

Holdrege Middle School

December 2011

Children – Our Community's Investment

www.thedusters.org Russ Baker, Principal P.O. Box 2002 • Holdrege • Nebraska • 68949-2002

From the Principal's Desk

The first semester is rapidly coming to a close. December 22nd will be the last day of the first semester. I am emphasizing this, as students need to realize that there is very little time left to get grades and assignments completed or made up. If a student is low in a subject area, the effort for them to be successful needs to be put forth right now. The honor roll from first quarter illustrated that the majority of the students are giving a lot of effort in their classes right now. We encourage parental involvement for all of our students at Holdrege Middle School. If you have a concern about how your child is doing in the classroom, please contact the teacher to see how we can help your child be successful.

Web Site Information

Please check out our web site at www.thedusters.org. On this web site you will be able to see our daily bulletin under the middle school tab, under Information. Also on the web site is the activities button that can be found on the right hand side of the front page. When you click on this button you will be able to find information about where activities are, when they will be held, and even driving directions to different activity sites that are held outside of Holdrege. This will have the most current information of any changes in times, etc.

Picking up Students

Please do not pick up students from the parking lane. For students to be picked up there, they have to cross in front of the pickup lane. This is not safe for our students. There is a crosswalk that goes from the curb cut out across the parking lot to the east. We had that crosswalk painted so that students can go to their parents' cars without walking behind a car that might be pulling out. We would still like to encourage students to walk or bike to school. If you are picking up or dropping off students, please be careful and watch for students.

Attendance

Attendance at school this year has been fantastic. We have very few students that have missed over ten days of school. Attendance is important, as students that attend regularly are more likely to be successful than those who don't. This is not different from the adult world as those who show up on a regular basis are more likely to be successful at their jobs than those who don't.

Christmas Dismissal

The end of year celebration will be on Thursday, December 22nd, at 11:00. Dismissal for Christmas break is at 12:00. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Student Seating and Behavior at Basketball Games

Middle school students are to sit above the high school students in the northeast section of the high school gym. They should not be running in and out and there should be no horsing around in the stands. If this is a problem, a student will be asked to leave by supervisors. In the stands, students will clean up after themselves and leave the bleachers the way they found them. Students that have problems with this will stay and help the custodians clean up. We want our students to come and support both the middle school teams and the high school teams, but we also want them to behave in a respectful manner and one that represents Holdrege Middle School in a positive manner. Please talk to your child about how we can act in a sportsman-like manner.

School Safety

Holdrege Middle School has 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 AM (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.
- 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. Parents will be notified of this through the media bulletins.
- Talk to your students and emphasize how important it is for them to follow instructions from their teachers and school officials during any emergency.
- Carefully read all information you receive from the school. You may receive updates about our safety procedures from time to time.

Weather Emergencies

When weather or emergency issues arise we often cannot predict their occurrence. 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 always our biggest concern that students don't know what to do in such a situation and cannot get their parents on the phone. It is also not feasible for us to get messages to students in a short amount of time. It helps if your child has an idea of what he/she is to do in these situations.

7-8 Vocal Music

7-8 Vocal Concert will be on Monday, December 12th, at 7:30, at The Tassel. Hope you can attend! This is a change from the calendar. The high school concert will still be on the 13th.

From the Counselor's Corner:

Season's Greetings to you all! A wonderful season to be truly grateful for all good gifts; our health, our family, and our friends. I am very thankful that we have such a great staff and awesome students. It has been my pleasure to get to know your child and see them in the hallways, classrooms or on the playground.

Here are the Happenings at HMS:

On November 17th the students and staff attended a three screen multi-media Camfel Production entitled: "DARE TO MOVE!" *This program was about the fear of failure, rejection and humiliation. They are just a few of the fears that can paralyze, discourage, or destroy our dreams. We could dare to challenge those fears, but too often the pressure seems too great and we look for an easy way out. Some become paralyzed by their fears, often turning to drugs and alcohol to cope. "DARE TO MOVE" is designed to encourage students to live their lives to the fullest in spite of their fears. Students will gain the confidence to move in the right direction with their lives; they will learn to take control of the challenges confronting them on a daily basis.* I am going in to all the classes to discuss the program and share the follow-up video with all the students. The students fill out a short comment sheet. **Here are some of the comments from the students: Several students rated the assembly with a 5-awesome or a 4-great.** What they enjoyed was the music, the movie video clips, the big screens and the real life situations. The real life situations included a high school student that was blind he decided to go out for the wrestling team he overcame his fear, he worked hard and became a leader of the team. A girl who was 11 years old who was deaf, her parents were disabled. She took care of her parents, bought groceries, cooked, and did her school work. She graduated when she was fifteen and now is attending college. Another boy who suffered from epilepsy whose seizures were so bad that he had to be put on stronger medication. This affected his speech as well as his thought processing. That didn't stop him. He had a medical alert dog that he would take with him and do volunteer work and would educate people about epilepsy. In another situation a student who had epilepsy was bullied. I asked the students what some of the words that stood out to them in the program were: **COURAGE, NEVER GIVE UP, HERO, STAND UP FOR ONE ANOTHER, LEADERSHIP, STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN.** Overall it was an assembly that taught many lessons of life.

STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS:

***7/8th grade Holiday Dance – Friday, December 2nd from 7:00-9:00 P.M. in the HMS Commons area \$3.00 per person.**

***HMS ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE –** December 5th-9th our students will be collecting food items for our local food pantry. Our goal this year is 2012 food items. *The food pantry gave us a list of the food that they are in need of: peanut butter, jelly, jello/pudding, pancake mix, syrup, juice, tomato paste/sauce, dry pasta, hamburger helper, canned beans (pork, and beans, chili, or anything along that line), cake mixes, canned pasta, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, laundry soap. NO BABY FOOD.* Our food drive is a contest between the homerooms, the homeroom that brings in the most food items will win a SUBWAY PARTY. The highest total in each grade will also receive a prize. Each student will receive a raffle ticket in their homeroom for every five items that they contribute to their homeroom class their tickets will be added to the drawing. Each homeroom will have their own drawing for a prize.

***Holiday Door Decorating sign up will be December 7th & 8th.** The students may sign up in groups of four to five students. They will find out what door they will be decorating on Friday,

December 9th. Door decorating will take place the week of December 12th -15th. Students are to provide their own decorations. NO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS OR FAKE SNOW!

***HMS Student Council will have a cake raffle on Friday, December 9th.** All student council members are asked to bring a cake, brownies or cookies. All proceeds will go to our local TeamMates Mentoring program.

TEAMMATES NEWS:

*We have a total of fifteen new mentees from the fifth grade class. Congratulations! A huge thank-you to all of our new mentees and mentors who have joined the TEAM!

***TEAMMATES NIGHT – Friday, December 9th** all mentees and mentors are invited to sign up to work at the concession stand or help clean up following the high school home basketball game. Our TeamMates Mentoring Program will receive part of the profit from the concession stand and money for cleaning up following the game. The money we earn will go into the scholarship fund.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing Holiday Season! ☺

~Mrs. Berreckman