



# Southwest 'Rider News



## From The Office Of The Superintendent - Dave Hendricks

### Board of Education Approves Early School Dismissal Friday, May 15th

At their April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Southwest Board of Education approved a calendar change dismissing all students early for the school year, with students last day now scheduled for Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will continue to be on duty through the following week. Elementary staff will be trained using the new reading series "Reading Mastery", published by SRA/McGraw-Hill. This has been an identified area needing improvement over the past few years and the staff and administration is excited to begin. The secondary staff will be using their time to help move their teaching supplies from the current high school site to the Bartley site for next school year. A second move into the new Jr/Sr high school is anticipated in September upon its completion and will be a much easier task than trying to move from the old high school.

### Student Handbooks

The principals and superintendent will be working on new Student Handbooks over the summer. Our principals and athletic director have attended workshops this spring to review current handbook rules and regulations, and been given information concerning the latest state regulations and NSAA rules that all districts will have to adopt. Our goal is to put into place a student handbook that clearly identifies the rules which all students must follow to make our school a safe and orderly environment for everyone. The Board of Education will review and approve the Student Handbook at their July meeting. Comments concerning the current Student Handbook should be addressed to the building principals.

### Board of Education Approves Guidelines for Future Planning

At their April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Education prioritized short and long range plans to be used as a

guideline during the next few years when considering various district objectives. Board members, staff, and administration submitted ideas/suggestions for discussion at the board's March 3rd special meeting held in Bartley. The Board of Education will continue to refine these priorities over the next few months and add/delete as needed. A copy of the April 13th guidelines is enclosed in this newsletter.

#### Guideline Scale:

1's are considered of the highest priority.

2's are considered needing to be addressed in the near future.

3's are considered important and will move up as higher priority items are addressed.

If patrons of the district would like to discuss the guidelines or have additional suggestions for the board to consider, please contact Dave Hendricks, Superintendent of Schools, at 692-3223.

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### Special points of interest:

- May 7 - Middle School Music Program at 7:00 PM
- May 9 - High School Graduation at 10:30 AM
- May 11 - School Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
- May 15 - Last Day Of School
- May 25 - Memorial Day

## Summer Reading Tips for Families - Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Overton

1. Combine activities with books. If you're going to a baseball game, suggest that your child read a book about his or her favorite player.

Find books about swimming, going to the park, or visiting relatives. You will have lots of time to talk about the book and the activity in the car.

2. Visit the library. If your child doesn't have a card, summer is a great time to get one. A simple rule of thumb for helping your child select books at his or her reading level is to have him or her choose a page in the book (not the

first one) and read it. If he doesn't know five or more words, then the book is too hard for pleasure reading.

3. Read by example. Read the newspaper at breakfast, take a book to the pool, and pick up a magazine at the dentist's office. It's important for your children see the adults around them read. They will understand that literature can be fun and a part of their summer days.

4. Read it, then do it. Does your child want to learn magic tricks? Juggling? Computer games?

There's sure to be a book that can help him or her. Have your child read the instructions and then give it a try.

5. Read a book and then watch the movie together. Discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer.

Many books, including *Stone Fox*, *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Princess Bride*, *The Borrowers*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* are all available in movie versions

## Elementary High Ability Learners - Mrs. Kelley

The students in the High Ability Learner (HAL) program meet with Mrs. Kelley once a week. Some of the skills and subjects they have worked with include analogies, similes, poetry, descriptive writing, and math problem solving skills.

The fourth and fifth grade HAL students wrote poems for the Poetry of Place Celebration sponsored by the Nebraska Humani-

ties Council. The three poems chosen by the elementary staff to send to the contest were:

"Where I Stood" by Natalie Longnecker, "Spring" by Claire Rasmussen, and "My Pasture" by Katlynn Stone. Katlynn's poem was chosen as one of the winners at the state level, and she has been invited to read her poem at a poetry reading at the State Capitol on May 1.

Fourth and fifth grade HAL students have also been involved in Math Olympiads, which is a program where the students take a challenging test each month from November through March. Ashlee Morosic and Lance Kelley tied for first place in our school's competition. Congratulations to all these students for their accomplishments, and keep learning over the summer!



The elementary would like to thank  
**Myrna Harper**  
For all the time she has spent processing  
Campbell's soup labels and Box Tops for  
Education.  
Your help is greatly appreciated .



