



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

November 2010

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, Nov. 24:**
NO SCHOOL-Teacher
In-Service
- **Thursday, Nov. 25:**
NO SCHOOL-
Thanksgiving Break
- **Friday, Nov. 26:**
NO SCHOOL-
Thanksgiving Break
- **Tuesday, Dec. 7:**
6:00 pm: R7 Elementary
Christmas Concert
Grades K-4
- **Thursday, Dec. 9:**
7:00 pm: Franklin &
Washington Christmas
Concert Grades 3-4
- **Tuesday, January 4:**
NO SCHOOL—change
from original calendar

Mailing address for all
elementary schools:

PO Box 2002
Holdrege, NE 68949

Phone Numbers:

Washington: 995-4339

Franklin: 995-4269

R-7: 995-6179

Holdrege Public Schools
Website:

www.thedusters.org

Students Arriving Late/Leaving Early

If a student arrives after 8:05 am, a parent/guardian must come into the school office to sign their child in. When you drop your child off without checking in, a school official may not be aware of their arrival. This becomes a safety issue. At Franklin and Washington, all doors except the front doors are locked, including the outbuildings, and at R7 all doors are locked (doorbell entry). Because of this, there could be a possibility that a child could be locked out of a building without our knowledge.

Likewise, if you need to pick up your child early from school due to an appointment, illness, etc., you will need to sign him/her out in the office. Please do not go directly to the classroom. School personnel will call for your child to come to the office or be escorted if they are coming from an outbuilding. It is our responsibility to know where students are at all times, and this allows us to know when children leave school for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our schools and students safe.

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.

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

Thanksgiving Break

There is no school for all K-12 students on Wednesday, November 24, Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26. due to Thanksgiving Break.



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.

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.

School Supply Donations

A big thank you to Black Motors of Holdrege for their school supply donations to our elementary schools. Black Motors sponsored a back to school drive and were able to bring numerous much-needed supplies to all our elementary schools.

Menu Change

On November 9th, the elementary schools will be served either Pizza Hut pizza or BBQ Pork Sandwich. Swiss Chicken Casserole will be for the Middle and High School only.



Lost and Found

Our lost and found items are multiplying. If your child is missing a coat, jacket, sweatshirt, gloves/mittens, or hat, please check the lost and found at your child's school. At the end of the year, all items left are donated to local agencies.

Using Crosswalks

This is a reminder that when students arrive at school and leave school they should use the crosswalks and not cross in the middle of the block. Children should only cross in the crosswalk lanes. At certain corners for student safety we have crossing guards and to assist students in crossing the street. Thank you for working with the school to ensure the safety of all students.

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.

Breakfast at School

Breakfast is a very important part of a student's day. We want to make sure that students who eat breakfast at school are able to do so in a timely manner. Breakfast at each elementary school is served from 7:45-7:55 am. Students need to be finished eating by 8:00 am so that they can get to class on time. This also ensures that our custodians are able to clean up the breakfast area and get it ready for music and PE (Franklin and Washington) since this is a shared space.

In the Classroom...

Ms. Hartung– Kindergarten– Washington

Wow, Kindergarten has been flying by! Ms. Hartung's class has been learning about pumpkins, spiders, and doing all kinds of Halloween activities for October. We've learned letters A-F and are even reading a little bit already! Starting in November, we'll continue working on our letter of the week and we'll do more fall activities including our Thanksgiving feast! The students will learn all about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and will partake in our own First Kindergarten Thanksgiving right in our classroom!

Mrs. Nelson– Kindergarten – R-7

The R-7 Kindergarten class is hard at work this fall. Mrs. Nelson has a student teacher, Miss Katrina Hoban, who is a UNK student and lives near Heartwell. Mrs. Nelson and Miss Hoban have been helping students learn about letters and the sounds they make. Reading our own books with sight words to practice has been a fun experience, especially when we read to the 2nd graders. So far, the class has learned letters A-H. It is also a challenge for each student to choose an item beginning with the letter of the week. The fun occurs when classmates try to guess what each student is hiding in his/her backpack. It takes careful consideration for each child to think of a guess beginning with the correct letter. Our class is looking forward to a fall celebration and much more learn-

Right: Miss Hoban and the R-7 kindergarten class during show and tell.



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 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 also completed our graphing chapter in Math using M&M 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. Each Friday we have a "Mystery Reader" visit our classroom. The students have enjoyed listening to a different parent volunteer each week. We're now looking forward to November and learning about Native Americans.

Mrs. Waller – 4th Grade– Washington

Recently, we have enjoyed two stories about The Depression and a Japanese internment camp. After reading these stories, Leah's Pony and Baseball Saved Us, all fourth graders visited the Nebraska Prairie Museum. Our museum visit really helped bring this era to life! We also enjoyed two guest presenters this month: Alec Lovitt and his grandmother Terri Lovitt demonstrated a bridle and saddle to our class. They also answered a lot of questions from students.



Left: Explaining different parts of a saddle, Alec Lovitt shares with his fourth grade classmates.