



# HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Franklin Washington R-7

## January 2010

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, Dec. 22:  
1:30 pm Dismissal
- Wednesday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 4:  
Christmas Break
- Tuesday, Jan. 5:  
School Resumes-LATE START AT 10:00 AM
- Monday, Feb. 15:  
1:30 pm Dismissal  
4-8 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, Feb. 16:  
1:30 pm Dismissal
- Thursday, Feb. 18:  
1:30 pm Dismissal  
2-6 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday, Feb. 19:  
No School

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  
Website:

[www.thedusters.org](http://www.thedusters.org)

Our school year is half over, but there is much to learn and do before May. Please take time to read over the newsletter for important information about what's going on in the Elementary Schools. Be sure to note the **Dates to Remember** to the left for upcoming events and schedule changes.

### ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

If you know your child will be missing school for appointments, family reasons, etc., please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible to see what his/her responsibilities are for homework and assignments.

When your child is sick, you can pick up homework in the office each day he/she is absent. Please note that homework usually isn't available until the end of the day so that teachers can include as much as possible of what was covered that day in class. You may request homework for your child when you call the school to report your child's absence. Parents are encouraged to ask for homework to ensure that their child doesn't fall behind.

We understand that some absences are unavoidable. In order to help your child stay caught up, please be sure to communicate with your child's teacher and the school when they have a planned absence or illness absence. Thank you for your cooperation.

### LATE START JANUARY 5TH

There will be a late start at 10:00 am, on Tuesday, January 5th, 2010. This is due to a teacher in-service. There will be no breakfast served that morning, and students should not arrive at school before 9:45 am.

### DIBELS TESTING

During the month of January, 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, so staff will be able to see how students have improved in the past three months, and identify areas where students need extra assistance.



### 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.

### H1N1 VACCINES

Two Rivers Public Health Department will be assisting Holdrege Public Schools in holding an H1N1 school vaccine clinic on January 14, 2010 during school hours. The vaccine will be given free of charge. Students **WILL NOT** be required to receive the vaccine. Parents and students will receive more information regarding the school vaccine clinic when school resumes on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

## PRINCIPAL'S CLUB WINNERS

Those students being drawn for the Principal's Club so far this year include:

### Franklin

Kelsey Belgum  
Megan Buettner  
Dante Bergstrom  
Wesley Christensen  
Angel Cook  
Aaron Drews  
Kiera Fulmer  
Caitlyn Geiger  
Junior Gaona  
Andrew Graf  
CJ Graf  
Amanda Helms  
Emily Hernandez Ramirez  
Haylee Ironshell  
Drake Johnson  
Wyatt Jones  
Tanner Kuper  
Alec Lovitt  
Alivia Nelson  
Michelle Noel  
Trystin Raburn  
Sydney Reed  
Luz Rodriguez Dimas  
Lakota Rookstool  
Christopher Sabatka  
Brandon Solorio  
Dawn Upson  
Karely Ruiz Villegas  
Cade Wiese  
Anna Rose Wilson

### Washington

Sydney Allmand  
Sara Barnes  
Blare Bauer  
Ty Bowman  
Bryn Boyken  
Jon Christie  
Miguel Corral  
McCartney Elliott  
Jayden Fulmer  
Gray Gustafson  
Creighton Hinrichs  
Michael Hopkins  
Maverick Hulshizer  
Brianna Low  
Nelson Milks  
Maddie Moore  
Kaylee Newman  
Triston Nicks  
Trace Piska  
Hudson Reed  
Ella Roach  
Chris Rowan  
Tyelar Samuelson  
Chaynce Schepker  
Brett Schrock  
Shay Swanson  
Blake Traster  
Megan Urbom  
Anna Grace Weed

### R-7

Shelby Altwine  
Coby Anderson  
Tyler Bialas  
Caleb Blanchard  
Grace Borden  
Elie Brodine  
Gunnar Evans  
Kasey Hendrickson  
Hannah Kinnaman  
Dalton McCarter  
Prestin Melroy  
Levi Landin  
Michael Larsen  
Brayden Schmalz  
Skyler Sell



**We are very proud of all students who display positive behavior in our schools. Congratulations!**

### ***In the Classroom...***

#### **Mrs. Williams—2nd Grade—R7**

The second graders at R-7 have been busy this school year. In December, the students read the traditional Christmas book, *The Night Before Christmas*, for their reading and phonics lessons. The students found a lot of new words that they could learn and used their new dictionaries to find their meanings. After many re-readings to gain fluency, they were ready to take it home and read it to their family over Christmas break. What a fun way to practice reading skills and celebrate the holiday season! Another Christmas activity was completed during Writers' Workshop time in December. The students read examples of quatrain poems and identified the characteristics of that type of poem. They each chose a Christmas topic and wrote their own quatrain poem about it. Using the *Six Traits of Writing* process, the students completed a wonderful Christmas poem for their parents. December was a busy and fabulous month in second grade!

## We Want YOU!

Needed: Parents to be involved with district and building committees.

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

## 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,

## Mrs. Bergman—Title 1—Franklin & Washington

The students and teachers at both Franklin and Washington are working hard and trying to accomplish many things before Christmas break. Second graders at Franklin school work on vocabulary words, reading fluency, finding new ways to memorize their spelling words, and playing games such as "Squabble" where they create new words with Scrabble letters. Kindergarteners are learning many new things, including recognizing the sounds that letters make. Some fourth graders at Washington are trying hard to read more quickly and accurately by using our new "Read Naturally" program. They enjoy meeting their individual goals and reading fluently enough to pass out of each story. The first and second graders are becoming better, more independent and careful readers. Some first graders are working on extra projects that go along with their reading stories. There is lots of learning going on in our elementary schools!

## Mrs. Komenda—Guidance—R7

Where has the year gone? It is amazing that first semester is done and we are beginning second semester. The students at R7 have been learning about respect through classroom guidance activities. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders created power points to show respect for each other's difference in learning. They shared a personal page, their strengths, concerns/weaknesses, how I learn best, and what worries me. This was a challenge for some because they needed to really think about what information they would share with their friends and would they be respected for their differences. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders learned about respect through books and classroom activities. The Kindergarteners have been working on manners. This was fun because we read lots of books and created a list of 'good' manners. I look forward to second semester and the exciting activities will be complete while learning more about positive character.

## Mrs. Dannehl—Media—R7

The students have been very busy lately. The kindergartners have been researching information about polar animals. We made a poster on each animal with lots of pictures and facts. We also included where we found the information. The first graders completed an author study on Jan Brett and enjoyed reading many of her books. The second graders reviewed how to locate fiction and non-fiction books. We also learned about the Caldecott medal and found books in our library that won that award. Dictionary skills was the focus for the third graders. We reviewed guide words, pronunciation, definition, parts of speech, homographs, and example sentences. We also played a game called Pop Up. It was fun to see how fast we can find a word in the dictionary. The fourth graders really enjoyed learning about almanacs and what information can be found in them. We also explored the online almanac at factmonster.com.

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*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.*