

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES



by Larry Harnisch

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For the last two months I have been putting information in the newsletter to assist patrons in making an educated decision for the December 13th Special Election. Part of that information included Athletic accomplishments over the last few years and unfortunately, I did not list the track accomplishments. I apologize for this oversight. **The Track accomplishments that I should have included are: 2011 Boys State Runner-up at the state tournament, 2011 Girls 3rd place finish at the state tournament, and 2009 Boys 3rd place finish at the state tournament. Luke Boldt has been our Boys Head Coach and Teresa Trauernicht our Girls Head Track Coach.**

The question on the ballot for this Special Election was “ should the board of education have the authority of exceeding the property tax limit as set forth by the Nebraska Department of Education for the next three years”. The official returns for the election, with more than 60% voter turnout, approved the proposal with 276 votes for the proposition and 270 votes against the proposition. Thank you to all the patrons that exercised their right to vote on this important election.

READING ASSESSMENTS RESULTS

The State of Nebraska began statewide reading assessments two years ago so that parents, citizens, school boards, and administrators could compare results from one district to another. This data is used to improve student and school academic achievement performances. In the spring of every year, students are tested in grades 3 – 8 and 11 with the scores compared by schools in each athletic classification. We are proud to report that Sterling scored in the top 10 reading assessment scores in 2011 for Class D and were also included in the most improved small schools scores across the state of Nebraska. Congratulations to our students and staff for a job well done, we are proud of you!!!

The top 10 reading assessment scores for 2011 in Class D were: Bertrand, Bloomfield, Loomis, Johnson Brock, High Plains Community, Cody-Kilgore, Maxwell, Kenesaw, Howells and STERLING. The most improved schools in Class D were: Anselmo-Merna, Bertrand, Cedar Bluffs, East Butler, Elm Creek, High Plains Community, Kenesaw, Loomis, Maxwell, Mead, Pawnee City, Pender Shelby Southwest and STERLING.



From The Principal's Desk

by Ryun Theobald, Principal

WOW! One semester already in the books. Where does the time really go? I would have to say that the first semester was a huge success. The students and staff have been very helpful with the transition to a new face in the principal's office. I hope everyone had a chance over the holiday break to relax, enjoy some quality time with family and friends, and get energized for the start of a new year. With that being said, I would like to highlight a few items.

- 1. Student of the Month.** Congratulations to our student of the month honorees. Our high school student is Lindsey Koelzer and our middle school student is Tyler Vermeer. Both of these students are to be commended for their hard work, as it was noticed by several teachers.
- 2. Reading Assessment Results.** In this area of high stakes testing, I think it is important to recognize the outstanding performances of our students when they achieve at high levels. In this case, I am referring to a recent article written by Governor Dave Heineman. Every spring all students in the state of Nebraska in grades 3-8 and 11 take the NeSA-R (Nebraska State Accountability for Reading) assessment. In recent years, for comparison purposes, the results for schools are reported based on their NSAA (Nebraska State Activities Association) athletic classification. For the most recent results, the students of Sterling are to be commended for their recognition in two categories. Our students scored in the top ten assessment scores for small schools and they also have been recognized for being one of the most improved schools from the previous year. Congratulations to the students and staff at Sterling, and continue to strive for excellence.
- 3. Activity Success.** The high school boys and girls basketball teams have both had a nice run to start the season. January and February will be busy months as both teams prepare for runs at conference tournaments and possible trips to state. The junior high boys have also finished a successful season. The speech team and quiz bowl teams have begun practicing and will start their competitive activities in the second semester. Good luck to all participants.
- 4. Elementary "Polar Express."** The elementary students were able to have a fun and exciting final day of school for the first semester, with a theme based on the book, *The Polar Express*. The students wore their pajamas and slippers, and brought in blankets and pillow pets. They enjoyed singing Christmas carols, which were accompanied by Mrs. Renninger and her high school vocal students. Mr. Theobald read the book, *The Polar Express*, and the students were given the treat of hot chocolate and sugar cookies. The students then watched the movie, *The Polar Express*, on the big screen. This activity culminated with a visit from Santa Claus. I would like to thank Mrs. Clark for spearheading this activity, and all of the other elementary teachers and anyone else who helped to make this a special day for the elementary students.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or general comments, please feel free to contact me.

