



Sterling Public Schools

March 2022 Newsletter



From the Principal's Desk by Jake Davenport

I have always had the attitude that no news is good news. I try to communicate any and all issues with parents as they arise, however, I figured I should provide everyone with a brief overview of my discipline philosophy.

When it comes to discipline within the school, my decisions are formed easily. Nearly all conduct and consequences are black and white in legislation or our handbook as adopted by the board of education. If situations could have legal ramifications, I contact the county attorney or Johnson County Sheriffs' office. In all situations, I try to stay as objective as possible.

While I am sympathetic to the root causes for behaviors, when a student is sent to the office to discuss a specific behavior, that behavior will remain the focus of the conversation. All reasons or excuses for the behaviors can be discussed at a later date (I am interested). Often the events around us cannot be predicted or changed but everyone must take responsibility for their personal response to those events.

Lastly, I just want everyone to know that I take no pleasure in levying discipline but do believe it to be necessary for growth. I do not take misbehaviors personally and will not hold anything against a student at any time. We all learn lessons and move on. Above all, I promise that any discipline levied will be much less severe than repercussions in the real world if they do not learn these lessons now.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me as needed. Since some of you receiving this newsletter do not currently have ties to our district, if you or any families you know are looking for a change of scenery with an excellent school, please get in contact with me. I would love to discuss why Sterling is likely a great fit.

Go Jets!!!

From Your Jet Librarian ;)

There's an article in the *Journal Star* today about controversial books in LPS libraries. So, I wanted to write up some notes about what we do here in the Sterling Library. My goal (especially in a PK-12 setting) is to structure spaces so that books checked out are age-appropriate. My other goals are to know the readers and use common sense. We have great readers, but just because they can read a book, does not mean that it's a good fit.

The positive thing about this issue is the acknowledgment of what I've always known: Books are powerful things. That said, we have such a variety of families in our district that it's possible that a book in our collection won't be a good fit for a family. In that instance, there are some legal things to know as an informed parent.

1. We *do* have a process and form to contest a book. It's a procedure by design because these things are better considered in a group. The example I love to use is *Harry Potter*. Some families do not find it appropriate because of the magic while others see it as a good fit.
2. Parents *can* request that a specific book be restricted from their child by contacting the school or the librarian.

With books and the Internet, it's essential we teach kids to be critical consumers of information and active participants in thinking about what they consume online. This is a big part of what we do in the library and in our English classes.

Okay, long note to say, I'm thinking about this. I take it seriously. I am listening to and a partner with parents. None of us is perfect, and we're in this together. If you EVER have a concern, talk to me. When I don't know things, I try to learn. It's all about learning, after all. - Dr. Wusk

RED RIDING HOOD AUDITIONS

An audition will be held for the Missoula Children's Theatre production of RED RIDING HOOD during the week of April 4th -8th . Auditions start after school at 3:45. Students will need to report to the gym if they are interested in auditioning. Those auditioning should plan to stay for the full two hours. Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the audition.

Among the roles to be cast are Red Riding Hood; her three Girlfriends; Little Loveable Wolf; the Hood Family; the Three Little Pigs; a Woodsman; a Locksmith; Ranger Rooney; The Boy who Cried Wolf; the Wolfgang; Forest Shadows; and some rascally Raccoons. Students grades Kindergarten through 8th grade are encouraged to audition. No advance preparation is necessary. Assistant Directors will also be cast to

aid in rehearsals throughout the week and to take on essential backstage responsibilities.

The Missoula Children's Theatre touring productions are complete with costumes, scenery, props and makeup. The MCT Tour Actor/Directors will conduct rehearsals throughout the week from 4:00 to 6:00 each day.

RED RIDING HOOD will be presented on April 8th at Sterling Public Schools.

For more information, call Sterling Public Schools at 402-866-4761

Firefighters Race to the Rescue - By: Haley Pella

On January 2nd, the Sterling Fire District and Adams Fire District had to rush to former SPS student Derek Buss's house on 365 Washington Street in Sterling at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon to put out a fire. Firefighters don't know the exact cause of the blaze. The cold temperatures made it hard to extinguish the fire right away. Derek says, "I was in shock when it happened," but luckily no one was hurt. The firefighters battled not only the fire, but they also had to fight the freezing cold temperatures. This intense confrontation took over six hours. Mr. Buss would like to thank the local firefighters for their hard work and dedication for trying to save his property.

On January 10, 2021 at about 10:30 in the morning, a mile north and a mile east of Humboldt another house fire alarm was issued. The Humboldt Volunteer Fire Department had to rush to Mark Bratrvosky's and his son Marcus's house to extinguish the fire. The firefighters think this fire was started in the wiring because it was an older house or the wood stove could have caused the fire. Marcus, the son, was at school when it happened, but got picked up from school and went out to see his house, which nothing was there to see. He and his dad lost everything, but luckily no one was hurt. Marcus says, "I felt depressed." Going forward the gentlemen hope to stay in the area and rebuild their future.

