

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

by Larry Harnisch

At the October Sterling Board of Education meeting it was decided that a special election would be held on December 13, 2011 for the purpose of asking the patrons of the district authorization to exceed the levy limit by no more than 20 cents per \$100 valuation as prescribed by law for fiscal years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. Currently the district is operating with a 25 cent levy override authority which is expiring at the end of this school year. This election will be by mail in ballot with all ballots required to be received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2011. Deadlines to register for this election are as follows: By mail, delivery, or outside agency including the DMV or County Treasurer through November 25, 2011; in person at the County Clerk's Office through December 2, 2011 (the office will be open until 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 2nd for voter registration).

All patrons will receive their official ballots by mail at their address as recorded in the county clerk's records. Upon receipt of the official ballot:

1. The registered voter shall mark it (FOR OR AGAINST).
2. Seal the ballot in the identification envelope supplied with the ballot.
3. Sign the identification envelope.
4. Comply with the instructions provided with the ballot.
5. The voter may return the ballot to the election commissioner or county clerk by mailing it or by personally delivering it to the office of the election commissioner or county clerk. The deadline for receipt of the ballot is December 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Below is some information that is designed to help you make an educated decision for your ballot.

Over the past ten years the property tax levy for the Sterling Public District General Fund has varied from \$1.31 per \$100 valuation to \$1.06 per \$100 valuation. Over these same ten years the district has operated under the MAXIMUM Levy by 4 to 26 cents each fiscal year.

Year	State Lid	Actual Sterling Levy	Max. Allowed	Amount Below Maximum	Bond Levy	Total Property Tax Levy
2011-12	1.05/100	1.09/100	1.30/100	0.21/100	0.08/100	1.17/100
2010-11	1.05/100	1.11/100	1.30/100	0.19/100	0.13/100	1.24/100
2009-10	1.05/100	1.06/100	1.30/100	0.24/100	0.14/100	1.20/100
2008-09	1.05/100	1.09/100	1.35/100	0.26/100	0.16/100	1.25/100
2007-08	1.05/100	1.21/100	1.35/100	0.14/100	0.16/100	1.37/100
2006-07	1.05/100	1.19/100	1.35/100	0.16/100	0.18/100	1.37/100
2005-06	1.05/100	1.22/100	1.45/100	0.23/100	0.21/100	1.43/100
2004-05	1.05/100	1.25/100	1.45/100	0.20/100	0.02/100	1.27/100
2003-04	1.05/100	1.31/100	1.35/100	0.04/100		1.31/100
2002-03	1.05/100	1.18/100	1.35/100	0.17/100		1.18/100

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER *continued from page 1*

How does the Sterling Public School Property Tax Levy compare with neighboring school districts? Below is a school district comparison of property tax levy for the 2011-12 school year.

School Dist.	Valuation	State Aid	General Levy	Special Bldg. Levy	Bond Levy	Total Levy
Freeman	297,696,836	416,386	0.97/100	0.08/100	0.14/100	1.19/100
Johnson Co.	410,588,823	928,399	1.01/100	0.04/100	0.14 (N.V. only)	1.19/100 or 1.05/100
Johnson/ Brock	235,068,240	397,864	0.97/100		0.10/100	1.07/100
Lewiston	226,215,806	180,000	0.96/100			0.96/100
Palmyra	330,978,496	717,833	1.00/100	0.05/100	0.09/100	1.14/100
Sterling	173,446,405	527,538	1.09/100		0.08/100	1.17/100

What does the district census report look like from 2005 to 2011?

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Age 5	15	13	17	17	18	13
Age 6	16	17	15	18	21	19
Age 7	17	18	20	18	18	20
Age 8	20	20	19	19	19	16
Age 9	24	20	17	24	18	18
Age 10	16	26	21	21	24	16
Age 11	28	16	26	20	26	24
Age 12	22	27	19	26	20	25
Age 13	18	21	23	21	21	19
Age 14	14	18	26	25	19	24
Age 15	25	13	15	21	26	19
Age 16	22	28	18	20	20	25
Age 17	22	20	23	16	20	20
Age 18	18	21	19	22	14	21
TOTAL	277	278	278	288	284	279

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER *continued*

WHERE ARE THE STUDENTS GOING AFTER GRADUATION FROM STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOL? Below is a Follow up of the Class of 2011.