GO JETS!!

Check us out at www.sterlingjets.org

BOOSTER CLUB SOUP FUNDRAISER A SUC-

On November 15th, the Sterling Booster Club hosted a fundraiser. This soup supper, followed by a presentation by Brady Beran was to kick off the Booster's goal of raising money to be used for new football helmets for the junior high and senior high athletes.

Brady was a former Lincoln East football player, who sustained a life threatening brain injury as a result of being hit while playing on the field. His story was one of perseverance and faith, defying all odds that he would make a recovery.

The fundraiser was a great success! The Booster Club would like to thank all those that came out for the event and those that played a part in making the event happen. We are looking at having a raffle or two in the near future for this event as well. If anyone would like to donate to this cause, please contact anyone of the Booster Officers. Thanks for your support!

Special thanks to the Sterling Rescue Squad for donating \$250 to be used for the helmets.

***Booster Club will be having another Soup Supper fundraiser for the helmets on Saturday, January 7. This will take place during the Sidney, Iowa basketball games. Serving will begin at 5 p.m. and go until**



The Polar Express Stops in Sterling

On Thursday, December 22 the elementary students boarded the Polar Express for a special holiday send off.

The morning began with students, dressed in their pajamas, gathering in the gym for Christmas caroling. Mrs. Renninger and some high school students lead the caroling while the younger students joined in.

Then students and staff all boarded the train and listened while Mr. Theobald read The Polar Express. Students were served hot cocoa and cookies to enjoy as a mid-morning treat.

From there we traveled through blizzard like conditions; through wilderness and over mountains, to join Santa at the North Pole as we watched The Polar Express movie. There's nothing like watching a movie on a big screen, while lying on your favorite pillow and holding on to your favorite stuffed animal. The children had plenty of room to enjoy as they had the whole gym floor.

Wrapping up the morning...SANTA! Students and staff received a great surprise as they filed out of the gym. Santa stopped by to make sure children were being good and to give them a candy cane treat.

This magical morning was a combined staff effort and would not have been what it was without all of us working together to give students a great beginning to their holiday break. Thanks to all of the elementary teachers, the kitchen staff for making the cocoa and letting us invade the cafeteria, Mr. Theobald for reading the story, Mrs. Wirthele for chipping in on buying supplies and helping to make all the cookies, Mrs. Renninger and her high school students for leading us in Christmas carols and moving the heavy piano (thank you Mr. Logston).



*All
Aboard
The Polar Express.....*

Counselor's Corner

by Jill Shea, Guidance

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN).

Seniors and senior parents – a reminder to request a PIN (Personal Identification Number) for each senior and one for a parent. This PIN can be requested at pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the electronic FAFSA. Keep your PIN for future years as this four digit number will not change. Also as a parent, if you have a student who is already attending or has attended college, you will use the same PIN. If you have forgotten your PIN, you can go to the website and request a duplicate PIN. The process takes less than five minutes. Some of the students have applied for their PINs. Please have the conversation with your child to see where he/she is in the college application and scholarship process.



Learn what types of financial aid are available.

Search for scholarships. Scholarships come from private donors or from your college and are not repaid. Some are based on financial need while others are based on criteria such as academics, leadership, athletics, talents, or military involvement.

If you have an idea of the school you would like to attend, contact the school's financial aid office to find out about scholarships specific to your needs. I am in the process of updating my webpage on the school's website and all scholarships will be posted there also. All seniors and juniors have been given a packet of information and as new scholarships or other information becomes available, I share that with the students. But remember, I can share all of the information, but the students are responsible for the application process. I was told once that, yes, it might seem time-consuming to apply for scholarships, but let's say it takes an hour to complete a scholarship application. That scholarship might be worth \$100. What job can you get right now where you can earn \$100/hour?

