



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

April 2011

Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, March 31:**
7:00 p.m.-K-2 Elementary
Vocal Concert for Wash-
ington and Franklin
- **Thursday, April 7:**
7:00 p.m.-3-4 Elementary
Vocal Concert for Wash-
ington and Franklin
- **Wednesday, April 13:**
No School for Kindergarten
students
- **Monday, April 18:**
4th Grade Orientation at
HMS
- **Thursday, April 21:**
1:30 p.m. dismissal
- **Friday, April 22:**
No School-Easter Break
- **Monday, April 25:**
No School-Easter Break
- **Thursday, May 19:**
Elementary Field Day

Mailing address for all
elementary schools:

PO Box 2002
Holdrege, NE 68949
Phone Numbers:

Washington: 995-4339

Franklin: 995-4269

R-7: 995-6179



Holdrege Public
Schools Website:
www.thedusters.org

NeSA Testing

All Holdrege students in grades 3 -8 and 11 will be taking the NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) reading test this year as part of the state requirements mandated by the Nebraska Unicameral. This is a very important test that will measure student performance across the state of Nebraska in reading vocabulary and comprehension, and math skills. A note will be sent home to let families know of the exact dates elementary students will be taking their tests.

Teachers have been working with students all year to learn the skills that will be assessed. Please encourage your child to do their best on these tests. **It is very important the students get their rest and attend school on these dates.**

Kindergarten Information

The Holdrege Elementary schools are preparing for the kindergarten class of 2011-12. An informational meeting was held on February 8th, but it's not too late to contact us about enrolling your child for the upcoming school year. If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be 5 years old by October 15, 2011, please call Washington Elementary at 995-4339 to register. We are keeping the kindergarten list at a central location for planning purposes.

Kindergarten Visitation (formerly called roundup) will be held on Wednesday, April 13 for the entire district. Even if you did not attend the informational meeting, you are encouraged to participate in Kindergarten Roundup. This is an important time for your child to experience what kindergarten will be like, meet the teachers, and for parents to ask questions and complete the enrollment process.

Summer School

Summer school will be offered for students who will be finishing kindergarten through fourth grade this year. Summer school will begin on Monday, May 23rd and run through Friday, June 10th. There will be no summer school on Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day. A registration form is attached. If you would like your child to attend summer school for any or all sessions, please complete the registration and return it to your child's school by Friday, May 14th.

If your child is receiving speech/language services (has an IEP), resource services (has an IEP), *individualized* RtI Services, English language learning services, or free/reduced meals, he/she qualifies for summer school at **no cost**. If you have questions, please call Amber Porter at 995-4339.

No School for Kindergarten

There will be no kindergarten classes at Washington, Franklin, and R7 on Wednesday, April 13th due to Kindergarten Visitation Day.

Easter Break

There will be a 1:30 p.m. dismissal on Thursday, April 21 and no school on Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 25 for Easter Break.

Varicella (Chicken Pox) Immunization Change



Before the 2011-12 school year starts in August, all students (K-12) will need to have two Varicella immunizations or have on file a waiver indicating the month and year your child had the disease. This requirement is effective July 1, 2011. Please be sure to make arrangements to have your child immunized before the start of the school year.

Lifetouch Spring Pictures

Please return your Lifetouch Spring Pictures and/or money to the school by Friday, April 8. If you choose to purchase any or all of the pictures in the packet, you will need to send the appropriate payment to the school, along with any picture sheets you do not want to purchase.

Students who do not turn in either their money or their picture packets will not be able to receive their final report cards until we receive the pictures and/or payment.

Dibels Testing

During the last week of April teachers will again be testing students on their reading skills using DIBELS, which stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. The first tests were done in September, a second round was done in December, so staff will be able to see how students have improved over the entire school year, and identify areas where students need extra assistance for next school year.

Kindergarten Cutoff Age Change

The Nebraska State Legislature passed a law last year that changes the cutoff age for incoming kindergarten students for the 2012-13 school year (not this upcoming school year). Children enrolling in kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year will need to turn five (5) years old by July 31, 2012 of that year to be eligible for enrollment.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent, please let either the office or classroom teacher know as soon as possible. If your child is sick, please call the school office by 8:00 am. Wednesday is the day that we report to Two Rivers Health Department how many students are absent from school due to illness and what the symptoms are. Please let us know your child's symptoms when you call in an absence. Your help is appreciated.

Lost and Found

Each building has a large amount of clothing and lunch bags left in the lost and found. Please remember that any item that is not claimed by the end of the year will be donated. If you are missing jackets, coats, hats, snow pants, boots, or lunch bags, please be sure to check the lost and found boxes at your child's school before the end of the school year.