Four (4) Year College	6 of 18	33%
2 Year College or Voc. School	7 of 18	39%
Entered Work Force	3 of 18	17%
Unknown	1 of 18	6%

How do the Sterling students compare to the State on the Reading Accountability Test for 2010-11?
(These numbers are scale scores not percentage scores)

	2009-10		2010-2011	
	Nebraska	Sterling	Nebraska	Sterling
Grade 3	101	85	104	103
Grade 4	104	93	109	104
Grade 5	101	88	108	110
Grade 6	101	89	109	109
Grade 7	104	91	110	121
Grade 8	102	82	106	95
Grade 11	101	91	102	112

How do the Sterling students compare to the State on the Mathematics Accountability Test for 2010-11?
(These numbers are scale scores not percentage scores)

	Nebraska	Sterling
Grade 3	103	105
Grade 4	103	102
Grade 5	103	90
Grade 6	100	95
Grade 7	99	95
Grade 8	98	88
Grade 11	95	112

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER continued from page 3

What percentage of Sterling 4th and 8th grade students met or exceed the state writing standards? (Scores are masked if a ? is shown because of the small number of students that took the assessment that year.)

	Nebraska	Sterling	Nebraska	Sterling
	4 th grade	4 th grade	8 th grade	8 th grade
2010-11	89%	?	90%	95%
2009-10	88%	77%	94%	?
2008-09	90%	70%	95%	95%
2007-08	90%	71%	93%	69%

EMPLOYEES OF STERLING PUBLIC (22 teachers + 1.6 Administrators)

- *0.6 FTE Superintendent and 1.0 Principal
- *0.5 FTE Preschool Teacher
- *0.5 FTE Title 1 Reading & Math Teacher
- *6.0 FTE Elementary teachers (Kindergarten – Fifth grade)
- *0.4 FTE Elementary Physical Education
- *0.5 FTE Elementary Music Teacher
- *1.0 FTE Middle/High School Music
- *2.0 Special Education teachers & 5 Para-professionals
- *0.75 Guidance Counselor
- *0.88 FTE Foreign Language Teacher
- *1.0 Tech. Coordinator/Librarian with 1 Para-professional
- *8.48 FTE Middle/High school teachers
- *2.0 FTE Office Personnel
- *3 Bus routes & drivers

If you have any questions or request for additional information???

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From The Principal's Desk by Ryun Theobald

Boy, how the weather has changed since last month. Being from Nebraska all of my life, I should be used to this by now, but somehow I never really seem to. I guess that is okay as the change in seasons helps to keep me on my toes. With that being said, I would like to highlight a couple of accomplishments and also remind parents about a couple of expectations.



- 1. Student of the Month.** This is a program that has been in place here at Sterling in grades 6-12 for quite some time, according to the records that have been left in my care. In short, teachers nominate students in the middle school and high school based on a set of criteria. Then, at the monthly staff meeting, the staff member who nominated the respective student has a chance to explain their recommendation to the entire staff. After this has taken place, the staff votes via google form. Once the vote is tallied, the students are notified, preferably in a large group setting, a letter is sent home to the parents and the winning students are awarded a gift certificate for a pizza at Jet Stop. Jet Stop graciously supplies one pizza and we furnish the other pizza. Congratulations to Middle School October student of the month Daniel Schwenneker and the High School student of the month Kelsey Puls.
- 2. Fall Sports Success.** At the time this article was being composed, the football team has qualified for the opening round of the Nebraska State Football Playoffs. The volleyball team is playing in the Pioneer Conference Tournament and preparing for a run at state with sub district play right around the corner. Both of these programs have had great success this year. Be sure to congratulate those athletes if you have a chance. In addition, the junior high volleyball, junior high football, JV volleyball and JV football teams have also had successful seasons.
- 3. Elementary Recess and PE.** With the change in weather, there are always concerns as to whether PE and recess will be inside or outside. As long as the outside air temperature, taking into consideration wind chill, is above freezing, recess and PE will be held outside. Please make sure your student has proper attire to be warm.
- 4. Attendance and Tardies.** I would like to remind parents of the handbook policy concerning tardies. If a student is tardy (not arriving to school and being in designated areas when the class bell rings) first period, that student shall be sent to the office to sign in. Students will be allowed three (3) tardies per semester. After the third tardy, he/she will be assigned 15 minutes of detention for each tardy. Tardies to class (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,) will only be excused by the student's preceding teacher if the student has been detained. While this policy is only stated in the middle and high school handbook, it is an expectation that elementary students are also on time to school.

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

Go JETS!!!!