EducationQuest has a great scholarship link on their website. Review *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org Apply, apply, apply!

Write a basic essay you can adapt for several applications. Complete the *Activities Resume* to keep a record of your extracurricular activities. This is HUGE to save you time and also to aid you in keeping track of activities as you are involved. Once you set up your *Activities Resume* account, you can go and make additions as needed. Then, when you apply for a scholarship, you can print the resume and include it with your scholarship application instead of recreating your activities, etc., each time you apply for a scholarship.

Parents – use the EducationQuest *College Funding Estimator* to estimate your FAFSA results. Use your last year's tax information to estimate the amount of aid you will be eligible to receive for each college you are interested in. That's the cool thing about the estimator is that you are able to estimate the cost for each individual college the student is interested in.

Students – apply for college and scholarships now! I have and will continue to share information with you, but you need to take the initiative and apply!!

Third Graders Halfway Through by Virginia

It hardly seems possible that half the year has come and gone. But here we are at the halfway point already. I have really enjoyed working with this class. They are certainly a bright bunch of kids and forever keep me busy.

Just recently we have added one new student to our class Jovanni Cervantes Rosales. Our boys were delighted as this brings our numbers to 6 boys and 8 girls.

We have been working diligently on multiplication and story problems. Math facts practice is a daily ritual. Once we master our facts our math will seem so much easier. At least that is what I keep telling all my students. A big thank you to Mrs. Thies our grand parent aide and Mrs. Eilers who help with the drills. They contribute so much to our classroom effort.

Grammar finds us working on past and present tense verbs. Science gives us lots of information on rocks and how they are formed. In Social Studies we are learning about the three branches of our nation's government. And as always in Spelling we continue to learn new words and how they are spelled.

We look forward to our Christmas break as a time of refreshment and time spent with family. We will be springing back in 2012 to complete our studies and continue learning all the good things third grade has to teach us.

2011/2012 ACT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

TEST DATE	REGULAR DEADLINE	LATE FEE REQUIRED
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012	January 14-20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10-23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5-18, 2012

TEST FEE: \$34.00 TEST w/WRITING: \$49.50 LATE FEE: \$21.00

**2011-12 Yearbooks
make sure to order one!**

Preschool Off and Running *by Carolyn Eilers, Teacher*

The Preschool Program is off and running. Everything seems to be doing fine. We started out with four preschoolers and now after the first of the year, we will have six.

When learning the alphabet and numbers in preschool; it is done with a lot of action and music activities. At this stage, you do not use a great deal of paper and pencil instructions. We do their learning experiences with hands on such as puzzles, computer, moon sand, and other manipulatives.

We just had our winter program. They did a great job on singing their songs and doing their color and alphabet routines. They love to do all the different rhymes and songs that go along with Santa and his reindeer. I wish to thank all the families of the preschoolers for being there at the program. It meant a great deal to the preschoolers and to me to have you there.

Throughout the months that we have had school, we have visited some of the businesses in town along with seeing the animals next door. These little ventures are worthwhile experiences for the children. We hope to do more when the weather gets warmer.



