

HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

September 2010

Dates to Remember

- **Monday, Sep. 6:**
Labor Day—no school
- **Monday, Oct. 18:**
WASHINGTON: Life-touch Picture retakes and class pictures
- **Tuesday, Oct. 19:**
FRANKLIN: Lifetouch Picture retakes and class pictures
- **Wednesday, Oct. 20:**
R7: Lifetouch Picture retakes and class pictures

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

**HOLDREGE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS:
EMPOWERING ALL
STUDENTS
FOR SUCCESS**

School Safety

Students should not arrive at schools before 7:45 a.m. There is not supervision on the playground and students are not permitted into the building before that time. Students eating breakfast can go to the cafeteria starting at 7:45 a.m. Breakfast will not be served after 7:55 a.m. If your child is eating breakfast please have them to school before this time. Students should leave the school grounds immediately after being dismissed from school.

Student safety is the most important thing when dropping off or picking up your children. Please be careful when driving near the schools and watch out for all of the students. Students should be using the crosswalk whenever it is available.

Holdrege Public Schools have a safety plan that is in place for all emergencies. In the event of an emergency, it is important that you observe the following procedures:

- Do not telephone the school. We understand and respect your concern, but it is essential that the telephone system be available for emergency communications.
- Tune your radio to 1380 KUVR for emergency announcements and status reports. You will also receive instructions on where you should go and how/when you may pick up your student. The Blackboard Connect calling system will be used to contact parents in emergency situations.
- Do not come to the school until instructed to do so. It may be necessary to keep the streets and parking lots clear for emergency vehicles. If evacuation is required, students may be transported or walked to a location away from school. You will be notified of this through the media bulletins.
- Talk to your student and emphasize how important it is for them to follow instructions from their teachers and school officials during an emergency.
- Carefully read all information you receive from the school. You may receive updates about our safety and procedures from time to time.

Picture Retakes & Class Pictures

The Lifetouch photographer will be here in October for class pictures and picture retakes. The schedule is:

Washington: Monday, October 18

Franklin: Tuesday, October 19

R7: Wednesday, October 20

Students wanting retakes need to return their original picture packet to the photographer. Students who missed the original picture day may come to the office for an order envelope.

Class pictures will also be taken on this day. Please watch for information and order forms.

Sack Lunch

If your child brings a sack lunch, he or she may purchase a milk at school for \$0.35. If your child brings something to drink from home, please note that it is against school rules to bring pop, energy, or other carbonated drinks.

Students are unable to re-heat or refrigerate anything at school, so please be sure to store foods appropriately.

Activities and Behavior

We would appreciate if you would talk to your children about their behavior at games and other activities. We would like students to come to the games to support the teams playing. We do not, however, want them to come to the games and run around all of the time. For the safety of your child, we will not allow this type of behavior or the playing of street-yard football games on the side of the stadium. Students who do not follow the guidelines of the school will be asked to leave the premises.

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.

Dibels Testing

From August 30th–September 1st, teachers will be testing students on their reading skills using DIBELS, which stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. This test helps identify areas where students need extra assistance.

Pizza Hut Pizza

In order to keep the lunch accounting as easy as possible, if your child wants an extra piece of pizza on Pizza Hut day, the cost of it will be deducted from their meal account. The cost of an extra slice is \$1.50. If your child has money in his/her meal account, you don't have to send extra money on that day if you don't want to. If your child receives free meals, you will need to put money into their account to cover the cost of the extra piece of pizza. You may either send money on that day pizza is served, or you can put money in your child's meal account ahead of time to plan for pizza days. You may call the office at any time to inquire about your child's balance.



Blackboard Connect

Blackboard Connect is the computerized telephone service of the district. We use this service to contact parents about important events, low or negative lunch balances, and emergency situations. If you have changes to your telephone number, it is very important to let your child's school know so we can contact you in an emergency.

Teachers and Whole Faculty Study Groups

Again this year, our elementary schools will be dismissing school at 1:30 pm on Fridays. The reason for this is for our teachers to participate in Whole Faculty Study Groups. These groups, WFSGs, provide a way to focus on student needs, collaborate with other teachers, incorporate staff development and growth, and implement school improvement. Additional time has been added to the daily schedule so that students will not miss instructional time. Because staff development can be delivered through the WFSGs, fewer staff development days will be needed throughout the school year.

Eating Meals with your Child at School

Parents and family members are encouraged to make a "lunch date" with their student at any time during the school year. If you plan to eat with your child, please phone your school's office by 8:30 a.m. Meal counts must be given to the kitchen by 9:00 a.m.

Adult lunches cost \$2.80. The office does not keep money to make change so we ask that you either bring exact change, or parents (and other family members with parent permission) can charge their meal to the student's account. If you don't have exact change, the difference will be deposited into your child's meal account.

Upcoming Title I Parent Involvement Meeting

Later this month, there will be a Parent Involvement meeting. The meeting will take place in the Tassel lobby. All elementary parents are invited to attend to learn more about Title I and the services that our schools offer to students.

Medications at School

In order for school staff to administer medication at school, parents must fill out a medication consent form. This includes prescription and non-prescription medication. Additionally, prescription medications must be in the original labeled bottle or container from the pharmacist with the child's name, name of medication, and dosage. Non-prescription or over-the-counter medications need to be in the original labeled container/bottle. This is in compliance with Nebraska State law. The forms are available on the Holdrege Public Schools' website, www.thedusters.org under the Health and Wellness Tab at the top. You may also get a form in the office. Thank you for abiding by this policy. If you have any questions, please contact Patsy Johnson, Interim School Nurse, at your child's school.

