



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

December 2010

Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, Dec. 7:**
7:00 pm: R7 Elementary Christmas Concert Grades K-4
- **Thursday, Dec. 9:**
7:00 pm: Franklin & Washington Christmas Concert Grades 3-4
- **Tuesday, Dec. 21:**
Dismissal at 1:30 pm for Christmas Break
- **Tuesday, January 4:**
NO SCHOOL—change from original calendar
- **Wednesday, January 5:**
School resumes

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



Colder Weather



The cold weather has arrived and it is here to stay. Please make sure that your children come to school prepared for the cold weather. This means a heavy coat, and if necessary, a hat, mittens/gloves, and boots. If there is snow, students will not be allowed to play off the cleared, hard cement surfaces unless they are wearing snow boots. Snowpants may be required to play off the cleared surfaces if the snow is deep enough to avoid wet clothes at school. We will be going outside whenever possible as it is important for the children to get some fresh air and exercise during the day.

Staying indoors for recess will be decided by the building principal. As outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook, if the weather is not severe, children will be outside for recess if the temperature is above 18 degrees and the wind chill is above 5 degrees. Be sure to dress your child properly for the elements.

Change in Christmas Break

Due to an added teacher in-service day on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, school will resume for all Holdrege students on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. This is a change from the original calendar. Please be sure to make this change in your schedule.

School will dismiss on Tuesday, December 21 at 1:30 pm for Christmas break.

School Closings

If school needs to be closed due to weather, local news media will be notified and Blackboard Connect will be used to contact student households. If possible, school personnel will make a decision to be broadcast on the 10pm news. However, a decision the night before is not always possible due to arising or deteriorating conditions during the night. A decision will be made during the early morning and the media will be notified as soon as possible.

Please make a plan with your children as to what to do or where to go if school has to be closed early with little warning. It is a concern that students do not know what to do in such a situation. Phone calls and messages are difficult to dispatch at this time. It helps if your child has an idea of what he/she is to do in these situations ahead of time.

Christmas Concerts

Many of the elementary students will be participating in elementary Christmas concerts this month.

On Tuesday, December 7th, under the direction of Miss Alissa Bislow, the R7 kindergarten through fourth graders will present their Christmas program at 7:00 at The Tassel.

Mrs. Judy Butler's third and fourth graders from Franklin and Washington Elementary schools will present their Christmas program on Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 pm at The Tassel.



The students have been working hard and would love to see you all join them in celebrating the Christmas season.

HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS:
EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Changes??

Have you had a change to your home phone, cell phone, or workplace? Please be sure to let your child's school office know so that your information can be updated. It is very important that we have current information so we can reach you if your child becomes sick, there is an emergency, etc.

Illness

With the colder weather comes an increase in illness. Patsy Johnson, our interim school nurse, reminds all parents that if your child has a fever of 100 or above, flu-like symptoms, vomiting, or diarrhea, he/she needs to stay home from school. Also, if your child has a fever, it needs to be normal without taking Tylenol or ibuprofen (Motrin) for 24 hours before coming back to school. Please consult your Student-Parent Handbook for more detailed information about illnesses and attending school.

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.

Breakfast at School

Breakfast is a very important part of a student's day. We want to make sure that students who eat breakfast at school are able to do so in a timely manner. Breakfast at each elementary school is served from 7:45-7:55 am. Students need to be finished eating by 8:00 am so that they can get to class on time. This also ensures that our custodians are able to clean up the breakfast area and get it ready for music and PE (Franklin and Washington) since this is a shared space.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found items are multiplying. If your child is missing a coat, jacket, sweatshirt, gloves/mittens, or hat, please check the lost and found at your child's school. At the end of the year, all items left are donated to local



Students Arriving Late/Leaving Early

If a student arrives after 8:05 am, a parent/guardian must come into the school office to sign their child in. When you drop your child off without checking in, a school official may not be aware of their arrival. This becomes a safety issue. At Franklin and Washington, all doors except the front doors are locked, including the outbuildings, and at R7 all doors are locked (doorbell entry). Because of this, there could be a possibility that a child could be locked out of a building without our knowledge.

