

# ***Holdrege Middle School***

## ***March 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:**

#### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

We had a great turnout for parent teacher conferences last week. The fifth grade had 97%, sixth grade 98%, seventh grade 91%, and eighth grade had 78% of parents show up for conferences.

#### **End of Year Testing**

NesaS, NesaR and NesaM, the state science, reading, and math tests, will be given the weeks of March 26<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will be allowed 90 minutes each day to take the tests. Our norm referenced tests, called MAP, will be given during the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>. Math tests given in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are used to determine placement for advanced math classes for the next year.

These tests are all part of our district's testing program. The testing is a part of our process in determining how we are doing as a school. Some of this testing is mandated by the state, while other tests are developed by the school district to determine the progress of our students. In all of these cases, our goal is to continually evaluate and modify to meet the needs of our students. Many teachers and district personnel invest time and expertise in the school improvement process, and we take our task very seriously. I appreciate what they do in the name of quality education.

#### **Retention or Summer School?**

As a middle school, we continue to battle with the benefits and problems associated with the retention of students. Each team has identified students that may be in line for possible summer school or retention unless things change in the fourth quarter. Mrs. Berreckman and I will meet with the teams to discuss the possibilities of summer school or retention of identified students. We will also be in touch with parents to make a decision together, because this is a partnership. Each

situation will be looked at individually and evaluated on the basis of what we believe will be best for each student. There are no hard and fast rules here. If you have concerns about your student and possible summer school, please contact his/her teachers. We would be happy to discuss the situation with you. Summer school will run from 1-4 on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, then May 24<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:30, and will cost \$20 for students. If your child has an I.E.P. or qualifies for free and reduced lunch, the program is free of charge.

### **Keeping It Safe**

The Holdrege Middle School is considered to be a safe place by the majority of our students. This is one of the most important statements that students, parents, and faculty can make about a school. If a student does not see the school as a safe and caring place, learning cannot take place at the optimum level. It is my goal that each student be safe and free from harassment and intimidation. When it occurs, we address it aggressively.

We have tried to learn from each other the ills of this kind of treatment and things students can do to be safe from this. It is necessary for students to tell someone if they are being bullied or harassed. If you, or your student, ever feel that some form of harassment or bullying is taking place, please let a teacher, the counselor, or myself know so that we can address it promptly and fully.

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

Seventh and eighth graders are busy putting the final touches on their People of the Past and Present projects that they are doing as part of their informational reading class. This activity allows the students to practice the skills they have been taught; to read, process, and gather important information from nonfiction text.

Each student has chosen a famous person from history or, in some cases, the present to read about, research and to “become”. The students have been working on posters with important information about their person. They have also written a speech about their person. This speech is written from the perspective of the person himself or herself. The students will share their information through their speeches on the evening of **Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00-8:00 PM. Please plan to attend and watch these characters come alive when you drop your change in their bucket. Money raised will go to the climate committee for use on school projects.





## 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.



### Music News

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> is the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade choir concert at The Tassel. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade portion of the evening concert will begin at **7pm**. Please have your singers in their seats at 6:45pm. The singers need to wear nice jeans, black or brown shoes and their choir polo shirts.

March 15<sup>th</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade vocal program. The program will begin at **7:30pm** at The Tassel. Please plan to have the children in their seats by 7:15pm. Attire will be announced at a later time.

Thank you so much for encouraging your students to be great musicians!  
-Mrs West

### HMS Track

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls/boys track informational meeting will be March 20<sup>th</sup>, with practice starting after school on March 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be an order form for new track t-shirts sent home in the middle of the month. The t-shirts will be designed by an 8<sup>th</sup> grader.



### Read Across America

The Middle School will be celebrating Read Across America February, 27-March 1. We will kick off the week with an assembly in the gym, and Mayor Rick Jeffrey will sign the RAA Proclamation. We will also read the book "The Lorax" and view the movie trailer for the upcoming movie "The Lorax" which premieres March 2. On Tuesday we will have the students fill out leaves that will go on the truffula tree in the library. Students will write one way in which they can help with conservation. On Wednesday the students and teachers will participate in Stop, Drop and Read. Thursday students and staff will be encouraged to wear GREEN and they will be served green food from the cafeteria. Each day there will be some kind of activity in the library, and if students participate, their name will go into a drawing for a free book.



# Help Our School!

In this day of ever increasing costs and decreasing budgets, there are five easy ways that you can help our students through programs offered through the Holdrege Middle School Media Center:

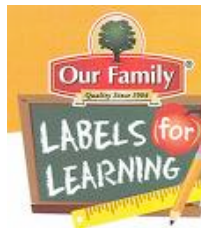
## Box Tops for Education



Clip and save Box Tops for Education coupons from various products. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents toward purchasing needed materials for our school. Help make a difference for our school One Dime at a Time. **PLEASE TURN THESE IN BY MARCH 28, 2012.** This is to allow us to make the April 1 deadline.

## Our Family Labels for Learning

Bring in the labels from any Our Family products and help us earn money for needed materials. Our Family Labels for Learning will donate \$.05 for every Our Family UPC barcode turned in. For example, for every 500 labels sent in, we can receive \$25.00 for purchasing educational materials.



## Recycle Printer Cartridges

Used printer cartridges from your home or business can be brought to the HMS Media Center. With cash earned through the recycling of used laser jet and ink jet cartridges, we purchase Accelerated Reader tests as well as other

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic book fair will be coming to HMS each fall and spring. **Next book fair is March 12-16, 2012.** The Media Center receives a percentage of the money from all items sold during the book fair. This money is used to purchase new books for our Media Center.



## Labels for Education



Save the UPC barcode labels from any Campbell's, SpaghettiOs, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, Prego, or Franco American products, and the plastic caps from V8 juices. The points acquired from collecting these labels can be used to order merchandise for our school. There is a collection box in the Media Center where you can drop off your labels.

**March 12-16, 2012.**



Hours for viewing the book fair:

Monday, March 12: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 13: 7:30 am– 8:30 pm\*

Wednesday, March 14: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

Thursday, March 15: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

Friday, March 16: 7:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Remember.....encouraging your child to read helps to ensure his or her success!**

Bring friends and family to stock up on summer reading. The Scholastic Book Fair will include the newest titles as well as books that are fun, interesting and inspirational. Adult titles are also available. Help support our school while encouraging your entire family to read!

\*Please note that the book fair will be open Tuesday evening until 8:30 pm in conjunction with the People of the Past and Present event.