



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Franklin Washington R-7

FEBRUARY 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday, Feb. 15:
1:30 pm Dismissal
4-8 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, Feb. 16:
1:30 pm Dismissal
- Wednesday, Feb. 17:
1:30 pm Dismissal
- Thursday, Feb. 18:
1:30 pm Dismissal
2-6 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday, Feb. 19:
No School
- Friday, March 5:
No School
- Thursday, March 11:
End of 3rd Quarter
- Friday, March 12:
No School
- Thursday, March 18:
R-7 Vocal Concert
- Thursday, April 8:
K-2 Vocal Concert
- Thursday, April 29:
3-4 Vocal Concert

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

The start of our second semester brought with it some very cold weather. Now that we're back in the familiar routines of school, we are looking forward to a great second half of the year. Please be sure to read the newsletter carefully and note the dates to remember.

EARLY DISMISSALS/NO SCHOOL

Due to Parent Teacher Conferences, school will be dismissed at **1:30** on the following days:

Monday, February 15th
Tuesday, February 16th
Wednesday, February 17th
Thursday, February 18th

On Friday, February 19th, there will be **no school** for Holdrege Public Schools.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

The Holdrege Elementary schools are preparing for the kindergarten class of 2010-11. We will be having an informational meeting for parents at The Tassel on February 22nd at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. If you have child, or know of a child, who will be 5 years old by October 15, 2010, please call Washington Elementary at 995-4339. We are keeping the kindergarten list at a central location for planning purposes. Your child's attendance center will be determined at a later date.

SCHOOL BOARD DECISION

As you may have read in the local papers, the Holdrege Board of Education voted to keep the building structures for each elementary school the same for next year.

Franklin Elementary will stay with kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. Washington Elementary will continue with kindergarten, first, second, and fourth grades. Kindergarten through fourth grade will continue at R-7.

The administrators, staff, and school board continue to welcome your comments and concerns about Holdrege Public Schools as we all strive to make our schools the best for everyone we serve.

CENSUS VERIFICATION

During the first week of February, a form will be sent home with your child asking for updates to your household information. It is very important that you look this over carefully and make any changes or add any information that you feel are important. Please note that at the bottom of the form there is a place to fill in parents' workplaces. Having that information is helpful in cases of emergencies.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us make sure our records stay updated.

ELEMENTARY PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences for the elementary schools are scheduled for Monday, February 15th from 4-8 pm and on Thursday, February 18th from 2-6 pm. Please watch for more information and sign-up times in the near future.

STUDENT TEACHERS

On a visit to Washington Elementary, you might see two new faces in the classrooms. Casey Johnsen and Katie Chramosta are completing their student teaching through the University of Nebraska at Kearney this semester. Casey, a native of Wilcox, is teaching with Mrs. Kreutzer in first grade. Katie is from Minden and is teaching the first quarter with Mrs. Waller and will finish out the year with Mrs. Shelton in Resource. We are pleased to have them with us and excited to be a part of the final step in their undergraduate education.

RECESS AND WEATHER

Please remember that when the temperature is 18 degrees or above, and the wind chill is not below 5 degrees, we will be going outside for recess. If there is snow on the ground, students will not be allowed to play off the cleared cement areas unless they have snow boots. If there has been a significant amount of snowfall, students may be required to wear both boots and snow pants to play in the snowy areas so their clothes are not wet when they return to class.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Washington Elementary will be having its yearly book fair starting Monday, February 15th and will end on Thursday, February 18th in the media center. We will be open all school hours and during Parent-Teacher Conferences. There are a lot of great new books, posters, and gadgets available for the children so please stop in and check out this year's selection.

Also, we will be running an incentive program this year. Whichever classroom has the largest total sales at the end of the week will be the winner. The winning classroom teacher will receive a \$100 gift certificate to pick out books or items that can be used in their classroom so take part in the excitement!

HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Empowering Students for Success

In the Classroom...

