



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Franklin Washington R-7

December 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, Nov. 25:
1:30 pm Dismissal
- Thursday, Nov. 26:
No School-Thanksgiving Break
- Friday, Nov. 27:
No School-Thanksgiving Break
- Tuesday, Dec. 1:
6:00 pm—Christmas Program for R-7 at The Tassel
- Thursday, Dec. 10
7:00 pm—3rd & 4th Grade Christmas Program for Franklin and Washington at The Tassel
- Tuesday, Dec. 22:
1:30 pm Dismissal
- Wednesday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 4:
Christmas Break
- Tuesday, Jan. 5:

School Re-sumes



Mailing address for all elementary schools:

PO Box 2002
Holdrege, NE 68949

Washington: 995-4339

Franklin: 995-4269

R-7: 995-6179

Holdrege Public Schools Web-site:

www.thedusters.org

Our first semester will be drawing to a close this month. It's hard to believe that almost half of the school year has gone by. During this holiday season, the faculty and staff wish to express their gratitude for the opportunity to educate your child and wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

RED RIBBON WEEK

"Yes We CAN Say No to Drugs" was the theme of one the days of Red Ribbon Week in which students were invited to participate in making a commitment to a drug free lifestyle. As part of the theme students were encouraged to bring canned goods for donation to the Phelps Community Food Pantry. Just over 1100 food items were collected by the elementary school students of Franklin, Washington and R-7 Schools!

Red Ribbon Week activities were done in cooperation with the Safe Communities Coalition and the Central Nebraska Coalition Against Substance Abuse. Everyone was encouraged to "Show Your School Spirit Drug Free" on Friday by wearing purple and gold clothes in support of our Holdrege Dusters. Monday's theme of "Follow Your Dreams--Don't Do Drugs" had many students in school wearing their pajamas! Tuesday was the can drive and Wednesday's theme was "Walk Out Against Drugs." Everyone was encouraged to wear their walking shoes and go out with their class for a healthy walk. The SCC and the CNCASA provided stickers for staff and students for each day as well as a fun snack with a drug free message.

PRINCIPAL'S CLUB

Last month we kicked off our 2009-10 Principal's Club. The winners of the first drawing received Dairy Queen gift certificates. The second drawings were held Friday, November 13th. These winning students received a gift certificate for Pizza Hut. We are very excited to see so many students showing positive behavior in school, not only towards teachers and staff members, but also towards each other.

PTO NEWS

Box Tops containers will be placed in each classroom so you may send Box Tops with your child at any time. When you have Sun Mart receipts, send them to school with your child and they'll be given to the PTO to count. The PTO is encouraging students to donate to the food drive instead of giving a gift to their teachers. Watch for more details.

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. 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.

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.

HALLOWEEN TREATS

We wish to thank Holdrege Memorial Homes and Christian Homes for providing each elementary student with Trick or Treat candy for Halloween. Due to the amount of illness in the community this year, both homes asked that children not trick or treat for the residents. Graciously, representatives from both care centers brought the candy to us. Many of the teachers took pictures of their students in their costumes and sent them to the residents to enjoy.

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.

THE NUTCRACKER

On the morning of **Monday, November 30th**, all elementary students will be attending a performance of The Nutcracker at **The Tassel from 10:00-11:00 am**. We appreciate the generosity of the Minnesota Ballet and The Tassel for inviting our students to attend this exciting holiday event. Making it even more special is that a number of Holdrege students of all ages will be dancing in this performance.



HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Empowering Students for Success

In the Classroom...

Mrs. Robison—1st Grade—R-7

The first graders at R-7 have been learning about the different types of animals and what they need to survive. We learned about the places they live, what they eat, and how they adapt to their surroundings. The class really enjoyed learning about the different animals. As a part of the unit the class built a model home for an animal out of a shoe box. Each student chose an animal and they had to make the inside of the box look like where that animal would live and what it would need to survive. This was a fun way to be creative and show what they learned.

Right: More than just for shoes, Mrs. Robison's first graders show off their model homes for animals made from shoeboxes.



Mrs. Milius/Mrs. Dannehl—3rd Grade—R-7

It's been inventors, inventors, inventors in the 3rd grade at R-7 School. Louis Braille and his invention of the Braille system of reading for the blind has been the topic in Language Arts as we read Helen Keller. Each student has also selected an inventor to research and write a report on. Webs and outlines were created on Inspiration with information that was found then put into a report. From these reports a Power Point project will be created to share with the parents at our "Invention Convention."

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.

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.

Mrs. Zackery—2nd Grade—Washington

"I can't believe how fast this school year is going" This is a recent quote from one of my 2nd grade boys. That makes me smile. We started out with an even 20 students in our class and are now at 19. We have been working hard at becoming better readers, writers, spellers and better at math. We had 100% attendance for the first Parent Teacher Conferences. Although we are learning lots in the classroom, Art and PE remain the favorite subjects.