Sterling Basketball Schedule 2011-2012

Date	Day	Opponent	Place	Time
Nov. 22 nd	Tuesday	Palmyra-Jamboree (GV, BV)	Sterling	6:00
Dec. 2 rd	Friday	FCSH (BJV, GV, BV)	Falls City	5:00
Dec. 3 rd	Saturday	Thayer-Central Sterling (GV, BV)		3:00
Dec. 9 th	Friday	Diller-Odell (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Sterling	4:00
Dec. 10 th	Saturday	Hanover, KS (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Hanover	3:00
Dec. 13 th	Tuesday	Meridian (GV, BV)	Sterling	6:00
Dec. 16 th	Friday	Pawnee City (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Sterling	4:00
Dec. 20 th	Tuesday	Dorchester (GJV, GV, BV)	Dorchester	5:00
Dec. 28 th -29 th	Wed.-Thurs.	Sterling Holiday Tour.	Sterling	12:30
Jan. 3 rd	Tuesday	Johnson-Brock (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Johnson	3:45
Jan. 6 th	Friday	HTRS (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Humboldt	4:00
Jan. 7 th	Saturday	Sidney, IA (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Sterling	3:00
Jan. 9-14	Mon.-Sat.	MUDECAS Tourn.	Beatrice	TBA
Jan 20 th	Friday	Wymore-Southern (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Wymore	4:00
Jan. 21 st	Saturday	Neb. City Lourdes (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Sterling	3:00
Jan. 24 th	Tuesday	Sutton (GV, BV)	Sutton	5:30
Jan. 27 th	Friday	Lewiston (GJV, BJV, GV, BV)	Lewiston	4:00
Jan.30-Feb.4	Mon.-Sat.	Pioneer Con. Tourn.	TBA	TBA
Feb. 7 th	Tuesday	Freeman (GJV, GV)	Sterling	6:15
Feb. 10 th	Friday	Tri County (GJV, GV)	Sterling	6:00
Feb. 11 th	Saturday	Omaha Christian Aca. (BJV, BV)	Omaha	4:00



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Sterling Basketball Schedule 2011-2012 continued

Date	Day	Opponent	Place	Time
Feb. 13-16	Mon.-Thur.	Girls Sub districts	Norris H.S.	TBA
Feb. 17 th	Friday	Freeman (BJV, BV)	Sterling	6:15
Feb. 20-23	Mon.-Thur.	Boys Sub districts	Norris H.S.	TBA
Feb. 24 th	Friday	Girls District Finals	TBA	TBA
Feb. 28 th	Tuesday	Boys District Finals	TBA	TBA
Mar. 2-4	Thur.-Sat.	Girls State Tourn.	Lincoln	TBA
Mar. 10-12	Thur.-Sat.	Boys State Tourn.	Lincoln	TBA

Updated September 26th 2011



K-2 ELEMENTARY NEWS

On your mark...get set...GO! And that is exactly what the kindergarten, first and second grade classes did on October 13. We piled on a bus and traveled to Roca Berry Farm's. It was a beautiful fall day, great for taking a hayride and picking pumpkins!

Hayrides and pumpkin picking were the main attractions; however, Roca Berry Farm has much more to offer. The students were able to really get out and enjoy a gorgeous afternoon while they played a life-sized game of Candy Land. They investigated a castle (complete with a tunnel slide), raced down Howling Hill's fun slide (40ft.), and climbed giant mushrooms with Alice in Wonderland. They also had opportunities to bounce on one of two giant bouncers, test their bravery by touring three haunted barns, or have roller races. Needless to say, we didn't have quite enough time for them to do absolutely everything they wanted to do, before it was time to catch a ride on a hayrack.

It was fun to watch each child hustle to find their perfect pumpkin (one that would, of course, fit into their bag)! It is interesting to see those who pick the first one they see compared to those who can't seem to find the right one. Thankfully everyone eventually found their pumpkin, so we headed home.

It had been a perfect day and we all found perfect pumpkins to take home and enjoy! The kindergarteners and first graders are already looking forward to going again next year, and the second graders will always remember the fun they had the three years they were able to visit Roca Berry Farm!