MRS. OHLSON—4TH GRADE—WASHINGTON

We have been working very diligently on the state standards!! Since August, we've been working on the Math standards and we've been preparing for the new state Reading standard test (NeSA-R). We've also been working very hard on personal narratives in preparation for the state writing standard test. Students have been doing a wonderful job working as hard as they can on these without much complaint...they just know that this is something they have to do and that it's not going away! We still have plenty of standards left to take and we will continue to work very hard to get them finished by May 1st and we will have a big celebration at the end of the year. If you see a fourth grader, commend them for all their hard work and effort. Keep up the great work!

STATEWIDE WRITING

On February 3rd and 4th, the 4th grade students will be participating in the Statewide Writing Examination. The students have two days to complete a narrative composition based on the writing prompt provided by the Nebraska Department of Education. The teachers and students have been preparing for this all year. We also work on these writing skills in Kindergarten through 3rd grade to help prepare students of this test using the Six Traits Writing Method.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Several organizations are considering community needs and exploring the possibility of a Summer Lunch Program for children (approximate grades, K through 12) to be offered Monday-Friday at downtown Holdrege Churches (on a rotating basis) in June and July. Call your child's school office (see front page of newsletter for phone numbers) if your children would benefit from participating in this program and have free noon lunches this summer.

WE WANT YOU!

Needed: Parents to be involved with district and building committees. This is another good way get involved with what is happening in our district and have input about issues that matter to you.

If you're willing to serve on a district or building committee, please contact your building principal.

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.

BOX TOPS

The Elementary PTO reminds you about the Box Tops drive February 8th-12th. Send your Box Tops with your child in a zip-lock bag.



MRS. ALBERTS—4TH GRADE—R7

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Alberts' class at R-7 have donned their safety goggles and armed themselves with graduated cylinders. They are embarking on an exciting unit of chemistry and more specifically, states of matter, in science. Students are focusing on measuring solids, liquids and gases as well as observing changes in matter, both chemical and physical. They are performing experiments in which they are forming a hypothesis, measuring in varying units, and proving or disproving their hypothesis. The fourth graders will conclude the unit by exploring the Table of Elements. Students will have the opportunity to pick an element and research some of its defining characteristics.

MRS. WILKEN—RESOURCE—FRANKLIN

Ready, Set...Read! Many students have been participating in the McDonald's All American Reading Challenge. This is a motivational and exciting program that inspires and rewards students for reading and exploring new books. The children get their very own "Book Log" where they keep track of the individual books they have read. Once they have read and completed ten books the teacher signs the log and the students get to celebrate all of their hard work with a free Happy Meal at their local McDonald's restaurant. This reading challenge has encouraged students to make a conscious effort to read in their free time and it has rewarded them for reaching their reading goals....Ready, Set...Read!!The All American Reading Challenge is sponsored by the local participating McDonald's restaurant, Children's Book Council and the International Reading Association.

MRS. PETERSON—1ST GRADE—FRANKLIN

It is again time to discuss the important things we have learned in 2009, and then think about some things that we would like to improve during 2010. The children came up with some good ideas and we have them displayed outside our classroom for parents to read at conference time. Several children remind each other of their goals and that has kept them foremost in our minds.

Martin Luther King has been a topic of learning, too. We certainly decided that many of the laws at that time were not "fair" and are glad they have been changed to make things fair for all people, regardless of their skin color. We think Rosa Parks and Ruby Bridges certainly were brave to do what they did.

We are learning that there are many different strategies to use when adding and subtracting numbers. Using counting on and counting back, doubles and doubles plus one, and others that we will be using in the weeks to come. Ask your child about his/her favorite strategy!

MRS. FLORELL—3RD GRADE—FRANKLIN

Learning happens all around us and despite the many things we need to accomplish in third grade, we still make time for some FUN! In our classroom, the students are waiting patiently for some crystals to grow. One of our classmates shared the crystals he grew at home and brought the experiment for us to try at school. What a perfect tie-in to our winter weather and learning that all snowflakes are crystals. Happy Winter!