## Get Up and Get Moving - Mrs. Barnett

May is National Physical Fitness & Sports Month. Two thirds of us are obese or overweight, and our children are three times more likely to be overweight now than in 1980. We can turn that around and have fun doing it! The Na-

tional President's Challenge is an opportunity to get America up and moving. Everyone aged 6 and older is encouraged to rise to the challenge. All you have to do is be active five days a week for six out of eight weeks, and log your activ-

ity at [ww.presidentschallenge.org](http://ww.presidentschallenge.org). It's good for you, it's fun, and it's free! Whether you're a teacher, a community leader, or a kid, a healthier you is a healthier nation. Do it for yourself and be a role model for others.

## Music Contest Results - Mrs. Fisher & Ms Gosnell

Both high school and elementary/junior high school district music contests went well for the music department, so we would like to share our students' accomplishments. A **Superior** rating is an outstanding performance; an **Excellent** rating is an excellent performance that is outstanding in some respects, and a **Good** rating shall represent a good average performance but not outstanding in any respects. There is also a below average performance and a poor performance rating. High School District Music Contest Results:

**Instrumental Superior Ratings:** Danielle Blume, piano solo; Kaleb Nielsen-Sheffield, piano solo; Julie Gates, flute solo; Erin Kelley, flute solo; Brittany Tollman, clarinet solo; Julie Gates and Erin Kelley, flute duet; Autumn Rae, trumpet solo; and Kourtney McConville, percussion solo.

**Instrumental Excellent Ratings:** Southwest Concert Band; Cascade Tollman, flute solo; Katie Messersmith, violin solo; Cassidy McConville, clarinet solo; Jennifer Foster, clarinet solo; Danielle Blume, alto sax solo; Danielle Blume and Amber Daffer, alto sax duet; Brittany and Cascade Toll-

man, flute/clarinet duet; **Good Ratings** - Mattie Uerling, French horn solo; Kendra Cuellar, trumpet solo.

**Choral Superior Ratings:** Girls Octet, Megan Conway, vocal solo; Kendra Cuellar, vocal solo; Erin Kelley and Kaleb Nielsen-Sheffield, mixed duet.

**Choral Excellent Ratings:** Southwest Mixed Chorus; Mixed Ensemble; Senior Mixed Ensemble; Katelyn Sughroue, vocal solo; Skylar Murray, vocal solo; **Good Ratings** - Junior/Senior Girls Ensemble, Freshmen/Sophomore Ensemble, Freshmen Ensemble Junior High (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Cambridge Music Festival Results:

**Instrumental Superior Ratings:** Erin Greenlee, clarinet solo; Jane Reiners, alto sax solo (2<sup>nd</sup> Place Medal Elementary Woodwind Solo Division); Daniel Sughroue, baritone solo; Megan Kelley, trumpet solo; Miranda Wordekemper, trombone solo; Miranda Wordekemper, violin solo (1<sup>st</sup> Place Medal Junior High String Solo Division); Emily Fitzsimmons, flute solo; Cassa McConville, alto sax solo (4<sup>th</sup> Place Medal Junior High Woodwind Solo Division); James Rae, snare solo; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Saxophone Quartet (Jane Reiners, Ashlea

Fitzsimmons, Asic Helberg and Austin Minard), and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Flute Duet (MaKayla Brooks and Brooke Ruggles).

**Instrumental Excellent Ratings:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Clarinet Duet (Erin Greenlee and Noelle Hinz), 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Clarinet/Alto Sax Duet (Erin Greenlee and Jane Reiners), 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Alto Sax Duet (Ashlea Fitzsimmons and Jane Reiners), Tenor/Bari Sax Duet (Asic Helberg and Austin Minard), Junior High Flute/Clarinet Duet (Haley Teter and Micah Hinz), and Junior High Snare Duet (Abby Daffer and Blake Storrs).

**Choral Superior Ratings:** Roger McGraw, vocal solo; Morgan Hubbert, vocal solo; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Ensemble #1;

**Choral Excellent Ratings:** 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixed Chorus; Girls Glee, Boys Glee; Megan Kelley, vocal solo; Brooke Ruggles, vocal solo; Chloe Hauxwell, vocal solo, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Ensemble, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Ensemble # 2; **Good Ratings** - Mary Munoz, vocal solo; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Quartet

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of those who supported our students at these contests. Your support means a lot to all of us! Have a great summer!

