

Holdrege Middle School

October 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 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 for the information system may call me at the school at 995-5421 to receive one. Parents are welcome to come into my office and have an account set up in person. The portal to the information system is on our home page at www.thedusters.org. The web site is also a great way to see upcoming events by clicking on the activities button. There is also information about where the activity is and directions to get to the event if it is an away event. The web site also has several different stories about programs in the district and activities students are involved in.

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

Please note that school will not be in session on Monday, October 3rd, due to an Educational Service Unit #11 in-service for area teachers.

Parent -Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 24th from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and on October 26th from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. There will be **no school on Wednesday, October 26th**, due to an in-service in the morning and parent teacher conferences in the afternoon. There will also be **no school on Thursday and Friday for the fall break. There will be a 1:30 dismissal on Monday and Tuesday of that week.** Information about signing up for the parent-teacher conferences will be sent home the week of October 10th.

MAP Tests

The Map Achievement tests for 5th through 8th will be completed by October 14th. We will share those results with the parents during parent teacher conferences. If you would like the information about how your child did on these tests but cannot make it to parent-teacher conferences, please contact the school for a copy of your child's results.

Target Stores Donate to Holdrege Middle School

This year the Holdrege Middle School received a check from Target in the amount of \$238. Target stores donate 1% of purchases made on your Target RED CARD to your designated school.

HOP

HOP stands for **H**omework **O**pportunity **P**rogram. This program is to help students that are not turning in their work to get caught up. The program is not meant as a punishment, but a way to make sure that students do not fail just because they are not handing in their assignments. The program runs on Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30. We get a list of students from teachers on Monday morning to send notices out to parents so that they know their child will be staying at school to make up work for that hour after school.

Baker Bucks

Baker Bucks are incentives for students to do well in the classroom. Each team decides in a two or three week period what the goal for their grade is going to be. For example, one grade gave a Baker Buck to students that had no late papers during that time period. The students are given a Baker Buck, and they redeem it at the end of the day for a slushy.

Newsletter by e-mail

To lower the cost of sending this newsletter out to our parents, we are now e-mailing it to most of you. If you have not given me your e-mail address yet, please e-mail it to me at rubaker@esu11.org. It will also be posted on the school web site.

School Safety

In the interest of safety for your child walking to school, please remind them to use the crosswalks where we have adults monitoring the streets. When you drive to school, be alert for students walking to school, as they sometimes do not watch what they are doing when going across the street.

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. 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 walked to a location away from school. You 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 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, or if the weather changes by dismissal time.** 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 these times. It helps if your child has an idea of what he/she is to do in these situations ahead of time.

School Closing Information

When weather is a concern, parents ultimately have the final decision on whether or not to send children to school or to pick them up early. An attempt will be made to have school every scheduled day. If, however, due to inclement weather or if unforeseen circumstances arise, Radio Station KUVR Holdrege and Television Station KHGI Channel 13 Kearney will carry information in relation to the school closing. Information will also be posted at www.thedusters.org and Blackboard Connect calls will be made.

School may be delayed to allow for additional assessment of weather conditions and/or for snow removal. Announcements will be made if food service (breakfast/lunch) schedules are disrupted. If weather conditions develop during the day that warrants dismissal, the same procedure will be followed. Conditions may exist that children on bus routes will be dismissed and taken home, but school will remain in session.

HMS Library Receives Multicultural Books

The HMS library received twelve new award winning multicultural fiction books donated by a local Book Club in memory of Arlene McFall. Arlene was the Holdrege Middle School Reading Teacher from 1978-1992 and 1993-1998. She was a member of the Book Club, an avid reader and teacher of multicultural education. She encouraged all of her students to discover the joy of reading. Arlene passed away August 14, 2011 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Pre-Screening Notice to Parents and Guardians

The Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening Program will be happening soon at Holdrege Middle School.

A Body Mass Index, or BMI, is a measure that is used to show a person's "weight for height for age." It is calculated using an individual's height and weight. Just like a blood pressure reading or an eye-screening test, a BMI can be a useful tool in identifying possible health risks.

The purpose of the BMI Screening Program is to give you information about your child's weight status and ideas for living a healthy life. In Holdrege Public Schools, we address our children's health and wellness with a comprehensive approach that includes health screenings and parent notification.

The school nurse will supervise your child's screening and will make sure your child's privacy is respected at all times. The results of your child's height, weight, and BMI measurements are strictly confidential—the results will be kept in your child's school health record and given to you directly in your 2nd term report card.

A BMI does not tell the whole story about your child's health status. BMI does not distinguish between fat and muscle. For example, if a child is very athletic and has a lot of muscle, his or her BMI may be high even though he or she is not overweight. That is why we encourage you to share the

results with your child's health care provider. Your child's doctor or nurse is in the best position to evaluate his or her overall health and can explain the results of his or her BMI screening. They can also talk with you about whether there are steps you can take to encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

We are very interested in making sure that all our students are healthy. This year, the BMI screening will take place in November/December/January. All children in grades K-12 will have their height and weight measured and will have their Body Mass Index (BMI) calculated.

Moon Event

The Holdrege community has an opportunity to be involved in an International Observe The Moon event-InOMN.

The International Observe the Moon Night team consists of scientists, educators, and Moon enthusiasts from government, non-profit organizations, and businesses throughout the United States and across the globe. International Observe the Moon Night has created the opportunity to for people to take notice of the Moon's beauty and share that experience with one another.

Mr. Ott at Holdrege Middle School has received a kit with books, activities, a moon globe, night sky binoculars, and a tripod to use. InOMN has set Sat. October 8th as the date for this event. We may look ahead at the weather forecast to see if Friday, Oct. 7th or Sat. Oct. 8th would work the best.

Students, parents, and community members are invited to take part in this event. There will be some activities within the building for various ages, and also get to view the moon through the binoculars and hopefully a couple of local telescopes.

We are looking for those interested in helping with the event, including securing refreshments for those who attend. Please contact Mr. Ott at the Middle School-995-5421 or email jott@esu11.org if you would be interested in helping with the event. We would like to know also, how many people would be attending, so we can plan for materials and refreshments. The InOMN equipment would be available for checkout following the event. The website <http://observethemoonnight.org/> will give more general information about it.

More specific details of time and location for the Holdrege event will be available later.

Scholastic Book Fair

**The Scholastic Book Fair will be coming
to Holdrege Middle School
October 19 - October 26, 2011.**



Hours for viewing the book fair:

Wednesday, October 19: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

Thursday, October 20: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Friday, October 21: 7:30 am – 2:00 pm

Monday, October 24: 7:30 am - 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm*

Tuesday, October 25: 7:30 am – 2:00pm

Wednesday, October 26: 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm*

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

Also, please remember that money made from the book fair will be used to purchase new books for our library. Bring friends and family to do some birthday or early Christmas shopping. Adult titles are also available. Help support our school while encouraging your entire family to read!

The book fair will include the newest titles as well as books that are fun, interesting and inspirational. Students who purchase items will be eligible for a drawing for free posters.

*Please note that the book fair will be open Monday, October 24 and Wednesday, October 26 during Parent/Teacher Conferences.