2011 FOOTBALL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

PIONEER ALL-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

First Team Offense

Lineman - Ryan Zuhlke

First Team Defense

Lineman - Ryan Zuhlke

Linebacker/DB - Chris Wenzl

Second Team Offense

Skill Position - Chris Wenzl

Honorable Mention Offense

Skill Position - Kody Benson

ALL DISTRICT FOOTBALL

First Team Offense

Skill Position - Chris Wenzl

Lineman - Ryan Zuhlke

First Team Defense

Lineman - Ryan Zuhlke

Linebacker/DB - Chris Wenzl

Second Team Offense

Skill Position - Kody Benson

Skill Position - Levi McCartney

Lineman - Matt Erickson

Second Team Defense

DB/Linebacker - Michael Lucas

Honorable Mention Offense

Skill Position - Colin VanGroningen

ALL STATE FOOTBALL

Lincoln Journal Star & Omaha World Herald

Honorable Mention

Ryan Zuhlke Chris Wenzl Kody Benson

BEATRICE ALL-SUNLAND FOOTBALL

First Team Offense

Lineman - Ryan Zuhlke

Second Team Offense

RB - Chris Wenzl

Honorable Mention Offense

Colin VanGroningen Kody Benson Matt Erickson

Levi McCartney

Michael Lucas

First Team Defense

Lineman - Ryan Zuhlke

Second Team Defense

LB/DB - Chris Wenzl

Honorable Mention Defense

Michael Lucas



2011 VOLLEYBALL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

PIONEER ALL-CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL

First Team - Nicole Wenzl

Second Team - Jordan Lempka

Honorable Mention - Jenna Nieveen

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR - ALL STATE VOLLEYBALL

All State D2 First Team - Jordan Lempka

Honorable Mention - Nicole Wenzl

OMAHA WORLD HERALD - ALL STATE VOLLEYBALL

All State D2 First Team - Jordan Lempka

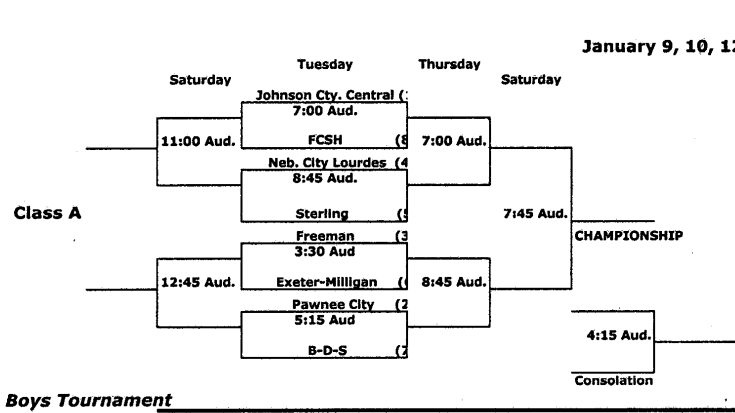
Honorable Mention - Nicole Wenzl & Jenna Nieveen

BEATRICE DAILY SUN

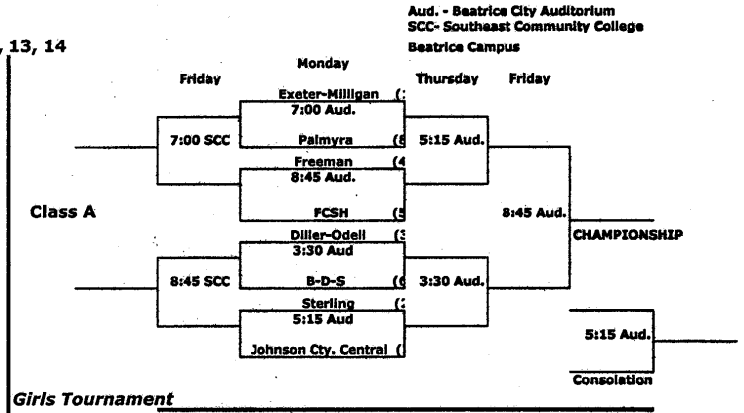
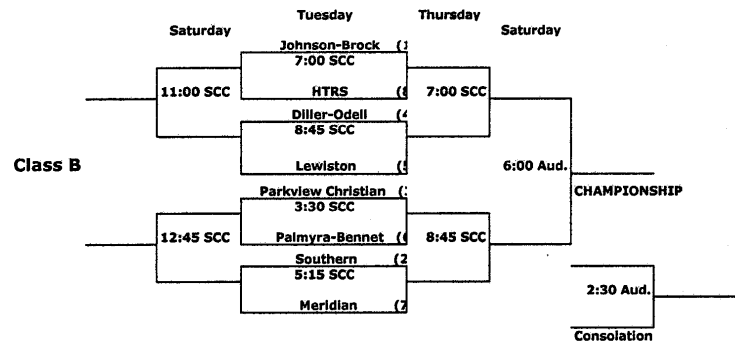
D1-D2 First Team - Nicole Wenzl & Jordan Lempka