Digital Citizenship Event for HPS Students

Holdrege Public Schools has partnered with ESU 11 and area businesses to present an evening of information for students and parents about the digital world in which all of our students live. While there are many advantages to the new methods of communication that have come about in the last few decades, we also need to be aware of the problems that can come with new technology. To provide our households with information about the technology tools and issues facing today's students, we have scheduled presentations from Sara Brand and a member of the Nebraska State Patrol. These sessions will be age appropriate, with the first at 6:30p.m. for K-6 grade students and their parents, then the second at 7:15 for 7-12 grade students and their parents. The date is Monday, April 4, 2011 at The Tassel. As an extra incentive, we will have drawings for door prizes. Each student who attends will receive a drawing ticket for themselves and one for each parent they bring. For each group (K-6 & 7-12), there will be two door prizes given away: a Flip video camera and an ipod Touch. Please plan to attend this event to help us promote responsible digital citizenship in our community.

In the Classroom...

Mrs. Dicke—3rd Grade—Franklin

Concentrating in March and April is more challenging than other months due to several short weeks of school, the time change adjustment and spring fever. But we third graders are overcoming that challenge while having some fun. We enjoyed dressing up for the week of Read Across America and reading our books from the PTO. Writing our Spelling tests in cursive is getting easier with practice. We are excited about learning multiplication facts. We make our own flash cards, sing multiplication songs, take timed tests, do fun packets, and Smart Board activities to get us ready for 4th grade math. Learning can be fun....even if we would rather be outside.

Mrs. Shield—Title I—Washington & R7

Schoolwide Title I is a program funded by the Federal government. The Holdrege elementary schools have teachers and/or paraprofessionals providing services for students who need an “extra boost”. As a Schoolwide elementary district, we are able to provide that extra help to all students in grades K-4th. All three schools provide a Before School Study time for 3rd and 4th graders. Students may come before school and receive help with classroom assignments, memorizing math facts, spelling words, or any other educational need they may have. We also provide small group settings as a way to help students learn to read.

April and May are busy months for teachers and students. End of the year information and assessments can cause a lot of stress. The Channing Bete Company offers the following advise for relieving some of that stress.

Keep up with your classroom assignments.

Get enough sleep.

Stay focused. Before the test begins don't let negative thoughts distract you.

Eat a healthy breakfast.

Tell yourself that you're prepared and that you'll do well.

Mrs. Kreutzer—1st Grade— Washington

By April, first graders are having a ball learning to be excellent readers. They have some very helpful ideas of how to be the very best reader you can be.

A – Always read **all** the choices when figuring out which word goes in a blank

P – Point to the word you are reading

R – Raise your hand if you have a question

I – Is it a long vowel or a short vowel? (If two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking and says its own name, magic e at the end of a word makes the first vowel long)

L – Look for pictures and context clues to help you figure out words

The first graders wish you a great rest of the school year and encourage everyone to keep reading all through the summer!!!

Mrs. Shelton—Resource—Washington

With the NeSA Writing test behind us, we have all been preparing for the NeSA Reading and Math tests. It is finally here and the students have been working all year. Now it is their time to shine! Make sure your child gets a good night's rest and has a good breakfast during their testing days. Also, we could not do all of this without our fantastic para-professionals! If you see a para, take a moment to say “thank you”!

The mission of the Holdrege Public Schools is to prepare students to be lifelong learners and productive, responsible citizens by providing a quality education in cooperation with family and community.

2011 Elementary Summer School Registration

Kindergarten—4th Grade

All classes held at Washington Elementary School

Please check which session(s) you would like your child to attend:

Students should sign up for grade levels based on what grade they just completed, not what grade they will be starting next school year.

Week 1

Monday, May 23-Friday, May 27
1 week session \$40.00
9:00 am—12:00 pm

_____ Kindergarten:
Reading and Math
Readiness Skills

_____ 1st and 2nd Grade:
Reading and Writing
Math Skills

_____ 3rd and 4th Grade:
Reading and Writing
Math Skills

Week 2

Tuesday, May 31-Friday, June 3
1 week session \$32.00
9:00 am—12:00 pm

_____ Kindergarten:
Reading and Math
Readiness Skills

_____ 1st and 2nd Grade:
Reading and Writing
Math Skills

_____ 3rd and 4th Grade:
Reading and Writing
Math Skills

Week 3

Monday, June 6-Friday, June 10
1 week session \$40.00
9:00 am—12:00 pm

_____ Kindergarten:
Reading and Math
Readiness Skills

_____ 1st and 2nd Grade:
Reading and Writing
Math Skills

_____ 3rd and 4th Grade:
Reading and Writing
Math Skills

Please complete the section below

Student Name _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Address _____

Telephone-home _____

Telephone-cell _____

Telephone-work _____

What grade did student complete _____

School Attended _____

Daycare Provider (if applicable) _____

Daycare Address _____

Daycare Telephone _____

My child is receiving (check all that apply):

Speech/Language Services _____ Resource _____ Individualized Rtl _____ ELL _____ Free/Reduced Meals _____

Please return this form to your child's school office or teacher by May 13, 2011. If you have any questions, please call Amber Porter at 995-4339. You will receive more information about Summer School after we receive your registration form.