



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

February 2011

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, March 2:**
Lifetouch Spring Pictures at all Elementary Schools
- **Friday, March 4:**
NO SCHOOL-Spring Break
- **Monday, March 7:**
Dismiss at 1:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 8**
Dismiss at 1:30 pm-
Parent/Teacher Conf.
4-8 p.m. (CHANGE)
- **Wednesday, March 9:**
Dismiss at 1:30 pm-
Parent/Teacher Conf.
2-6 p.m./End of 3rd Qtr.
- **Thursday, March 10 & Friday, March 11:**
NO SCHOOL-Spring Break
- **Thursday, March 17:**
6:00 p.m.-R7 Elementary Vocal Concert
- **Thursday, March 31:**
7:00 p.m.-K-2 Elementary Vocal Concert for Washington and Franklin
- **Thursday, April 7:**
7:00 p.m.-3-4 Elementary Vocal Concert for Washington and Franklin

Mailing address for all elementary schools:

PO Box 2002
Holdrege, NE 68949
Phone Numbers:

Washington: 995-4339

Franklin: 995-4269

R-7: 995-6179

Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences for all Elementary schools are scheduled for Tuesday, March 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 9th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is a change from the original calendar. The elementary will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 7th, Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th. There will be no school on Friday, March 4th, Thursday, March 10th and Friday, March 11th.

Classroom teachers will be sending home sign-up forms closer to the time of conferences. Please be watching for these in your child's things.

Kindergarten Information Meeting

The Holdrege Elementary schools are preparing for the kindergarten class of 2011-12. We will be having an informational meeting for parents at The Tassel on Tuesday, February 8th at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 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. 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.

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.

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.

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 10p.m. 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.

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.

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.

Spring Vocal Music Concerts

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the elementary music programs coming up. All elementary students at R7 will present their concert on Thursday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m.

On Thursday, March 31st the kindergarten, first, and second grade students from Washington and Franklin Elementary will perform their concert at 7:00 p.m.

Third and fourth grade students from Washington and Franklin will present their concert on Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Miss Bislow and Mrs. Butler will be sending more information home with students closer to their concert dates.

Student Behavior at Sporting Events

Now that the winter sports season is in full swing, we would appreciate if you would talk to your child about their behavior at basketball games, wrestling matches and other activities. We would like students to come to these events to support the teams competing. We do not, however, want them to come to events and run around all of the time. For the safety of your child and out of respect for all those attending, please encourage your child to watch the athletes and show positive sportsmanship.

HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS:
EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Lifetouch Spring Pictures

Lifetouch will be at all the elementary schools on March 2nd to take Spring pictures. These work differently than our Fall pictures because there is no pre-ordering. Families will receive a packet of pictures of your child several weeks afterwards to look at and decide if you would like to purchase any or all of them.

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 purchase any pictures but do not return their packets to their school will not be able to receive their final report cards until it is turned in.

There are no re-takes or a make-up date for these pictures. If your child is not in school on March 2nd, you will not receive a spring picture packet this year.

In the Classroom...

Miss Chramosta—4th Grade—R7

Ms. Chramosta's fourth grade classroom is full of hard working, enthusiastic students. We currently finished reading the book *Stone Fox*, and we completed summaries, a sports article, and a final project to go along with the book. *Stone Fox* was definitely a favorite by all of the fourth grade students, and we enjoyed the tear jerking ending as many of the students hadn't predicted it. We remain busy in the classroom as we continue to prepare for NeSA testing in reading, math, and writing. We are currently working on geometry in math which intrigues most of the students; however, we continue to review everything we've already learned through spiral reviews to ensure that we are well prepared for state testing. The students have also turned into magnificent personal narrative writers, and they have set personal goals and appreciated critiquing each other's work. We took a good look at their progression from their first personal narrative to their latest, and many of the students couldn't believe how much they had truly improved.

Mrs. Ohlson—4th Grade—Washington

In Mrs. Ohlson's 4th grade class, we have been working very diligently on the state standards. Since August, we've been working on preparing for the new state Math standard test (NeSA-M) and the 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. J The testing window will be here before we know it, and we still have a lot of work to do! We will have a big celebration at the end of the year! If you see a 4th grader, commend them for all their hard work and effort—keep up the great work!!

Mrs. Wilken—Resource—Franklin

Ready, Set...Read! Many students have been participating in the Read Away Reading Challenge. This is a motivational and exciting program that inspires and rewards students for reading and exploring new books. Each student receives 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 student get to celebrate all of their hard work with a trip to the classroom store to shop for a prize. 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!!

Mrs. Peterson—1st Grade—Franklin

We are proud to announce that we have a student teacher in our classroom. Her name is Jayme Schroeder and she is a student at Hastings College. We are excited to have her in our classroom and look forward to the many things she will be teaching us in the next few weeks. She will be with us until March 9, when she will teach at the High School.

With the arrival of a new year comes a chance to think about some goals that we want to work on for the rest of the school year. The children set goals such as: work more neatly, listen to others, do our best and some others that we can ask the students about. It is always a good idea to reconsider our goals. Reading has been going well as we continue to practice letter sounds, blending sounds, and word reading in our daily work. Our Reading skills have been improving and we enjoy reading for fun!

Learning about solids and shapes will be our focus of study for the next several weeks as we continue our work in Math. We are also learning to add and subtract using larger numbers.