Honorable Mention - Jenna Nieveen

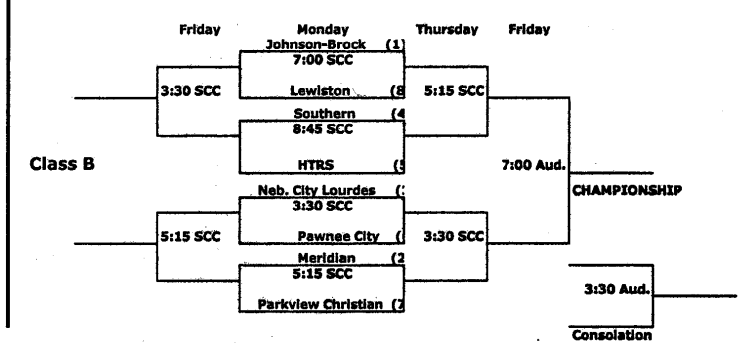
2012 MUDECAS Basketball Tournament



Boys Tournament



Girls Tournament



2011-12 Jr. High Girls Basketball

Thurs. Jan. 19	@ Freeman Tourn.	4:00	Mon. Feb. 6	@ Lewiston Tourn.	5:30
Mon. Jan. 23	@ Lewiston	1:00	Wed. Feb. 8	Freeman	1:00
Wed. Jan. 25	@ Diller-Odell	1:00	Wed. Feb. 22	Neb. City Lourdes	2:30
Mon. Jan. 30	FCSH	4:00	Mon. Feb. 27	@ Johnson-Brock Tourn.	4:00



Way to Go Lady Jets!

2011
Sterling Holiday
Tournament
Champions



JANUARY 2012 MENUS

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

<p>2</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>3</p> <p>B-B-Breakfast Bar or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Chicken & Noodles, peas, bread & butter, mandarin oranges</p>	<p>4</p> <p>B-Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Vegetable Beef Soup, lettuce salad, cheese breadstick, pears</p>	<p>5</p> <p>B-Donut, Yogurt or Cereal/Yogurt, juice, milk L-Nachos, corn, celery w/peanut butter, peaches</p>	<p>6</p> <p>B-Pancakes, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L-Spaghetti, green beans, garlic bread, mixed fruit</p>
<p>9</p> <p>B-Egg Taco or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Ham Patty, tator gems, peas, peaches</p>	<p>10</p> <p>B-Garlic Cheese Medallions or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Chicken Noodle Soup, sandwich, lettuce salad, oranges</p>	<p>11</p> <p>B-French Toast Sticks or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L-Pork Breaded Patty, broccoli w/cheese or mixed vegetables, carrot sticks, pineapple</p>	<p>12</p> <p>B-Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Tacos, green beans, celery w/peanut butter, mixed fruit</p>	<p>13</p> <p>B-Breakfast Burrito or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Salisbury Steak, mashed potatoes w/gravy, breadsticks, corn, pears</p>
<p>16</p> <p>B-Pancakes, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L-Burrito, green beans, chips w/salsa, peaches</p>	<p>17</p> <p>B- Scrambled Eggs, Toast or Cereal/Toast, juice, milk L- Hamburger on Bun, french fries, peas, applesauce</p>	<p>18</p> <p>B-B-Breakfast Bar or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Tomato Soup, lettuce salad, cheese sandwich, peaches</p>	<p>19</p> <p>B-Toaster Pastry or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Potato Bake, ham or tuna salad sandwich, string cheese, pears</p>	<p>20</p> <p>B-Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Breaded Chicken Patty, mashed potatoes w/gravy, corn, mixed fruit</p>
<p>23</p> <p>B-Garlic Cheese Medallions or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Sloppy Joes, french fries, carrot sticks, pears</p>	<p>24</p> <p>B-Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Pizza, green beans, relishes w/dip, mandarin oranges</p>	<p>25</p> <p>B-Donut, Yogurt or Cereal/Yogurt, juice, milk L-Submarines, peas, gelatin, pineapple tidbits</p>	<p>26</p> <p>B-Waffles, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L-Chili Soup w/cheese, lettuce salad, cinnamon roll, mixed fruit</p>	<p>27</p> <p>B-Scrambled Eggs, Toast or Cereal/Toast, juice, milk L-Chicken Nuggets, mashed potatoes w/gravy, corn, peaches</p>
<p>30</p> <p>B-Breakfast Pizza or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Goulash, green beans, tea rolls w/jelly, peaches</p>	<p>31</p> <p>B-Omelet, Toast or Cereal/Toast, juice, milk L-Cheesy Dog Wrap, peas, baked beans, applesauce</p>		<p><i>Menus subject to change without notice.</i></p> <p><i>All meals include half pint of milk.</i></p>	<p><i>Extra bread, butter and peanut butter offered with each 6-12 meal.</i></p>