STERLING 1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2011

6th Grade

Heidi Eckhardt
Benjamin Hier
Kylie Kahler
Zachary Scamehorn
Daniel Schwenneker

Sheanna Stolz

Talia Vermeer

7th Grade

Austin Buss
Taylor Cockerill
Micah Erickson
Tyler Vermeer

8th Grade

Erika Eckhardt
Erika Goracke
Hannah Jasa
Thomas Tucker

9th Grade

Meri Beth Hietbrink
Benjamin Logston
Tanner Shea
Rebecca Williams

10th Grade

Tara Hestermann

11th Grade

Kaitlin Daehling
Jacob Logston
Michael Lucas
Alexa Magill
Ceaton Malone
Jenna Nieveen
Allison Porter
Garrett Stolz
Tanner Weir
Ryan Zuhlke

12th Grade

Andrew Daehling
Jenna Elson
Matthew Erickson
Jessica Heusman
Archie Keebler
Emily Keim
Casper Kraai
Kelsey Puls
Colin Van Groningen
Nicole Wenzl
Robert Zinke

**WAY TO
GO JETS!**

Junior High Boys Basketball

Nov. 19 th	Saturday	@ HTRS Tournament	9:00
Nov. 22 nd	Tuesday	@ Diller-Odell	1:00
Nov. 28 th	Monday	@ Freeman Tournament	4:00
Dec. 6 th	Tuesday	@ Lewiston	1:00
Dec. 8 th	Thursday	@ Falls City Tournament	3:45
Dec. 12 th	Monday	@ Lewiston Tournament	5:30
Dec. 14 th	Wednesday	Freeman	1:00
Dec. 19 th	Monday	Johnson-Brock	3:30

GO JUNIOR JETS!!

Fifth Grade Enjoy Native American Stories

by Kate Agena, Teacher

On September 28, 2011, the fifth grade room had a visitor, Mr. Alex Dirks. We have been studying Native Americans in Social Studies, and Mr. Dirks was kind enough to volunteer to bring in some artifacts that he has collected. He told us that over the years, Mr. Dirks and his three sons have been mountain manning, or camping like Native Americans and fur traders. His twin boys Trace and Tristan are in the fifth grade. They helped demonstrate the coyote skin and how to sneak up on a buffalo.

The first thing he showed the students was a bow and quiver (this holds the arrows) the Pawnee used for hunting buffalo and other animals. The bow was extremely large, so the Pawnee did not ride horses to do their hunting. What they did wear was a coyote skin. They would crawl on the ground wearing the coyote skin, because the buffalo were not afraid of coyotes. It was hard to kill a buffalo with a bow and arrow, so they had

to get really close. The Pawnee were Native Americans that lived in this area.

He also had a mud necklace, which was hand carved and sculpted by the Apache. He showed them a deer skin that was rubbed with the animals brain and then stretched over a rack. This help keep the material soft and they used it to make clothing. Along with these samples, he brought a jacket made from elk that the warriors wore only to battle. It had horse hair tied to it, for all the horses the brave owned.

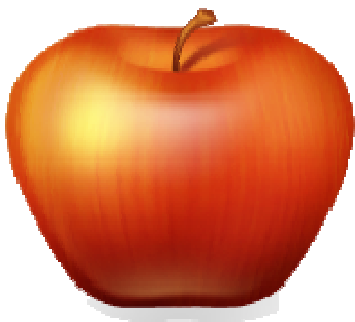
We learned how the Native Americans would trade for blankets with the fur traders. If the blanket had four lines on it, this meant it was worth four buffalo hides. This helped in the communication between the fur traders and Native Americans.

We appreciate Mr. Dirks coming in and sharing all of this information with us. The students really appreciated it. It was very educational and entertaining. Thanks again.



SECOND GRADERS ENJOYING THEIR FALL

The Second Graders are off to a busy year! The theme for our current reading unit is called "Heroes." Along with our weekly reading story, we have decodable and leveled readers. In Math we are learning how to check addition problems by using subtraction. We continue to do mad-minute drills to help us learn addition and subtraction facts. Our field trip to Roca Berry Pumpkin Patch was exciting. The weather was fantastic and the kids enjoyed the activities, hay-rack ride, and picking out their pumpkins. We just finished up our unit on Johnny Appleseed. Mr. Salberg, Industrial Arts Teacher, brought his apple press to school and demonstrated how to make apple cider. It was delicious!



NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The mailing list for this school newsletter is constantly being updated. Our goal remains to keep all patrons of the district informed of the happenings at their school. **If you know of someone wanting to receive this newsletter (grandparent, neighbor, friend, or patron) and not on our mailing list, please call the school office at 866-4761 so their names can be added. You may also direct them to the school district web site for a copy.**

www.sterlingjets.org

The deadline for the December 2011 Newsletter will be November 15, 2011. Please have your information into the office by then.

Each month may be a little different, but it should be around the 15th of each month.

CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS AND BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION COLLECTION

Yes we are collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels. Please make sure to cut them out and send them to school. We appreciate you help and support.