## Summer Fun - Ms Keenportz

School is over and now how do we spend our summer? **Use the summer to explore and expand your child's knowledge.**

\*Look at different colors, shapes and patterns

\*Taste a variety of summer time foods

\*Listen to sounds and make a guessing game

\*Use your sense of smell to experience the smell of rain, flowers, new foods

\*Ask lots of questions and have your child ask you questions about the world around them

**Take the summer and use your imagination**

\*Do different art projects with a collection from your vacation

\*Ask your child to tell you a story, vice versa

\*Illustrate a story your child has made up

\*Put on a puppet show for friends and family

**Take time to talk and read**

\*Make a book together

\*Play vocabulary games like I spy, or Guess my animal

\*Play with words and their sounds

\*What rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_

\*Match pictures to their sound

**CAN OF FUN!** Take a plastic or cardboard can from icing, potato chips, or drink mix. (Avoid tin cans because the edge can be sharp.)

Write summer activities so they can be cut in strips and placed in the can. Let children cover their cans with paper and decorate with drawings, stickers, or collage ma-

terials. Put the strips of summer fun in the can. Choose a strip from the can each day and do the activity. Hint! You can also use a plastic sand bucket or seasonal cup for this project.

**Let's Get Messy!** - Summer's the perfect time for getting messy and being creative!

**Mud Pies** (Not edible, but definitely great fun!)

4 cups dirt

1 cup flour

Mix the dirt and flour with water until it molds and sticks together. Shape into cookies, pies, birds' nests, and other shapes. Dry in the sun.

**Squirt! Squirt!** Save spray bottles from cleaning products. (Make sure you rinse them out well first!). Fill them with water and let the children squirt each other, water plants, clean lawn furniture, etc. **Adaptations:** A sponge, a paintbrush, and a bucket of water will also entertain children for hours. They can sponge off a tree, their riding toys, or themselves. They can paint the house or playground equipment.

**Bubble Cups**

Cups

Straws

Liquid dish detergent

Fill the cup half way with water.

Squirt in some dish detergent.

Give children a straw and tell them to BLOW! (If you'll put a pin

prick at the top of the straw, it's less likely that they'll suck up soapy water. I'd also have children practice blowing on their hand

with the straw before putting it in the cup so they could get the idea.) The bubbles will spill over the cup and are fun to pat on arms, legs, etc. It's great to run through the sprin-

kler after you "paint" your body with bubbles. **Adaptations:** Add a drop of food coloring to the solution to make colored bubbles.

Give children a pan of water and an egg beater. (Most children have never seen one of these before except in books!) Add a squirt of detergent to the water and let them "beat" up some bubbles.

**Sidewalk Chalk**

Plaster of Paris

Dry tempera

Small paper cups

Fill small cups half full with Plaster of Paris. Add a heaping spoonful of dry tempera and stir to distribute the color. Pour in a small amount of water and stir quickly. (Add enough water so it looks like thick gravy.) Set until dry. Peel away the cup and you'll have great sidewalk chalk. **Adaptations:** Children can write, draw pictures, or make hopscotch with the chalk. They can also design roads on which to ride bikes and tricycles. Challenge them to use their imaginations and create stores, traffic signs, and other symbols on the cement.



## Elementary News - Mrs. Rasmussen

To celebrate the closing of another successful school year, the following activities have been planned: Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who have earned 30 Accelerated Reader points, but less than 100 will enjoy pizza with the principal. Students will be taken by bus to Pizza Hut on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The following Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> students in grades 2-5 who earned 100 AR points will get an all day trip to Dancing Leaf Earth Lodge outside of Wellfleet. On this trip students will explore the Earth Lodge, hike, roast hotdogs and marshmallows, and canoe. It is a super way to celebrate all the reading they did to earn those points.

May 13<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Elementary Quiz Bowl. Third through fifth grade students will be mixed into teams and then compete against each other, in a round robin format. Students in the lower grades will be divided into grade level teams and compete only against classmates. Look for more information to

come on exact times.

Students in all grades are eligible to perform in our school Talent Show. The Talent Show will be held on the last day of school, May 15<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Mrs. Roggenkamp will send home more information as that day approaches.

No school year is complete without looking forward and making plans for the next year. Some of those plans include some movement of teachers and a remodeling project.

The staff at the elementary will be a little different next year due to retirements and some movement of teachers. Mrs. Hanson was one of the retirements accepted at the March board meeting. I would personally like to thank Mrs. Hanson for her many years of service to the students of our district. Students in her classes have been afforded a top notch education, in all areas, but especially in science. Mrs. Hanson will be greatly missed at the elementary next year.

