Strawberry Muffins cereal fruit yogurt	<b>29</b> English Muffin w/ egg patty & cheese cereal fruit yogurt	<b>30</b> Breakfast Burrito cereal fruit yogurt	<b>31</b>

## January 2015 Lunch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Milk & Water served every lunch	Menus subject to change			<p>1 <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p> 	2 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	3
4	5 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	6 <b>WELCOME BACK!!</b> Hamburger on a Bun Chips Cookies	7 Chicken Strips French Fries	8 Taco's with toppings Strawberry Shortcake	9 Lasagna Pease Breadsticks	10
11	12 Pizza Green Beans Cookies	13 Breaded Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes Gravy	14 Creamed Turkey over a biscuit Broccoli	15 Walking Tacos with toppings Brownies	16 Spaghetti Meat Sauce French Bread	17
18	19 Mac-N-Cheese with ham Rolls	20 Chili Soup Cheese & crackers Texas sheet cake	21 Fried chicken mashed potatoes Gravy	22 Runza Nacho Chips with cheese Green Beans	23 Hot Beef Sandwich Mashed Potatoes Gravy	24
25	26 Chicken Nuggets Tri Taters Green Beans	27 Swedish Meatballs Mashed Potatoes Corn	28 Italian Dunkers Broccoli	29 Chicken Patty on Bun a bun Tator Tots Mixed Vegetables	30 Baked Potato Bar Diced Ham with toppings jello cups	31

# January

# 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> No School: Holiday Break	<b>2</b> No School: Holiday Break	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> No School: Holiday Break In Service Day for Prof Development	<b>6</b> School Resumes BB vs Sutherland @ Sutherland 6pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> BB vs South Loup @ Arnold 6pm JH BB vs. So Loup @ Arnold 2pm	<b>9</b> BB vs Mullen @ Mullen 6:30	<b>10</b> Wrestling Amherst Invite @ Amherst 10am
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> JH BB vs. Twin Loup @ Taylor 4pm	<b>14</b> Sandhills Leadership @ SHS TBA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> BB vs Anselmo-Merna @ Theford 6:30 Kids on the Block Presenter	<b>17</b> BB vs McPherson County @ Tryon 5pm Wrestling Knights invite @ Dunning 9:30am
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> FBLA Blood Mobile - Noon - 6pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Safety Committee	<b>22</b> BB vs Hyannis @ Hyannis 6:30 JH BB vs Mullen @ Theford 2pm	<b>23</b> BB vs St Mary's @ Dunning @6pm Wrestling So Loup Invite @ Callaway 1pm	<b>24</b> Wrestling Mullen Invite @ Mullen 11am JH BB S/T Tourn @ Theford 10am
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> BB MNAC Conf Tourn @ Home Sites TBA	<b>27</b> BB MNAC Conf Tourn @ Home Sites TBA	<b>28</b> BB MNAC Conf Tourn @ Home Sites TBA	<b>29</b> BB MNAC Conf Tourn @ Home Sites TBA	<b>30</b> BB MNAC Conf Tourn @ Home Sites TBA Wrestling Medicine Valley Invite @ Curtis 10am	<b>31</b> BB MNAC Conf Tourn @ Home Sites TBA MNAC Art Contest - North Platte (Callaway)