

STERLING JET NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009

Superintendent's Notes *by Larry Harnisch*

Superintendent's Notes:

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for allowing us to work with their children, our staff for being so professional and dedicated while educating all children to the best of their ability, and our board of education for making this all possible. We are truly blessed to have such a team of individuals working together for the education of our youth. Finally, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to be part of your "educational team."

Weather is starting to cool down and before we know it the snow will be blowing! As we enter the winter season it is important that our communications with parents be accurate. Sterling uses the SchoolReach computer originated calling system to notify parents whenever it is necessary to close because of weather or other conditions. Will you please verify that the information we have at school matches your desired phone numbers and emergency information? Thanks.

School & Teacher Relationships

Research shows that one of

the most important factors that affect a child's performance in school is parental involvement. All too often, parents assume that just sending their children to school and looking at their report cards is enough. Not true! If you want to be involved, if you want to actively participate in the relationship between your child and the school, there are some things you can do to make this relationship positive and productive.

- Visit school, during the school day and stop in your child's classroom after checking in at the office.
- As appropriate, call, write or email your child's teachers.
- Talk to other parents about their experiences.
- Take time to read the school newsletter.
- It may not always be convenient, but try to attend school functions, such as open houses, meetings, etc.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP WITH THEIR CHILDREN'S HOMEWORK

There are things you can do that will help your child do assigned homework and that result in learning, which, after all, is the reason for being in school.

- Communicate with your child about school. This includes talking to them about their friends, activities, teachers, and assignments.
- Show enthusiasm about school and homework.
- Set realistic goals for your child, and then focus on one at a time.
- Help your child get organized. Break down assignments into smaller, more manageable parts.
- Set out needed items (clothes, homework, permission slip's, etc.) the night before to avoid last minute rushing around in the morning.

•Provide a quiet study

Superintendent's Notes Continued from page 1

corner in you home complete with supplies they may need.

Never do your child's homework!

Check with your child's teacher about correcting homework.

Expect and praise genuine progress and effort. Don't praise or otherwise reward your child for doing what you and they know is expected. This practice leads you down a slippery slope, often with really bad consequences for you and your child.

Be specific when you do praise something.

Focus on your child's strengths in school.

Build associations between what is taught and what your child already knows and understands.

Incorporate concrete materials and examples whenever possible, especially with younger children. Try to help your child learn about the subject in more than one way, using as many senses as possible.

Separate your child's school weaknesses from your child. If your child fails a test, that is all the child fails. He or she is NOT a failure.

WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME?

Home environment is important. You can foster school success at home if you:

- Make sure your child arrives at school well-rested.
- Make sure your child has a good breakfast before school, or eat breakfast at the school lunchroom.
- Set a regular time and ensure a quiet place for your child to do homework.
- Ask your child what he/she has learned in school each day.
- Limit his/her television, computer and video game time.
- Praise and encourage your child.
- Celebrate your child's successes.
- Teachable moments are important. You can turn ordinary time together into teachable moments if You
 - Use car time to talk to your child (about what you see from the car, about his or her day, about your day).
 - Plan to eat at least one meal each day as a family and use this time for positive family discussions.
 - Look for things to do together as a family.

Grant Makes New Bus Possible



First Grade News

by Sara Hier, Teacher

The first grade class is having a busy year. At the beginning of the year, the class was adjusting to individual desks, storing their own books for each subject, and becoming classroom helpers. We have been learning new phonograms which help us in decoding new words as we learn to read. Our reading skills are reinforced in our grammar, spelling and phonics. Each week a new reading story is introduced. There are also three companion trade books for each story. These books are skill-leveled and use vocabulary introduced in the main story. Students also take a weekly spelling test. This test includes words from their reading textbook and focuses on a specific skill. In grammar and writing, we have been studying about sentences.

In Math, we are working on basic addition and subtraction facts to 12. Following this unit, we will begin our daily timed tests, which will help to improve our speed in computing basic facts.

A special highlight this year was having the Button Jar overflow with buttons. This is a result of good behavior in the classroom. Students are given buttons to keep throughout the day. At the end of

each day, students who exhibit good behavior are able to put buttons into the jar. Our first class party involved making ice cream, and then enjoying it with toppings and brownies.



Pictured at left is Isabella tossing her bag of ice to make ice cream.

Below: How high can the bag go when working on making ice cream?



