

# *Holdrege Middle School*

*April 2012*

*Children – Our Community's Investment*

[www.thedusters.org](http://www.thedusters.org) Russ Baker, Principal P.O. Box 2002 • Holdrege • Nebraska • 68949-2002

## **From the Principal's Desk**

Parenting at this time of the year is very important. It is at this time of the year that some students have a tendency to get spring fever and forget about their studies. With all of the activities that take place in the spring, it is easy for students to lose track of their priorities. Please help your student be successful by providing them the time and place to study. If you have any concerns about your student's progress, please call the school to set up an appointment with your student's team.

## **Appropriate Clothing**

As it gets warmer, we have students push the lines of what would be considered appropriate or inappropriate clothing that they wear to school. Shorts and skirts that are shorter than the ends of their fingers with their arms at their sides are too short. Bare shoulders and shirts that show their stomach are also inappropriate wear for school.

## **Activities to Watch For**

When the spring season comes, there are so many activities that it is often hard to keep track of what's going on. A reminder of a few dates to keep in mind: **There will be no school on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> & Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, for the Easter break. Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, is the HMS Track Invitational. The middle school only will dismiss at 12:00 that day.** May 14<sup>th</sup> will be orientation for next year's 5<sup>th</sup> graders, with the students coming during the day, and the parents coming that evening at 7:00. May 21<sup>st</sup> will be the middle school Evening of the Arts at The Tassel.

## **State Tests**

Holdrege students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 will be taking reading and math tests this year. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be doing the science tests as part of the state requirements mandated by the Nebraska Unicameral. These are very important tests that will measure student performance across the state of Nebraska in reading, vocabulary, comprehension, math, and science. We will be testing reading, math, and science from March 26<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>. Teachers have

been working with students all year to learn the skills that will be assessed. Please encourage your child to do their best on these tests. **It is very important the students get their rest and attend school on these dates.**

### **Last Day of School**

The 2011-12 school year will end on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students will be dismissed at 12:00. Report cards may be picked-up on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-4:00. If you cannot pick up the report card at this time, please send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we will mail the report card to you (if your student does not have outstanding fines or materials to return).

### **Summer School**

Teachers and administration will identify students for summer school this spring. If your student is identified, we will contact you by letter. The cost will be \$20 to help pay for the teacher and the computer program. Students that are in SPED or on free and reduced lunch are exempt from the cost of the session. Summer school will run from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>. The session will go from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> it will run from 1:00 to 4:00. It will be held at the middle school where students will be placed on an individualized computer program called Compass Learning.

### **Athletic and 7th Grade Physicals**

All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to obtain a physical and be fully immunized, which means boosters may be needed. Seventh grade physicals will meet the requirements for athletic physicals for the 2012-2013 school year. Eighth graders planning to participate in athletics must also have an athletic physical completed. Students must have the athletic physical completed before they may participate in any practices or contests. For more information, contact your physician or Abbie Soneson, R.N., our school nurse. All local physicians have Holdrege Public School physical forms in their offices.

From the School Nurse:



**ATTENTION 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS**

Do you have a student that will be in 7<sup>th</sup> grade next year? It is not too early to start getting them ready. Nebraska Law (LB79-444) states that **any student entering Seventh Grade for the first time is required to have a physical examination** given by a physician, physician's assistant or accredited nurse practitioner within six months prior to the entrance of the student in a Nebraska school. If the physical is also an athletic physical, **May** is the earliest it can be scheduled. Please don't wait until close to the start of school to obtain the physical. The doctor's offices have many physicals that are required prior to school starting and by waiting until the last minute, it might be difficult to get the physical before school starts. **The completed physical form** is to be presented to the school no later than the first day of school in August. The local medical clinics have these physical forms.

There are also immunizations that your 7<sup>th</sup> grader is required to obtain. **All 7<sup>th</sup> graders are to receive a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) vaccine. It must be noted that your child received a Tdap and not just a TD.** Effective July 2011, every student, enrolled in school, regardless of grade, is required to have **2 Varicella (Chicken Pox) immunizations**, unless your child has had the disease, Chicken Pox. We must have documentation, on file, stating that your child has had the disease, Chicken Pox and when.

The vaccine against Meningitis is not required but is suggested. This protects your child against bacterial Meningitis, which can be deadly.

There are other immunizations that your medical provider might discuss with you and your child. All of these immunizations are for the protection of your child.

There is an Immunization Clinic in Holdrege, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, excluding November, from 2-4 pm at Phelps Memorial Health Center community room. Call toll free, 1-877-209-3723, to make an appointment. A parent or guardian must accompany the child and the child's immunization record must be presented at the clinic or your child will be denied receiving the immunizations. There is a nominal fee but no one is refused because of inability to pay. If you have any concerns or questions, don't hesitate to contact the school nurse, Abbie Soneson, RN.



## **CAN YOU FIND YOUR CHILD IN THIS PHOTO?**



**NO??**

**They could be, if you sign them up now for  
“the trip of a lifetime.”**

Holdrege Middle School students have had the opportunity to participate in a tour of Washington, DC, since 1992. There is a tour being planned for June 2014. The tour is designed for students who have completed 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade by May of 2014. However, anyone is welcome to take this five days/four nights tour of our nation’s capital.

Fundraisers are currently being organized to help fund the tour. This is NOT a school-sponsored event.

For more information, you may contact Mr. Ganser or Mrs. Bult at the middle school [jganser@esu11.org](mailto:jganser@esu11.org) or [bbult@esu11.org](mailto:bbult@esu11.org).

### From the Counselor's Corner:



Here it is April already! Where did February and March go? As the school year winds down, please encourage your child to ask the teachers for help, stay after school if they don't understand something. If they are having any troubles they can always stop and talk to me. I have been encouraging all students to: **"FINISH THE YEAR STRONG!"**

**\*Anti-Bullying Group:** All students are welcome and invited to attend this group. We started meeting in February, every Tuesday morning at 7:20 A.M. Now we are meeting the first and third Tuesdays in the morning and the second and fourth Tuesday during lunch. We meet in the Home Ec room and go over group rules, and we have discussed bullying issues, what students can do to help prevent bullying. We have also had the kids role play and talk about how to respond to bullying along with the importance of telling an adult, teacher, counselor and Mr. Baker. We feel that being proactive by educating the students is the best way to go. I have also been going into the classroom and been talking to the students about what to do if they are being bullied. If you have any questions regarding this please call me.

**\*TEAMMATES NEWS:** What's for lunch or what's for supper? How about something from Runza®? On Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Runza® locations across Nebraska are supporting TeamMates Mentoring Programs, **10% of all proceeds at our local Runza® will be donated to our local TeamMates Program!**

Funds raised for TeamMates go toward:

- *Background checks on all mentors*
- *Supplies for activities done with the mentees and their mentors*
- *Scholarships for college are given to all mentees who stay in the program until they graduate*
- *Annual mentor membership fee*

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at Runza®!  
Jean Berreckman & Kristin Prill , Co-coordinators of TeamMates Mentoring Program

*The TeamMates Mentoring Program is a one-to-one, school-based mentoring program in our community! Mentors give one hour per week to make what is called the "one hour difference" in the lives of youth.*

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2. *Train*
3. *Meet your Mentee*

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