January 2012 Activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>This Calendar is subject to change.</i>	2 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	3 2nd Semester G/B Basketball @ <u>Johnson</u> -Brock 4 games 3:45 p.m.	4	5 9/10/JV Boys BB @ Malcolm 7 p.m. AWAY	6 G/B Basketball @ <u>HTRS</u> AWAY 4 games 4 p.m.	7 Booster Club Soup Supper 5 pm G/B Basketball vs. Sidney, IA 4 games 3 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13 Sterling 1997 Girls Class A MUDECAS Champions honored	14
MUDECAS Girls/Boys Basketball @ Beatrice City Auditorium/SCC Beatrice						
15	16 Pioneer Conf. Instrumental Clinic @ Southern	17 JV Boys BB vs. Lincoln Lutheran Home 7 pm	18	19 Jr.H GBB @ Freeman Tourn. 4 pm	20 G/B BBB @ Wymore Southern AWAY 4 pm 4 games	21 G/B BB <i>Parents Night</i> vs. NC Lourdes 4 games 3 p.m. Post Prom Parents Soup supper
22	23 Jr.H GBB @ Lewiston 1 pm 9/10 BBB vs. Johnson-Brock HOME 7:30 pm	24 GV/BV BB @ Sutton AWAY 5:30 pm	25 Jr.H GBB @ Diller- <u>Odell</u> 1 pm	26 JV Boys BB vs. Beatrice Home 7 pm	27 G/B BBB @ Lewiston AWAY 4 pm 4 games	28 MUDECAS SPEECH @ SCC Beatrice 9 a.m.
29	30 Jr.H GBB vs FCSH 4 pm HOME	31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2 Pioneer Conference Art Exhibit at Sterling	Feb. 3 Pioneer Conference Art Exhibit at Sterling	Feb. 4 Pioneer Conference Art Exhibit at Sterling
PIONEER CONFERENCE BASKETBALL @ Freeman & Johnson/Brock			PIONEER CONFERENCE BASKETBALL @ Sterling			

**STERLING
PUBLIC
SCHOOL**

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SUPERINTENDENT

LARRY HARNISCH

K-12 PRINCIPAL

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

RYUN THEOBALD

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

JILL SHEA

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

BRENT HEUSMAN

*Continuing a
Tradition of Excellence*



Non-Profit
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Sterling, NE
Permit No. 2

**Sterling Alumni Mens
Basketball Tournament
March 17-18, 2012**