2nd Grade News

by Tammy McAuliffe, Teacher

The Second Graders are off to a busy year. We are ready to begin our third unit in Reading called "Express Yourself." One of our goals is to use "Voice" and practice fluency while reading aloud. Mad-minutes are used to reinforce our speed and accuracy while learning addition and subtraction facts. We are also learning how to use addition to check subtraction problems and adding three addends. "If A Witch Would Visit Second Grade" is the topic we are currently writing

on. Rough drafts have just been completed and we're working on finalizing them. Once again, we want to thank Mr. Salberg, for demonstrating with his apple press how to make that delicious apple cider. Also, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Heusman for donating apples.



Third Grade News

by Virginia Thiesfeld, Teacher

The end of the first quarter finds us studying many new things. In Math we are adding 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers as well as doing column addition. We will soon be learning how to count and add money.

In Phonics we are concentrating on consonant blends at the beginning and end of words. Grammar finds us learning to distinguish common nouns from proper nouns. And we will be learning very soon the difference between singular and plural nouns.

Our new Vocabulary workbooks have been a big challenge for us. But as we get into the routine of this book, we discover that these lessons really are improving our vocabularies, and that learning new words is a lot more fun than we first thought.

We have also recently received individual

student paperback dictionaries for each child. We had dictionary races last week and really concentrated on using guide words to find the word. The children had lots of fun seeing who could find the word first. All these things should be a great help to us in our future story writing.

The new Science series is teaching us about plants and animals. The experiments are fun and everyone enjoys the hands on approach.

Halloween is fast approaching and the children are looking forward to their first class party with treats, drinks and a movie. I would like to take this time to thank all the parents for signing up for these events. They really make the day special and we do appreciate all your hard work in providing us with the treats and drinks. Thank you!



Jr. High Girls Do Well This Year

1st at the Omaha Brownell
Talbot Jr. High Tournament

3rd at Lewiston Jr. High
Tournament

Booster Club Information on Apparel

Need some Christmas gift ideas?? Sterling Jet apparel and merchandise can be ordered directly from the school website. In addition, the Booster Club will sell apparel and merchandise before the Dec. 1 Elementary Concert and the Dec. 3 Choir Concert. Orders placed at both concerts and the website by Friday, Dec. 4, should be ready prior to Dec. 22. Orders placed after Dec. 4 may not be ready by Christmas. To ensure Christmas delivery, we encourage online ordering prior to Thanksgiving. Thank you for your support!

Fourth Grade Pioneer Days by Jennifer Clark

On October 2 the fourth graders traveled to Filley Stone Barn and to the Homestead National Monument for a glimpse into the past. The students were able to experience many things that the Pioneers experienced, including the strong Nebraska wind.

While at the Filley Stone barn we were able to get a real taste of the hard work the Pioneers endured each day. We experienced the day just as the Pioneers would have (without the modern tools and machinery we are used to today). We husked corn from the stalk, and then used a hand machine to shell the corn. We were able to see the process of turning sorghum into molasses, and most of us enjoyed its sweet taste.

The class also experienced first hand why it is necessary to work together. We manned saws and tried to cut down trees, but quickly found that it took both team members pushing and pulling to effectively cut the wood. We also took turns drilling holes into wood and digging holes for fence posts. Both of these jobs were difficult and as we found out, took the Pioneers much longer than we expected.

To end our time at the Filley Stone Barn, we were able to see how marbles are made. As we would find out later that day, these marbles were different from the marbles the Pioneer children would play with. But like the other things we had experienced that day, marble making also takes time.

From the Filley Stone Barn we were off to the Homestead Na-

tional Monument. We were relieved to find out that there would be some activities inside and we would have a chance to warm up. We warmed up quickly as we learned how the Pioneers made their clothes. Then, we were all able to turn "wool" into a bracelet.

It wasn't just clothes the Pioneers needed cloth for. Quilts were a necessity for those cold winter nights on the prairie. Again, quilt making takes time. Pioneers of all kinds (old, young, women, men) would help make quilts for the families. Quilting was not only a necessity, but also a social occasion and enjoyed by everyone. We enjoyed our social time visiting with the volunteers who helped us quilt our own squares. We have a lot of talented students who found out they enjoy quilting and aren't too bad at it.

Our final stop was "Pioneer Toys". Pioneer children didn't have a lot of fancy stores to buy toys in. Nor did they have room for them while traveling along the Oregon Trail. So what did they do? They did what many of us did when we were younger. They used anything they could get their hands on; a blade of grass, a corn husk, Mud.