SCORING 1,000 POINTS!

Macy Richardson has hit 1,000 points in her high school career on January 8th in the Lady Jet's game against Lewiston. The game ended with a winning score of 50-40.

Dakotah Ludemann also hit 1,000 points in her high school career on February 4th in the Lady Jet's game against Johnson-Brock. The game ended with a winning score of 69-45.



Sterling Public Schools Allows Work Release - By: Kaylin Smith

Here at Sterling Public Schools, work release has once again started up. Work release is a work-based program that is offered to seniors in replace of traditional methods for furthering education. Students go to a job throughout the school day. Seniors do this to build up experience in their line of work. This will benefit them in the long run in the workforce.

In order for seniors to be able to do work release, they have to be eligible for it. To be eligible, students have to be in the second semester of their senior year. They also have to satisfy all the school requirements. Some of those requirements are taking all the core classes and having completed 20 hours of community service.

After being eligible, seniors then have to go through a series of steps. First, the seniors have to find a job that is willing to take them on. This can be a hard process since scheduling hours differ for each student. This job also has to be related to what they want to do after high school. The Board of Education also had to approve of the work release and made sure it would be beneficial to the students.

Once the students are approved, they have to switch their schedule here at school. The students attend junior high lunch, then go to work right after. This leaves the students only having four class periods throughout the day.

Right now at Sterling, they have three seniors out for work release. So every day, they are getting dismissed to go to work. Not only that, but these students are representing Sterling in an excellent way. Showing everyone that as a school, Sterling has amazing workers. This is without a doubt a hard but beneficial time for the students. This is an amazing opportunity for any senior to get a head start on their career.

Falling Through - By: Collin Kinney

It was a bright day in the middle of a slightly warmer winter when everything decided to go screwy. I was walking along my not-so-favorite trail when I thought I heard the reason I was there in the first place. What sounded like my missing dog.

"WOOF!!!" echoed throughout the forest scaring me. "What in the world?" I vocalized after hearing what sounded like a sonic boom in dog form. It appeared to be from behind me right along the bend, so braving the cold, I marched forward.

After walking for a couple of minutes, I quickly realized how unprepared for a cold hike I was. The freezing breeze was nipping at my freckled nose and turning my cheeks a rosy red. The breeze had also caught some prescient bangs that were hanging out of my stocking cap and blowing them into my face, blocking my vision with a dark brown mass.

That might have been why I didn't see it till it was too late. The edge of the trail was bordered by a steep cliff about 15ft deep. Not being able to see, I walked right into the railing and tumbled end over end down the cliff till I came to a sudden stop. "Ugh," I moaned as I attempted to get up quickly realizing that my ankle was feeling very tender and uncomfortably warm.

I knew better than to look at it, but curiosity got the better of me and what I saw was possibly the best it could have been. My ankle was still on and facing the proper direction but it was swollen and bright red. My breath started to come out in lurching breaths as I realized that I was stuck at the bottom of a cliff with a sprained ankle in freezing weather.

As I took in my surroundings, I realized two things, One that I was on the edge of a frozen lake, and two that the only way out was forward. So I decided to weigh the odds of being found but before I could come to a decision I heard it again, "WOOOOOOF!" This time even louder and impossibly close.

The loud noise immediately filled me with a fear that I would never forget, the kind where you are face to face with the thing from your deepest nightmares. So I did the natural thing and tried to get up and run. Bad idea. I stood up and almost immediately crumpled due to my ankle.

Flight or fight instincts kicked in and adrenaline flowed through my veins as the noise happened again "WOOOOOOOOF!" This time I had almost no problem getting up and running. I quickly realized that as soon as I began to calm down, I was

doomed so I did whatever I could to keep my heart pumping and adrenaline flowing, imaging it right behind me, being killed, being trapped somewhere with no hope (this one wasn't too hard to imagine).

I ran and ran till I realized that I was on the lake in roughly the center. Once I had slowed down, I realized that the ice was actually very thin and beginning to crack around. The cracks got louder till they started to sound like fireworks. The sound felt like snaps on the back of my head. The snaps stopped suddenly, so I tried to get on my stomach. As soon as my knee touched the ice, it exploded and it felt like I was floating for a second before I plummeted into the water.

The freezing water shocked the breath out of my lungs, and I started to thrash. My vision quickly started to go dark as the chill seeped into my already cold limbs. The bubbles floating up towards the light looked strangely beautiful as I drifted into unconsciousness.