EDUCATIONQUEST FINANCIAL AID MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2011 at Sterling High School

In the Music Room at 6:30 p.m.

All Junior and Senior parents should attend.

2011/2012 ACT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

TEST DATE	REGULAR DEADLINE	LATE FEE REQUIRED
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5-18, 2011
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: \$44.00 LATE FEE: \$22.00



NOVEMBER

2011 MENUS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 B-Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Nachos, green beans, celery w/peanut butter, peaches	2 B-Breakfast Burrito or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Vegetable Beef Soup, lettuce salad, cheese breadsticks, applesauce	3 B-Waffles, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L-Goulash, green beans, tea roll w/jelly, oranges	4 B-Donut, Yogurt or Cereal/Yogurt, juice, milk L-Ham Patty on bun, tator gems, carrot sticks, mixed fruit
7 B-French Toast Sticks, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L-Sloppy Joes, broccoli w/cheese or mixed vegetables, carrot sticks, peaches	8 B-Garlic Cheese Toast or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Chicken Noodle Soup, sandwich, lettuce salad, pineapple tidbits	9 B- Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Hamburger on Bun, french fries, peas, oranges	10 B-Breakfast Bar or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Chicken Fajita, corn, rice, mixed fruit	11 B-Egg Taco or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Spaghetti, green beans, garlic bread, pears
14 B-Breakfast Pizza or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L- Tacos, corn, celery w/peanut butter, mandarin oranges	15 B- Scrambled Eggs, Toast or Cereal/Toast, juice, milk L-Chicken Patty on Bun, french fries, glazed carrots, cherry cobbler	16 B-Pancakes, Sausage or Cereal/ Sausage, juice, milk L-Chili Soup w/ cheese, lettuce salad, cinnamon roll, applesauce	17 B-Donut, Yogurt or Cereal/Yogurt, juice, milk L-Mini Corn Dogs, green beans, relishes w/dip, pears	18 B- Cereal, Fruit, Toast, juice, milk L-Turkey & Dressing, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, peas, mixed fruit
21 B-Breakfast Bar or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L-Chicken Nuggets, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, green beans, peaches	22 B- Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Tomato Soup, cheese sandwich, lettuce salad, pears	23 B-Toaster Pastry or Cereal/ Fruit, juice, milk L-Hot Dog on Bun, baked beans or sauerkraut, corn, mixed fruit	24 THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL
28 B-Garlic Cheese Toast or Cereal/ Sausage, juice, milk L-Chicken Gravy Over Biscuits or Bread, corn, no bake cookie, mandarin oranges	29 B-Pancakes, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L- Potato Bake, ham or tuna salad sandwich, string cheese, peaches	30 B- Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L-Submarines, french fries, gelatin, apple	<i>Menus subject to change without notice. All meals include half pint of milk.</i>	<i>Extra bread, butter and peanut butter offered with each 6-12 meal.</i>

ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	31	1 VB Sub Districts @ Norris H.S. Finals 7 p.m.	2	3 VB District Finals TBA	4 6th-8th Grade Dance Cafeteria 8-11 p.m.	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Begins Turn clocks back 1 hour	7 Pioneer Conference Vocal Music @ Lewiston 7 p.m. Concert	8 EducationQuest Financial Aid Meeting @ Sterling School 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11 Veteran's Day Program In the Gym 9:45 a.m.	12
STATE VOLLEYBALL @ GRAND ISLAND						
13	14 Winter Practices Begin School Board Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	15 One Act Play for Senior Center 12:30 p.m.	16 Conference Play @ Pawnee City 9 a.m. Sportsmanship Summit @ Fremont/Midlands - 8am	17 UNL Math Day @ Lincoln	18 Mid Quarter Reports sent out	19 Jr. High Boys BB @ HTRS Tournament 9 a.m.
20	21 State FB Finals in Lincoln D2-2:30 p.m.	22 Jr. High Boys BB @ Diller/ Odell 1 pm Girls & Boys BB Jamboree vs. Palmyra 6:00 p.m. - HOME Varsity Only	23 EARLY OUT Dismiss at NOON for Thanksgiving Break	24 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING	25 NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK	26
27	28 Jr. High Boys BB @ Freeman Tourn. 4 pm County Government Day @ Tecumseh <u>One Act Play Public Performance - 7:30 pm</u>	29 District One Act Play @ Pawnee City	30		This calendar is subject to change on short notice.	

**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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ONE ACT PLAY

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

“Help Wanted”

ON NOVEMBER 28 AT 7:30 P.M.

Dessert Bar following the performance.