What fun toy could possibly be made from

these things? How about a noise maker? Along the trail was a perfect place to make noise. Pioneer children would take a blade of grass between their lips, gently blow, and have a noise as equally loud as any party favor. When an older brother or sister turned old rags or corn husks into a doll, younger children could be soothed and entertained for hours. Another favorite toy could be made simply with mud. Mud would be rolled into balls and dried then used to play jacks or marbles. We were all given a kit to make our own marbles so that we could enjoy a game or two just as the Pioneers did while on the trail and living on the prairie.

Even though the day wasn't as warm as we would have liked it to be, we learned a lot and had a great time. The pioneers may have lived in simpler times, but there was nothing simple about their life. We are glad to know more about how hard they worked and how that hard work paved the way for us.

Pictured below is the 4th grade class



Special Education Information

Handicapped children between the ages of birth and twenty-one years of age are eligible for special education services. In order to be eligible, the child must meet specific criteria established by the State of Nebraska in Rule 51 for Autism, Behavior Disorder, Deaf-Blindness, Developmental Delay, Hearing Impairment, Mental Handicap, Multiple Impairments, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech-Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment.

If you believe that your child may qualify for any of these programs, please contact your local school superintendent so arrangements for diagnosis can be made. All these services are provided by Sterling Public School.

2009 SENIORS

Your Yearbooks Are In !

The cost is \$18 and you may pick them up in the school office.

REMINDER - Please notify the school office if your student will not be in school. It is important to do this as early as possible. If you also have a student leaving early or arriving late it is also necessary to notify the office. Thank you for your attention to these situations.

VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 11

Sterling Public School will be hosting a Veterans' Day Program on November 11th, 2009. This event is being held to honor all of Sterling's local Veterans, Military Members, American Legion Members and Women's Auxiliary Members. A social hour will be held at 9:00 a.m., prior to the program in the Sterling School Cafeteria. All guests are invited to attend the social hour. The program will begin at 9:45a.m. and will be held in the Sterling Public School gymnasium. *Guest speaker for this year's program will be CDR Joel A. Merriman, of the United States Navy.*

Commander Joel Merriman is the Navy Emergency Preparedness Officer for the State of Nebraska.

Members of the community are welcome to bring military memorabilia to be displayed during the program. Please contact Sandy Weyers or Luke Boldt if you are interested in bringing items for this display or if you have any questions concerning the program.

We look forward to honoring our local Veterans, Legion, Military and Auxiliary members.

EDUCATIONQUEST Financial Aid Meeting

NOVEMBER 10, 2009 at Sterling High School

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

All Junior and Senior parents should attend.

STERLING 1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2009

6th Grade

Haylee Boldt
Joshua Dolbow
Erika Eckhardt
Erika Goracke
Marah Hestermann
Hannah Jasa
Bailey Kahler
Elly Lempka
Joshua Masur
Thomas Tucker
Jordan Wenzl

7th Grade

Megan Barber
Jasmine Eickhoff
Yasser Gratol
Meri Beth Hietbrink
Benjamin Logston
Dennis Logston
Michael Logston
Tanner Shea
Nathan Thies
Rebecca Williams

8th Grade

Tara Hestermann
Derek Julian

9th Grade

Kaitlin Daehling
Kelsy Heusman
Jacob Logston
Michael Lucas
Alexa Magill
Ceaton Malone
Jenna Nieveen
Allison Porter
Garrett Stolz
Tanner Weir
Mark Wenzl

10th Grade

Andrew Daehling
Jenna Elson
Matthew Erickson
Kelsey Puls

11th Grade

Klay Heusman
Austin Magill
John Parrish

12th Grade

Andrew Hazen
Willow Hunt
Mark Lucas
Neil Pella
Jese Salberg
Travis Schellpeper

NeSA: Nebraska State Accountability

What does this mean to your students, your school, and you?

Have you really ever thought what goes on within the walls of your children's school? Educators in the State of Nebraska, in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) are working hard to improve the educational process of students within our state. You have probably heard about educational issues on the news or read about these issues online or in the newspaper. The words standards, assessment, and accountability are widely used to express what is going on within the educational system. But what does that mean to your students and you exactly?

With the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) by the federal government in 2001, states have been working to be accountable within the state and federal guidelines for the benchmarks or goals that students are to achieve. The statement of purpose from NCLB:

“The purpose of this title is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.”

This past spring, school districts across the state piloted the NeSA reading assessment. Sterling Public Schools took part in this pilot program. The purpose of the pilot was to field test the assessment as well as to determine potential computer accessibility issues. NeSA reading is the new statewide reading assessment for students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 to cover state benchmarks and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in accordance with NCLB. The results of this assessment will be reported to the state and to the public on the Nebraska Department of Education State of the Schools Report.

