



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Franklin Washington R-7

September 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday, September 7:
Labor Day—No School
- Tuesday, September 29: Elementary picture Re-takes
- Tuesday, September 29: Title 1 Parent Meeting at 7:00 pm

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

***Empowering
Students
for Success***

Our school year is off to a very successful start. We hope that your child is settling in, learning new things, and having fun. In this newsletter, you will find a lot of important information. Please take the time to read over it carefully.

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 waked 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

The Lifetouch photographer will be here on Tuesday, September 29th to do picture retakes. 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.



“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other wings.”

—Hodding Carter

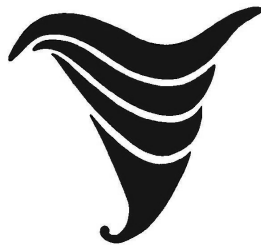
Activities

Students may purchase an activity card in the office for \$25. This will allow your student to attend any school activity held in Holdrege except for certain tournaments. This pass is good for the whole year. If your child goes to several activities during the year, this is a great bargain.

We would appreciate if you would talk to your children about their behavior at the games. 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.

Weather Emergencies

When weather or emergency issues arise, we often cannot plan for them. 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.



PTO

Parent Teacher Organization is a group of parents who support their child's education through special projects and/or helping in the classroom. All parents are encouraged to find a way to get involved. Watch for a letter and response form to be sent home with your child next week. We're looking forward to a great school year!

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 and attendance. Parents that 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. The website is also a great way to see what is going on at the elementary schools. The website also has different stories about programs in the district and activities the students are involved in.

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.

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.

Medication Administration 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 Abbie Soneson, School Nurse at your child's school.



Upcoming Title I Parent Involvement Meeting

On Tuesday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m. 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.

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 and therefore students will gain additional instructional days.

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day is September 13th. Parents and grandparents are always welcome to come to school to eat, but during September we are especially encouraging you to make a "lunch date" with your child or grandchild. Please call the school that morning if you would like to join us so we can plan for you. The cost of a lunch for an adult is \$2.75, but the time you spend with your child or grandchild is priceless.



Guidance for H1N1 Influenza

The main way that influenza viruses are thought to spread is from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes. Influenza viruses may also be spread when a person touches respiratory droplets on another person or on an object and then touches their own mouth or nose (or someone else's mouth or nose) before washing their hands.

Novel H1N1 influenza virus infection (formerly known as swine flu) has been shown to affect school-aged children disproportionately, and children are known to be highly likely to transmit flu viruses, especially in school and other group settings. H1N1 may persist into the fall, potentially as a more severe strain, causing more serious and life-threatening illness. H1N1 can cause a wide range of symptoms. These flu-like symptoms are defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as persons with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher plus a cough or a sore throat in the absence of a known diagnosis. Other symptoms may include shortness of breath, runny nose and congestion, fatigue, body aches, and headache. Symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting have also been fairly common. If your child awakens with these symptoms on a school morning, please keep your child at home. Stay home until you have been symptom-free (fever less than 100 degrees for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine), **OR** you have been diagnosed by a physician and have been released to safely return to school/work. In the event the incidence or severity of H1N1 increases, it is likely the school/work exclusion requirements will be changed by the CDC. Holdrege Public Schools will follow all guidelines issued by the CDC and Department of Health and Human Services.

We are planning for the potential administration of novel H1N1 vaccine if it becomes available this fall/winter. The vaccine will be allocated and distributed according to priority groups which are established by the federal government and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The vaccine is not yet available. In an effort to minimize the spread of infection in our schools we encourage good hand washing and cough and sneeze etiquette by all. For more information regarding H1N1 influenza, visit: www.flu.gov

We would like to remind you to take personal precautions to protect yourself and your family:

1. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use antibacterial sanitizers.
2. Cough into your sleeve or a tissue.
3. Stay home if you are ill (see guidelines above).
4. Stay away from people who are ill.
5. Be sure you have resources and information to care for your family at home.
6. DO NOT give aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) to children or teenagers who have the flu; this can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye's syndrome.

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. This service is available to parents/guardians with children in grades 2 through 12. 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.

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.