



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Franklin Washington R-7

November 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday, Oct. 30:
No School—Fall Break
- Wednesday, Nov. 25:
1:30 pm Dismissal
- Thursday, Nov. 26:
**No School-
Thanksgiving Break**
- Friday, Nov. 27:
**No School-
Thanksgiving Break**
- Thursday, Dec. 10
**3rd & 4th Grade
Christmas Program—
more information to
come**

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

We are over a quarter done with our school year. It seems to be moving very quickly. We hope that you and your family will enjoy this Thanksgiving season, including the two-day break from school on November 26th and 27th.

ILLNESS

With the colder weather comes an increase in illness. Abbie Soneson, our 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.

COLDER WEATHER



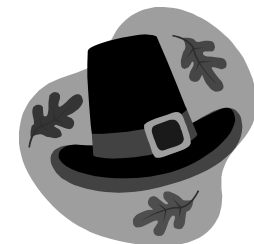
The cold weather has arrived and it is here to stay. Please make sure that your children come to school prepared for the cold weather. This means a heavy coat, and if necessary, a hat, mittens/gloves, and boots. If there is snow, students will not be allowed to play off the cleared, hard cement surfaces 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.

FREE AND REDUCED MEALS

Attached to this newsletter is the application form for free and reduced school meals and information about it. If you already qualify, you do not need to complete another application until next school year. If you receive SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps), or TANF, your household qualifies for free meals. If your family meets certain guidelines based on income, you may qualify for free or reduced meals. If your family has experienced a job loss or reduced hours at work, you may now qualify as well.

This program is designed to make sure all our students receive healthy meals at school. You can ask for and submit an application at any time during the school year. You only need to complete one application for your entire family, and you can simply fill it out and send it back to school with your child. Once we receive your application, you will be notified shortly if your household qualifies. If you need help filling it out, please talk to Mrs. Porter or Mr. Walker. The school staff would be happy to help you.



HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Empowering Students for Success

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.

FUNDRAISERS

Our McDonald's McTeacher night raised \$332.55 and our Family Reading Program Fundraiser has raised over \$1400 *to date*. This year, the plan for this money is to purchase outdoor signs for each of the elementary schools. Currently, the magazine sales is the only fundraiser the elementary schools sponsor as a district, so we are thankful for your participation.

PRINCIPAL'S CLUB

The Principal's Club program began on Monday, October 19th at each elementary school. All staff members are able to award tickets to students that they observe showing positive behavior. When a student receives a Principal's Ticket, he or she drops it in the container in the office and signs the Celebrity Book. Drawings will be held twice a month and the students who get their names drawn will receive the Mystery Motivator Prize, have their picture taken for the celebrity wall outside the office, and a phone call will be made to the parents in the students' presence. The first drawing for the Principal's Club will be held October 29th.

In the Classroom...

Miss Hartung—Kindergarten—Washington

Kindergarten has been busy!! We have learned about some interesting things so far, including Johnny Appleseed, Fall, and Christopher Columbus, just to name a few. But we're all looking forward to the next few months!! We'll be doing several different pumpkin/ Halloween activities and Thanksgiving ones as well as the time draws nearer. They have enjoyed making our fall leaves and festive spiders that are decorating the ceiling of our room!! We're looking forward to all the educational experiences this time of year has to offer!

Mrs. Waller—4th Grade—Washington

In fourth grade we just finished our first book report and dioramas. They were so creative! They even caught Mrs. Edgren's eye! Our next book report project is a biography. In English, we are still working on NOUNS and we plan to write our next narrative story soon. In social studies we are in the southeast region. Some of the kids have already turned in their projects. In science we are exploring outer space and in math we are finishing up adding & subtracting larger numbers.

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.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you to all of you who attended Parent Teacher Conferences. It is such an important part of the elementary grade level learning and we appreciate the time you take to visit with the teachers about your child's education. If concerns arise at any time during the school year, please visit with your child's teacher. You don't need to wait until conference time to do so.



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. Nelson—Kindergarten—R7

The Kindergartners of R-7 have been working hard during the first quarter of this school year. Mrs. Nelson's students say that their favorite part of the school day is time at Learning Centers. These centers include Math, ABC's, Writing, Puzzles/Games, Art, Library, Construction, Computer, and Science. Choosing a center is the first task. A student can only pick a center if it is not already full. This requires patience at times, but is great practice in taking turns. When a student completes a center, he/she must "check-out" with a teacher in order to choose their next location. Each center that is completed earns the child a "token" with the goal of completing all of the centers by the end of the week. Not only are the children having fun, but they are discovering, interacting, cooperating, and learning as well!

Right: Eleanor Brodine uses the computer while Layton Shutz, and Zander Sell work at the Math Center in Mrs. Nelson's room.



Mrs. Peterson—Art-Franklin & R7

We have had a terrific start to our art year! Come and see our work in the halls of our elementary schools. One of the highlights, this quarter, happened in Miss Pierce's third grade class. We were studying Leonardo DaVinci and his realistic portraits, the Mona Lisa as one example. Since we are so close to Holdrege Memorial Homes, we thought it would be fun to walk down and do portraits of the residents. It was a beautiful afternoon all the way around. The students enjoyed talking with and drawing the residents and the residents got a kick out of the portraits the students did for them. We plan to visit with the other third grade classes one time each of the remaining quarters. We also took with us our David Hockney abstract landscapes to be put on display at the homes. We will continue this art exchange the next three quarters as well. Our next venue for sharing our art will be at the R-7 Christmas program. Each student at some point in time will have an art piece on display once a year. We also plan to start up again with the art displays at our local Runza restaurant.

Mrs. Brand—2nd Grade—Washington

The second graders in Mrs. Brand's class have been very busy this past month learning lots of new and exciting things. We'd like to share a few highlights with you. In Science we just completed our unit on Magnets. It was fun to get our hands on different types of magnets and feel the poles attract or repel from each other. We completed our graphing chapter in Math using M&M's candies. Each student created their own individual graph of the different colors in their package and then small groups worked together to compare and compile results with their classmates. Finally, these small groups created another graph representing their data on an online website. Technology skills were also used when we learned about nouns. After brainstorming a list of nouns, each student created a collage of nouns on the wordle.net website. Another great website we use is Spellingcity.com. This site allows us to type in our Spelling list each week and choose from a variety of games and even tests to practice our words. Our favorite game is Hang Mouse! Each Friday we have a "Mystery Reader" visit our classroom. The students have enjoyed listening to a different parent volunteer read each week. Decorating the halls this month were our Columbus pop-up projects and our pasta skeletons. We're now looking forward to November and learning about Native Americans