Why was it so bright? And why did everything hurt so bad? Especially my ankle and head. Where was I? How did I get here? They shook as a singular **"WOOF!"** echoed throughout me and everything came flooding back, the fall off the cliff, the barking, the pain of my ankle, the running, and the ice breaking.

I quickly realized that I wasn't underwater or on the ice, but rather I was in my car at a stoplight with my dog earlier that morning, before I had reached the vet. The honk of a car horn from behind me quickly brought me back to reality. The light was green. I slowly pressed on the gas and went through the intersection.

Once I reached the vet, I decided to carry my dog in regardless of his size. I put his collar on then wrapped it around me, not risking him running off after a squirrel like earlier. As I got out of my car, I realized that I could see the frozen lake with what looked like shoe and dog prints. And a hole in the center.

I tightened my grip on my dog as I slowly walked into the clinic not wanting to risk him getting away from me. I got inside and the secretary working the front desk said, "You ok hun? Looks like you've seen a ghost."

"Just a little cold that's all." I replied unsure of myself. "If you insist. Now what's your friend's name?"

"Miracle," I answered, " and it's a he."

"Well I hope he's lived up to his name then." she joked.

"He might just have," I responded, unsure of myself.

When the check up was over I carried him out in the same fashion to my car. I immediately noticed that the prints and hole were gone. A shiver ran down my spine that was so great I almost dropped my dog. Almost.

After that I went with my gut on almost every decision, but nothing quite like that ever happened again.



FBLA Canned Food Drive

The Sterling FBLA Chapter recently held a school-wide, canned food drive. We made it a competition between classes. The school as a whole collected 832 cans of food. The fifth grade class was the winner, collecting a total of 185 canned food items.

Read Across America Week Dress-Up Days

Monday-Crazy Hat Day

Tuesday-Crazy Hair and Mis-Matched Clothes Day

Wednesday-Twin with a Friend Day

Thursday-Crazy Sock Day

Friday-Pajama Day



MARCH 2022



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 27 | 28 Johnson-Brock JH GBB Tournament - 4PM 1st Day of Spring Practice | March 1 FFA District Career Development Events @ SCC-Beatrice | 2 NO PRESCHOOL 1:37PM EARLY OUT | 3 | 4 District Speech Contest @ FCSH SkillsUSA Middle School Conference @ Grand Island | 5 |
| 6 | 7 BBB DISTRICT FINALS (CI-D2) | 8 | 9 End of 3rd Quarter | 10 NO SCHOOL | 11 NO SCHOOL | 12 Trap Shoot @ Beatrice |
| GIRLS & BOYS STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 FFA Pancake Feed 9AM- 12:30PM Daylight Saving Time Starts | 15 | 16 NO PRESCHOOL or KINDERGARTEN Kindergarten Round-Up - 9AM Pioneer Conference HS Quiz Bowl @ Southern - 12PM | 17 | 18 Peru State Math Contest State Speech Championships (D1-D2) | 19 Trap Shoot @ Nebraska City |
| 20 | 21 Pioneer Conference JH Quiz Bowl @ Friend - 12PM School Board Meeting - 7PM | 22 | 23 Pioneer Conference Indoor HS Track Meet @ Doane (Crete) | 24 MUDECAS Music Contest @ HTRS/Tri County | 25 SCC-Beatrice Discovery Day (Grades 10-11) | 26 Trap Shoot @ Crete |
| 27 | 28 7-12 Yearbook Pictures - 8:10AM | 29 Turkey Creek Relays HS Track @ Friend - 10AM | 30 MUDECAS HS Quiz Bowl @ Freeman - 10AM | 31 | April 1 HS ESU Quiz Bowl @ Tecumseh - 1:30PM | 2 ACT Test Date Trap Shoot @ Beatrice Prom |

Events and times are subject to change. Please check the Weekly Bulletin or Google Calendar for the most up-to-date info.



