

# *Holdrege Middle School*

## *January 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**

It is hard to believe that the semester is almost over. We will be having an assembly to celebrate the accomplishments of our students on December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00-12:00. The students will be dismissed for the holidays after the assembly at 12:00 on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students will resume classes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Report cards for the first semester will be handed out on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student-Led Conferences**

We will be having student-led conferences at the middle school on February 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and February 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-6:00 p.m. This means we will be asking students to lead the conferences with their parents since it is all about them. Teachers will help them collect a portfolio of work to show, and develop a script for students to accurately express how they are doing in school and what they are learning.

We will be scheduling only one conference per student. We believe that if the student is leading this conference, and the focus is on him/her, parents should be able to come together at this time for the sake of their child. **If you feel like you need a separate time with your child's teacher, the teachers will be available for you to talk with at that time as well.**

### **Report Cards**

For students that have parents that live in more than one household, your student receives a report card for each household listed in Infinite Campus. Grades can also be seen on Infinite Campus online. Call me at school if you do not have an Infinite Campus password, and I will set you up with an account.

### **Free and Reduced Lunch**

If your economic status has changed and you would like to apply for free and reduced lunch, I have attached the form that will allow you to apply for this program. Send the form back to Dana Brinkman at the Central Office. You may drop it off at the Central Office for Dana or send it by mail to Dana Brinkman, P.O. Box 2002, Holdrege, Nebraska 68949-2002.

### **Attendance Equals Achievement**

It is common sense that when students attend school regularly, they do better with school achievement. However, there have been a lot of different illnesses going around. One way to help keep students healthy is to make sure they get into the habit of washing their hands. Other methods to keep your child healthy are to make sure they get plenty of rest and stay on a proper diet. We want students here at school, but if they have the flu we do not want them to spread it to the other students. HPS has an Infection and Communicable Disease Control Plan. As part of that plan, each building is using hand sanitizer for each student before lunch and as many other times during the day as needed.

### **Positive Involvement**

Tuesday, just before dismissal on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, we will hold our annual pep rally celebrating the middle school and all the activities that take place here. The middle school students have done some exceptional things so far this year. These include our sports teams, quiz bowl teams, music, art, and academics. We believe that every student has some special gift or interest. We want to provide each with an opportunity to excel. Research also tells us that students who are involved in activities will do better in school. We promote these involvements and try to provide an opportunity for students to have a chance to display them through the programs made available to them here.

I would also like to recognize and thank the teachers who take the time to go beyond the classroom and help coach, sponsor, and encourage these involvements. Often they do this with little or no compensation. They do this so that all children might have the opportunity and the ability to use their talents and interests in a positive way. Thank you all.

### **Cell Phones**

New technology is great, and then it can be a hassle, too. In the interest of keeping a distraction-free environment for our students to learn, it is our policy that students who do bring cell phones to school store them in their locker. If a student does have one out during school, the cell phone will be taken and a parent will have to come and get it. On the second offense, the student will lose the cell phone. If your child receives a phone for Christmas, please talk to your child about cell phone use at school. The biggest problem that we have is students hiding their cell phone in a pocket and texting other students. How they can do that without looking at the phone is pretty impressive, but it is not what we want them doing during class. Cell phones before and after school is okay, but are distracting during school. They need to be stored in their lockers, so students are not distracted during school.

### **Students of the Month**

September: 5<sup>th</sup> Ryan Salisbury, 6<sup>th</sup> Blade Pfeiffer, 7<sup>th</sup> Austin Perez, 8<sup>th</sup> Ellie Brown.

October: 5<sup>th</sup> Jessica Pearson, 6<sup>th</sup> Jordyn Hilyard, 7<sup>th</sup> Hannah Birtell, 8<sup>th</sup> Tessa Cernousek

November: 5<sup>th</sup> Griffin Wiser, 6<sup>th</sup> Sydney Nelson, 7<sup>th</sup> Ashton Kirwin, 8<sup>th</sup> Brandon Schroeder

December: 5<sup>th</sup> Mackinley Jensen, 6<sup>th</sup> Ashley Woosley, 7<sup>th</sup> Chaten Edgren, 8<sup>th</sup> Merilee Prill

Students of the Month are chosen on the following 4 criteria by their team of grade level teachers: Responsibility; Attitude; Citizenship; Effort. These awards are not based on grades! Each student receives an award certificate, candy bar, Subway coupon, first in line at lunch for the month and recognition of their achievement in the newspaper and on the radio. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

### **People of the Past and Present**

Seventh and eighth grade students that are in the informational reading classes will be presenting an oratory history lesson in costume of that person's life on March 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Parents are reminded to help their child look for and put together a costume for their person. The way the program works is the students will be spread out in the middle school throughout the gym and hallways. When a person drops a quarter or other denomination in their hat, they will go into action telling you about the person they are portraying. This is a fundraiser for our climate committee.

### **From the Counselor's corner:**

**HMS ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS!!!!**  
Thank you so much for your donation to our local food pantry. I am hoping your cupboards aren't bare, due to your son/daughter taking all your food. I know a lot of students went door to door or visited our local grocery store. The students did an awesome job collecting food. Our goal was 2012 food items and our grand total that was brought in was 4,507. WOW!!!!!! We were all incredibly amazed. Mrs. Uribe's homeroom brought in the most cans for a total of 806. I believe that is the most cans and other food items that have ever been brought in for a homeroom. They will get the subway party when they come back from the Holiday break. The top homeroom in each grade will get to enjoy ice cream sundaes. Mr. Mattson's homeroom came in next with a total of 804 for the fifth grade, Mr. Evan's homeroom had a total of 474 for top class in the sixth grade. Mrs. Brewer's homeroom came in with 126 for the top class in the seventh grade and Mrs. Hartzog's homeroom was

top for the eighth grade with 187. Each homeroom did a great job! We delivered all the food to the food pantry on December the 13th. The workers at the pantry were very grateful to each and every student and staff member who contributed. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

**HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATING** - Yes, the students have been in the Holiday spirit decorating teachers doors. The students could sign up to decorate a door with a small group of three to six students per door. Mrs. Bult and I assigned the doors, most all of the doors have been decorated. It was fun to walk around the halls and see the creative ideas from each group. I told the students we were looking for a team effort working together along with having fun. All the students did a wonderful job! Please stop by and check out the doors, it will definitely get you in the Holiday spirit! Candy canes will be given out to all those who decorated the doors.

Wishing you all a fun-filled Holiday spending time with your family and friends! Best wishes to your family in the upcoming NEW YEAR!

Mrs. Berreckman (Mrs. B. 😊)