With the sixth grade returning the elementary, Ms. Stacy Snyder will be joining our staff. Mrs. Ramsay will be moving from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Overton will be the two fourth grade teachers. Mrs. Frecks and Ms. Holmes will continue to teach third grade. Ms. Ruggles will remain at second, Mrs. Brown at first, Ms. Keenportz at Kindergarten and Mrs. May at Pre-school. Mrs. Young from the middle school will also join the elementary ranks full time next year. She will serve as the Reading Coach in the morning and as a Title One teacher in the afternoon.

Other plans in the works are a construction project. This summer there will be remodeling in the elementary so that every classroom has four walls and door. Due to the remodel and the summer cleaning there will not be summer school for Title One students. Mrs. Brashears will however, have summer school for the students who qualify for extended year services.

**Graduation will be  
Saturday May 9th at 10:30 a.m.  
at the High School Gym.  
Congratulations Graduates!**



## SOUTHWEST FBLA

Twelve members of Southwest FBLA attended the State Leadership Conference in Omaha from Thursday, April 2 to Saturday, April 4. The chapter received the Sweepstakes Award, Abby Houghtelling received the Southwest Chapter's Whose Who Cer-

tificate, and April Guthrie received an honorable mention in Business Communications (which means she was in the top five percent of the 649 students who took the test).

On Monday, April 13, members met at TJ's Fun Center in McCook

for their annual bowling party. They then had pizza at Pizza Hut and held election of officers. The Installation of Officers was held in the gym commons area on Thursday, April 23. Officers for the 2009-2010 school year are: President, Jordan Brooks; Vice President, Ashlee Minard; Secretary-Treasurer, Erin Kelley; Reporter, April Guthrie; Parliamentarian, J. P. Banzhaf; and Historian, Katie Messersmith.

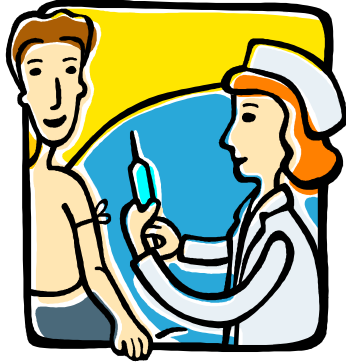
Southwest FBLA would like to thank everyone for their support this past year.



## News For Seventh Grade Parents - Mrs. Eisenmenger

Before entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade there are some Nebraska state requirements that must be completed.

Your child will need a doctor's physical. The sports physical given at McCook High School does NOT meet this requirement. This is state mandated.



Also your child must be current on all required immunizations including the Hepatitis B series, 2<sup>nd</sup> MMR and Chickenpox (unless you have given us that date of the disease). your child will need a doctor's physical and the sports

At this time it is recommended but not required that your child receive another Tetanus booster. It would be good to ask for a Tdap at this time as it would further protect your child from pertussis (whooping cough).

As always, please call Mrs. Eisenmenger if you have any questions. The Red Willow County Health Department's phone number to call for an immunization appointment is 345-1790.

Have a  
Great  
Summer  
vacation!



## Middle School-High School News - Mr. Springer

The 2008-09 year has been a great educational success at the Junior/Senior high school. The staff and the students have spent a lot of time working toward reaching the goals they set back in August.

The month of May is a short month in terms of school. These are a few dates that you may want to keep open on your calendar.

\*\*\*\* May 9<sup>th</sup> Graduation.

\*\*\*\* May 15<sup>th</sup> is also the last day of school for 2008-09 school year. Teachers will be in the following week to finalize grades and begin the process of packing up to

move to the Bartley sight next year.

The new building is getting closer all the time and we are hoping to be moving in the first part of October if not before. Next year however, the high school will start in Bartley. It is going to be interesting to start the year but the staff and students seem to be up to the challenge. Due to getting a schedule set up with all staff it is important that we



are all in the same sight and on the same class periods. This will make the move to the new building easier and with little disruption of classes hopefully. Over the summer we will be moving the high school office to Bartley and getting ready for school. This could happen as early as June 1<sup>st</sup> so please call Bartley (692-3223) if you need to visit with me or have a question concerning the JH/Senior High School.

**Southwest Schools**

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## **Sports Physicals**

**Grades 8-12**

**May 20th 2009 at 2:15 PM**

**Be at the McCook High School Gym**

**All students must bring a signed parent permission form**

**The fee is \$15.00**

**The McCook Clinic will donate all fees back to the school  
athletic fund**