APRIL 2022



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 27 | 28 7-12 Yearbook Pictures - 8:10AM | 29 Turkey Creek Relays @ Friend - 10AM | 30 MUDECAS HS Quiz Bowl @ Freeman - 10AM | 31 | April 1 HS ESU Quiz Bowl @ Tecumseh - 1:30PM | 2 ACT Test Date Trap Shoot @ Beatrice Prom |
| 3 | 4 ESU4 Leadership Academy Mustang Invite @ Friend - 10AM | 5 ACT Test Date (Juniors) | 6 NO PRESCHOOL 1:37PM EARLY OUT | 7 HTRS JH Track Invite @ Pawnee City - 9:30AM | 8 Connecting the Dots College Fair @ Peru Representative Assembly | 9 MUDECAS JH Track @ Freeman - 9AM Trap Shoot @ NE City |
| SKILLSUSA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE @ GRAND ISLAND | | | | | | |
| STATE FFA CONVENTION @ LINCOLN | | | | | | |
| MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE - RED RIDING HOOD | | | | | | |
| 10 | 11 NO SCHOOL MUDECAS JH Quiz Bowl @ Sterling - 1PM | 12 Lewiston Invite @ TBA - 9:30AM | 13 MUDECAS JH Track Rain Date | 14 Pawnee City JH Track Invite @ Pawnee City - 10AM | 15 NO SCHOOL GOOD FRIDAY | 16 NHS Trash Pick-Up 8-9:30AM Trap Shoot @ Crete |
| STATE FBLA CONVENTION @ KEARNEY | | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 EASTER School Board Meeting - 7PM | 19 Irish Invite @ Syracuse - 9:30AM | 20 NO PRESCHOOL Freeman JH Track Invite @ Freeman - 10AM | 21 District Music Contest @ JCC | 22 ESU JH Quiz Bowl @ Auburn 9AM-2PM 7-12 Career Exploration Day | 23 MUDECAS Track @ Tri-County - 9AM Trap Shoot @ Lincoln |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Pawnee City Invite @ Pawnee City - 9AM | 27 Lewiston JH Track Invite @ Pawnee City - 9AM MUDECAS Track Rain Date | 28 Spanish Fiesta @ Sterling 8AM-12PM Sterling FFA Banquet | 29 | 30 Pioneer Conference Track Meet @ Pawnee City |
| STATE TRAP @ DONIPHAN | | | | | | |

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| MARCH | BREAKFAST | LUNCH |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| March 1-4 | | |
| Tuesday | Pop Tarts | Baked Ziti, Green Beans |
| Wednesday | Egg Patty, Toast | Fish Sticks, Coleslaw |
| Thursday | Breakfast Bars | Shredded Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Corn |
| Friday | Yogurt | Macaroni & Cheese, Sweet Peas |
| March 7-11 | | |
| Monday | Cereal | Chicken Patty Sandwich, Macaroni Salad |
| Tuesday | Bagels w/ Cream Cheese | Soft Tacos, Salad Bar |
| Wednesday | Donuts | Chili Fries, Cornbread |
| Thursday | NO SCHOOL | |
| Friday | NO SCHOOL | |
| March 14-18 | | |
| Monday | Cereal | Fajita Chicken, Spanish Rice |
| Tuesday | Tornados | Tamale Pie, Salad Bar |
| Wednesday | Cheese Omelet, Potato Cake | Hamburgers, Salad Bar |
| Thursday | Frudels | Corn Beef & Cabbage, Garlic Sticks |
| Friday | English Muffins | Fish Sandwich, Macaroni Salad |
| March 21-25 | | |
| Monday | Pancakes | Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy |
| Tuesday | Breakfast Burritos | Pizza, Salad Bar |
| Wednesday | Sausage Patty on Biscuit | Sausage Gravy over Biscuits |
| Thursday | Donut Holes | Hot Dogs, Potato Cakes |
| Friday | Cereal | Tuna Noodle Casserole, Bread |
| March 28-31 | | |
| Monday | French Toast Sticks | Pulled Pork Chili, Cinnamon Roll |
| Tuesday | Pop Tarts | Chicken Fried Rice, Egg Roll |
| Wednesday | Yogurt | Sub Sandwich, Chips |
| Thursday | Pancake on a Stick | Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Salad Bar |

2021-22 ACT TEST DATES

| Test Date | Registration Deadline | Late Fee Required |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| April 2, 2022 | February 25, 2022 | March 11, 2022 |
| June 11, 2022 | May 6, 2022 | May 20, 2022 |
| July 16, 2022* | June 17, 2022 | June 24, 2022 |

Fun Facts

- 1.) Blobfish were voted the worlds ugliest animal in 2013.
- 2.) They only get "ugly" when out of water, when in water look completely normal.
- 3.) Blobfish have no teeth.
- 4.) Photos of living blobfish are very rare due to their extreme environment.
- 5.) They're history is not very known because it is nearly impossible for people to study them alive.

By: Katie Sunderman

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SUPERINTENDENT

Adrian Allen

PREK - 12 PRINCIPAL

Jacob Davenport

A flyer for a pancake feed event. The background is white with a blue border. On the left, there are blue diagonal stripes and a stack of three pancakes with a pat of butter melting on top. On the right, there is a yellow area with blue polka dots. The text is centered in a white box with a grey border.

Sterling FFA Pancake Feed

- where: STERLING COMMUNITY BUILDING
- when: SUNDAY, MARCH 13
- time: 9:00AM-12:30PM
- free WILL DONATION

DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE STERLING FFA CHAPTER & SCHOLARSHIP FUND