Likewise, if you need to pick up your child early from school due to an appointment, illness, etc., you will need to sign him/her out in the office. Please do not go directly to the classroom. School personnel will call for your child to come to the office or be escorted if they are coming from an outbuilding. It is our responsibility to know where students are at all times, and this allows us to know when children leave school for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our schools and students safe.

In the Classroom...

Mrs. Robison – 1st Grade – R-7

Mrs. Robison's first grade class has been hard at work learning about numbers. In the month of November we have been learning about place value, comparing number (greater than and less than) and ordering numbers. It has been fun exploring these concepts by doing different hands on activities. The goldfish activity was the class favorite! Each student got a bag of goldfish crackers and they needed to count how many were in the bag. The class could not count them by ones they had to make groups of 10 and then add them together. After each student counted their crackers they got to enjoy a yummy little snack!

Right: Zander Sell counts out his goldfish crackers.



Mrs. Harms & Mrs. Bergman 3rd Grade– R7

The R-7 third graders have been working hard exploring geometry. They have been introduced to rays, angles, parallel lines, intersecting lines and more. We spent a few minutes finding examples of these outside on our playground. It's amazing what you can find when you really look for something! They have been working with Miss Scalene and Mr. Isosceles triangles, too.

Science has been interesting as we move from animals to understanding how animals and plants live together compete with different environments and ecosystems. We will be talking about the different kinds of forests, food chains and how living things depend on each other.

Social Studies has found us researching the history of Holdrege and why people settled where they did when communities were founded. We will be learning about our country's early history and how communities had to work together to accomplish their goals.

Our class read a story about a deaf boy who went to a concert and saw a deaf percussionist perform. We had fun creating our own instruments at home and then playing them at school. We practiced taking our shoes off and trying to feel vibrations through the gym floor. We held balloons in our laps while other classmates played their percussion instruments to see if we could feel the vibrations. It was fun to watch some video clips of Evelyn Glennie, a real deaf percussionist. We also enjoyed having Mrs. Hornaman teach us the signs for a few words.

If any parents are looking getting ready to do some Christmas shopping for third graders, we have a few suggestions. You might want to consider purchasing analog (not digital) clocks, books (such as The Boxcar Children or books by Beverly Cleary), puzzles, or banks. Happy Holidays from Mrs. Harms and Mrs. Bergman

Mrs. Peterson – Art – Franklin & R7

Fresco, fresco, fresco is what you will hear the third graders singing.

They are ready to start painting their self-portraits in plaster. They studied Leonardo daVinci and his realistic style. They also studied his two famous works The Mona Lisa and The Last Supper. From the realistic style of daVinci, they looked at the abstract portraiture of Pablo Picasso. Their cubistic portraits done in oil pastels are taking on some serious expression.

Have you ever seen a blue horse? The kindergarteners have in Franz Marc's The Blue Horses. Their finished artwork shows some delightful horses in non-local color on a fanciful background. The first graders learned a new Spanish word, arpillera. This is textile artwork done by South American women. It depicts their way of life using fabric and stitches. The first graders used the mediums of paper and tissue paper for their arpilleras to show gardens full of produce and clothespin people to finish their projects.

Lastly, the second graders enjoyed "drawing what they see" when it came to capturing Raggedy Ann in an expressive line drawing. The halls of the elementary schools are filled with art. You're welcome to come visit any time!

Mrs. Mattson – Kindergarten– Washington

We have had 65 very busy, productive days of school-- 65 days of growing and learning together as a group! November was a time of thankfulness in our classroom. We are especially thankful for Evelyn Villegas! Evelyn is a Holdrege High School student who helps in our classroom during our Learning Centers. Evelyn helps the students write words, practice letter sounds, play math games, create beautiful art projects, and many other center activities. We appreciate her kindness, patience and smiles!!



During this time of giving thanks, I would like to say a special thank you to my Kindergarten parents! Thank you for all of your involvement. You are such an important part of your child's education, especially during this first year in elementary school.

We are working our way through the alphabet. I know my class is looking forward to Christmas activities and the study of letter J, when we will be joyful, jolly and jiggling jingle bells!

Left: Helping kindergarten students with their Thanksgiving "feast," Evelyn Villegas serves food to Samantha Roach and Emilee Vanderlinde.