Previously, school districts across the state gave Student-based Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System (STARS) assessments. The STARS assessments were developed by

school districts. Our school district worked with other schools in the ESU #4 service unit to develop the assessments used in the service unit area. The 2008-2009 school year was the last year that the STARS Reading assessments were reported to the State and to the public. This current school year will be the first year for the NeSA Reading assessment. STARS assessments will be reported for both math and science during the 2009-2010 school year, and the NeSA Math assessment will be piloted this coming spring. This will be the final year for STARS math, and STARS science assessments will be reported for the 2010-2011 school year, along with the piloted NeSA Science assessment.

In addition to the STARS and NeSA assessment, school districts across the state also give the Nebraska Statewide Writing Assessment, which is given to students in 4th, 8th, and 11th grades. This writing assessment is based on a writing prompt supplied by the NDE and is scored by trained raters from across the state. These writing scores as reported both to the state and to the public (no individual scores on any state assessment – scores are broken down by grade level).

Norm-referenced assessments are given to students in grades 2 through 9 and 11 in our school system. TerraNova testing is done during the spring of each school year. TerraNova is a series of [standardized achievement tests](#) used to assess student achievement in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, vocabulary, spelling, and word analysis. Data from this assessment is used for school improvement discussions and to determine the individual strengths and areas of need for each of the students in our district.

Furthermore, Sterling Public Schools gives the College Board's EXPLORE As-

Continued from NeSA: Nebraska State Accountability

assessment to 8th graders during the fall of the school year. This assessment is an assessment that is “designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. EXPLORE prepares students not only for their high school coursework, but for their post-high school choices as well. It marks an important beginning for a student's future academic and career success.” (www.act.org) EXPLORE data is used to help each student determine areas of academic strengths and areas of need, as well as to give each student information on possible career clusters or areas to further investigate. Currently, there is a large push in the area of career decision making at an earlier point in a student's educational journey. The EXPLORE assessment helps the students to see which of these career cluster area(s) their interests lie.

During the students' sophomore year, the PLAN assessment is given. The PLAN is a “pre-ACT program helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years.” (www.act.org) The PLAN test is not only a great academic tool which helps prepare students for both the ACT and the COMPASS tests, but also shares more information with the students on how to improve themselves in academic areas. In addition, the

PLAN does a great job on estimating the future ACT range of each student and also to continue to help each student assess areas of interest for future career choices and goals.

Juniors are also given the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). This is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT and is a way for students to become National Merit Scholars. The PSAT/NMSQT measures: critical reading skills; math problem-solving skills; and writing skills. This test is given in October of the students' junior year.

Seniors take the ASVAB Career Exploration Assessment. This assessment “provides tools, including the test battery and interest inventory, developed by the Department of Defense to help high school and post-secondary students across the nation learn more about career exploration and planning. Results of the aptitude test and the interest inventory enable students to evaluate their skills, estimate performance in academic and vocational endeavors, and identify potentially satisfying careers. These results are integrated with work values to help students identify and prioritize possible career choices. Students are encouraged to consider their own work-related values and other important personal preferences as they explore the world of work and learn career exploration skills that will benefit them throughout their work lives.” (www.asvabprogram.com)

Check Out the Sterling Jets Web page.

sterlingjets.org

*You will find information on
scholarships to school activities.*

Junior High Boys Basketball

Nov. 21 st	Saturday	@ HTRS Tournament	9:00
Nov. 23 rd	Monday	@ Diller-Odell	1:00
Nov. 30 th	Monday	@ Freeman Tournament	4:00
Dec. 8 th	Tuesday	@ Lewiston	1:00
Dec. 10 th	Thursday	@ Falls City Tournament	3:45
Dec. 14 th	Monday	@ Lewiston Tournament	5:30
Dec. 16 th	Wednesday	Freeman	1:00
Dec. 21 st	Monday	Johnson-Brock	2:30



Way To Go Lady Jets!

**Pioneer Conference
Volleyball Champions**
“Sterling Jets”
(Itty Bitty Committee)



2009 Central Nebraska Parent Involvement Conference



32nd Annual Conference

Central Nebraska PARENT INVOLVEMENT CONFERENCE

November 7, 2009
Westridge Middle School
4111 West 13th Street
Grand Island, Nebraska

GET INVOLVED-STAY INVOLVED

This parent conference is designed to give educational information to parents about major challenges and issues facing families in today's world.