School Website

The Holdrege Public Schools website, www.thedusters.org, is a great way to keep up with information that pertains to every building in our district. On our website, you can find calendar information, menus, phone numbers and email addresses, medical forms, access to Infinite Campus, articles about what is happening with our students and staff, and a whole lot more. Please take time to check it out.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal Signup

The school information program that we use is called Infinite Campus. There is a parent information system included in this program. On this information system you will be able to check your child's grades (if applicable), attendance, and meal account balance. Parents who do not have a password can fill out the attached sheet to set one up. The portal to Infinite Campus is on our home page at www.thedusters.org. You only need one login to see every student in your household, and if you already have a login, you don't need to sign up again.

Principal's Corner...

Holdrege Public Schools students performed very well on the first statewide reading assessment according to the results released by the Nebraska Department of Education today. The percentage of HPS students meeting and exceeding the state standards was exceptional compared to local districts, the Central 10 Conference schools, and statewide percentages.

Holdrege Public Schools Percentages compared with Statewide Percentages

Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8	11
Holdrege Public Schools	82%	88%	87%	82%	81%	81%	81%
State	67%	70%	67%	68%	69%	70%	68%

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 participated in the NeSA-Reading assessment along with students all over the state in the spring of 2010. NeSA is the Nebraska State Accountability system responsible for administering the high stakes tests required by the state legislature with the passage of LB 653 in 2007-2008. Nebraska's new single, statewide testing system replaces STARS, the former local assessment system. Math will be assessed along with reading in the spring of 2011 and the science test will be added in 2012.

Improving reading for all students in all curricular areas is the school improvement goal for Holdrege Public Schools. The elementary schools, middle school, and high school are developing instructional strategies to improve reading for all students. These NeSA-Reading scores will be one piece of data that the district will use to measure student progress as teachers adapt reading instruction with the goal of improving student reading skills. HPS teachers will continue to use student data in their Whole Faculty Study Group (WFSG) meetings on Friday afternoons to improve student learning.

While the family of each student participating in the test will receive a report on their child's performance, the child's teacher will continue to be the best source of information on how well an individual child is learning. Multiple assessment results should be considered when determining a student's progress. National test results and the child's classroom test results are just as important as the NeSA. The challenge for all schools is to use the results to show improvement over time.

Amber Porter, Holdrege Elementary Schools Principal

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Holdrege Public Schools

If you wish to access your child's grades on our student information system, Infinite Campus, please designate a user name and password below and an account will be established for you. This account will be set up with one week of the time you complete the form. Please list a daytime phone number where you can be contacted in the event that the user name you have chosen already exists in Infinite Campus. If you already have a user name and password to access other children, you do not need to complete this form as you will be able to access all grades from that login. Please complete the form and return to the school office. You will receive a copy for your records. Please allow at least one week for this to be set up.

Your Name: _____

Your child's name(s): _____

User Name: _____

Password: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____

Go to: <http://thedusters.org>


Click on the Infinite Campus icon on the right side of the page.



Login in with your User Name and Password.

Your students will be listed on the left side of the page. Click on the word "Schedule" under your student's name to see their schedule.

 A+ = Click on class name for current assignments and scores.

 Envelope = Click on teacher name for email.

Return to the student's schedule to see the other classes and check grades.

 Click the Log Off symbol to exit.

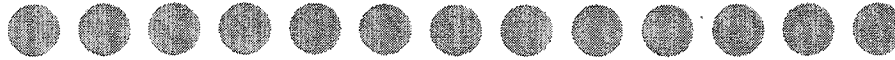
Please contact Kathy Vetter, Technology Curriculum Coordinator, at 995-8663 if you have any questions concerning this service.

Two Rivers Public Health Department

Pertussis is Spreading Across the Nation

Protect yourself and your family, get vaccinated against Pertussis!

Ask your Clinic about the booster shot (Tdap) that's recommended for **EVERYONE:** parents, grandparents, children and babysitters.



Pertussis (whooping cough) is a serious disease. Adults, children and babies can become ill and spread Pertussis to others. Pertussis is very contagious and can cause serious illness, hospitalization and even death in babies too young to be fully immunized. Nebraska law requires a booster in 7th grade and the CDC advises persons between the ages of 19 and 64 yrs to have a booster too!



For More Information Call:
308-995-4778
Toll Free: 888-669-7154
Or
Visit the CDC Pertussis Web Page
www.cdc.gov/features/pertussis/

Departamento de Salud Pública Two Rivers

La Tos Ferina Se Está Propagando En Su Comunidad

Para su protección, y la de su familia, vacúnese contra la tos ferina

Llame su clínica y pregunte sobre la vacuna de refuerzo (Tdap) recomendada para usted, los niños mayores, los abuelos y las personas que cuidan de los bebés.



La tos ferina (pertussis) es una enfermedad muy contagiosa y puede enfermar gravemente a las personas, en especial a los bebés que son muy pequeños aún para recibir todas las vacunas. Asegúrese de que los bebés y los niños pequeños reciban las cinco dosis recomendadas de la vacuna. También es importante la vacunación de adultos y adolescentes, en especial para familias que tengan bebés recién nacidos.



Llame al 308-995-4778
Llamada gratis 888-669-7154

O Visita los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades

www.cdc.gov/spanish/especialesCDC/TosFerina