We are well into November and Thanksgiving is not far away. The 2nd grade at Washington Elementary always do our Native American Unit the month of November. We are learning about 4 main groups. The Indians of the Northwest coast (Chinook), The Southwest (Hopi), The Plains (Sioux), and The Eastern Woodlands (Seneca). Our room is divided into these 4 main groups. Each group will be responsible for researching and finding information on their tribe. When researching, the students will be looking for facts about: 1. Where their tribe lives. 2. What they ate. 3. What they wore. 4. What their home were made of and how they were built. 5. Extra interesting facts. Each student will be responsible for one of these topics. Each tribe will then take their information and put captions with pictures to be presented to the class using the Smart Board. Each tribe is also decorating a lean-to with Indian symbols. The symbols will tell a story to be shared with the class. As a homework assignment, each student will have an opportunity to create a project to go with their particular tribe. We always learn so much with this unit as well as having fun using our creative juices. We wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving with lots to be thankful for.

Right: Showing they CAN say no to drugs, Mrs. Zackery's class shows just a few of the cans collected for the Food Pantry during Red Ribbon Week.



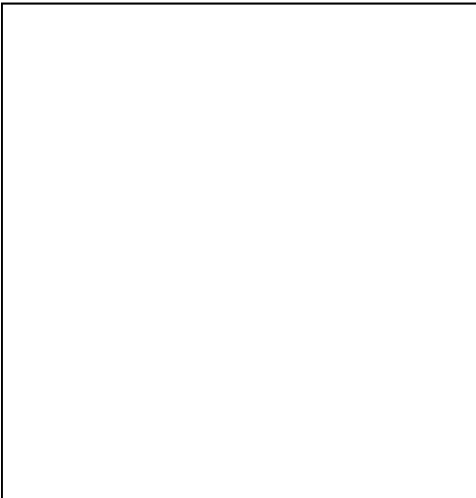
Mrs. Mattson—Kindergarten—Washington

November was a time for thankfulness in our classroom. We learned about the first Thanksgiving and how the Pilgrims were thankful for their fruitful harvest and for the Native Americans who had helped them survive in their new land. The children thoughtfully created a thankful booklet. It was wonderful to see them draw and label pictures of Grandma and Grandpa, mom and dad, and other members of their family. During this time of giving thanks, I would like to say a special thanks to my Kindergarten parents. Thank you for all of your involvement in your child's education. I appreciate how each week you help your child find Show & Tell "Letter of the Week" items. The objects that are collected and shown reflect a lot of thought, time and creativity. The children love sharing their collections, as we reinforce the letter sound and build vocabulary! There isn't enough space to list all the things that I am thankful to you for, but just know that your children are reaping the benefits of your efforts! Happy Thanksgiving!



Meet Duster Grant

Duster Grant is a new symbol for the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation created by HPS Foundation Committee member Christi Anderson. You will see him in articles, podcasts, and videos as he represents the Foundation and promotes grants for Holdrege teachers to use for Holdrege students.



2009 Golf Tournament



The inaugural 2009 HPS Foundation Golf Tournament held at the Holdrege Country Club on July 18th was a great success with twenty-two 4-person teams competing in perfect weather. More than seventy businesses participated as sponsors with additional contributions of flag prizes and trophies.

The top winning teams included:

Flight 1: Roger Hoeck, Kenny Johnson, Jeff Ehresman, and Rod Ridenour

Flight 2: Steve & Dana Kness, Gordon Yung, and Michele Ehresman

Thanks to everyone involved, the HPS Foundation raised approximately \$6,000!

Foundation Awards Grant to Benefit Middle School Math Students

The Holdrege Public Schools Foundation awarded a grant in 2008 to the Middle School Math teachers that was used to purchase an Elmo visual presenter. The presenter allows teachers and students to place an object on the platform and project it for everyone in the classroom to see. Students can display problems they've worked on paper without rewriting them on a whiteboard. "The Elmo makes sharing different problem solving solutions so quick and easy."

commented Mary Schneider, 6th grade math teacher. Teachers can project a book for all students to see an example close up or to make sure students are on the correct page. Math manipulatives, such as money or shapes, can be moved with everyone in the class seeing how they are moved. Teachers and students like the Elmo. Mrs. Fuehrer, 7th grade math teacher, said, "My students enjoy using the Elmo to share problem solutions. Mrs. Schneider and I have been sharing the one we have. My students exclaimed yesterday, 'The Elmo is back, yeah! Can we use it today?'" This is a great tool for visual learners to reach classroom goals using technology.

Middle School Math Teachers—Sandy Grimm, Anna Anderson, Steph Fuehrer, and Mary Schneider

School Foundation Sets Date for 2010 Golf Fundraiser

Mark your calendar NOW for the second annual HPS Foundation Golf Tournament on July 31, 2010. Registration will open in the spring for the 4-person scramble to be played at the Holdrege Country Club with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. For a modest entry fee, you and your teammates will enjoy 18 holes of golf, snacks, and a great lunch. Participants will have the opportunity to win flag prizes, and trophies will be given out to the top three teams.

Proceeds will be used to provide grants to enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers in the Holdrege Public Schools.

Brochures will be available online and at the HPS Central Office, Phelps County Community Foundation, and the Holdrege Country Club.