For further information and conference registration, log on to
www.gips.org/pic

On-site registration: 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Conference Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Early Registration for Child Care by October 30

This parent conference is developed in conjunction with No Child Left Behind and the National Coalition of ESEA Title I Parents. The conference is supported by the Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska School Board Association, Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska Head Start, Nebraska Even Start, and Nebraska Migrant Program.

Activities Calendar November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Fall back one hour	2 Volleyball Sub-Districts @ Fairbury	3 Volleyball Sub-District Final @ Fairbury	4 Football Playoffs 2nd Round Sterling vs. Hampton 7 p.m. - HOME	5	6 Volleyball Districts Finals TBA	7
8	9 Pioneer Conference Vocal Clinic @ Southern	10 Football Playoffs Quarter Finals Education/Quest Financial Aid Mtg. @ Sterling 6:30 pm	11 Veteran's Day Program - 9:45 a.m. In School Gym Public Welcome	12 State VB @ Lincoln	13 State VB @ Lincoln	14 State VB @ Lincoln
15	16 Start of Winter Sports Practices FB Playoffs Semi-finals	17 Post Prom Parents Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	18 Pioneer Conf. One Act Play - 9 a.m. @ Johnson-Brock Sportsmanship Summit @ Fremont	19	20	21 Jr. High BB @ HTRS 9 a.m.
22	23 JH BBB @ Diller/Odell 1 p.m. Football Finals @ Lincoln	24	25 Early Dismissal 2:37 p.m.	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Day	27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30 JH BBB Tourney @ Freeman 4 p.m. One Act Play Public Performance 7:30 p.m.	Dec. 1 District Play @ Bruning-Davenport				

November 2009 Menus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>B—Breakfast Menu</i> <i>L—Lunch Menu</i>	2 B - Garlic Cheese Toast or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Goulash, peas, tea rolls w/jelly, pears	3 B - Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L - Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, french fries, carrot sticks, pineapple tidbits	4 B - Toaster Pastry or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Vegetable Beef Soup, lettuce salad, cheese breadsticks, orange slice	5 B - Scrambled Eggs, Toast or Cereal/Toast, juice, milk L - Tacos, green beans, celery w/peanut butter, peaches	6 B - Pancakes, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L - Chicken Patty on Bun, mashed potatoes w/gravy, corn, mixed fruit	7
8	9 B - Garlic Cheese Toast or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Chili Soup, cinnamon roll, lettuce salad, pineapple tidbits	10 B - Donut, Yogurt or Cereal/Yogurt, juice, milk L - Hamburger on Bun, french fries, carrot sticks, pears	11 B - Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L - Beef Stroganoff, green beans, corn bread, applesauce	12 B - Breakfast Pizza or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Nachos, corn, celery w/peanut butter, orange slice	13 B - Cinnamon Toast or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Chicken Gravy Over Biscuits or Bread, peas, peaches	14
15	16 B - Pancakes, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L - Ham Patty on Bun, tator gems, carrot sticks, applesauce	17 B - Scrambled Eggs, Toast or Cereal/Toast, juice, milk L - Burrito, peas, chips w/salsa, peaches	18 B - Donut, Yogurt or Cereal/Yogurt, juice, milk L - Sloppy Joes, green beans, parsley potatoes, pears	19 B - Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L - Chicken Noodle Soup, lettuce salad, sandwich, pineapple tidbits	20 B - Breakfast Bar or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Roast Turkey w/dressing, mashed potatoes, corn, mixed fruit	21
22	23 B - Breakfast Pizza or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Chicken Nuggets, mashed potatoes w/gravy, corn, peaches	24 B - Cereal, Toast, Fruit, juice, milk L - Potato Bake, ham or tuna salad sandwich, string cheese, pears	25 B - French Toast Sticks, Sausage or Cereal/Sausage, juice, milk L - Hot Dog on Bun, french fries, baked beans, mixed fruit	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Day	27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30 B - Toaster Pastry or Cereal/Fruit, juice, milk L - Submarines, gelatin, green beans, pineapple tidbits					

Menu subject to change without notice. All meals include half pint of milk. Extra bread and butter

Sterling Public School
250 Main
Sterling, NE 68443-0039

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sterling, Ne
Permit No. 2

ONE ACT PLAY
PUBLIC PERFORMANCE
ON NOVEMBER 30 AT 7:30 P.M.
Come See
“CHECK PLEASE”