

PRINCIPAL NEWS BY BOB BRAITHWAIT

April is here and spring has sprung. It's great to hear the birds chirping, see people walking, and the smell in the air of freshly mowed lawns. April can be a tough month for students and teachers, it always seems to be the longest month of the school year. The nice weather makes it pretty tempting to skip school work and to stay just a few more minutes hanging out with friends. This is where we need your help as parents. Consistency is huge in the develop of children. Studies show that children don't always like the rules made by parents and teachers, but the child will adjust as long as the rules are enforced consistently and fairly. So please stay consistent in your expectations for your children so we can all finish the year strong.

Speaking of finishing the year strong, the school has been honored with another academic award. Our students are one of 3 schools in Nebraska to close the gap in reading scores 4 straight years based on our state test scores. This is a testament to our students and the staff. Our kids excel in so many different areas which is so fun to watch take place. Hard work and dedication by the staff and the kids make these things possible. This is also a reflection of the parenting our students are getting. Being supportive of your child being active in sports and activities is not always easy for parents. You spend many days sitting on hard bleachers and chairs, watching things go great and then in the next instant things go bad, lending a shoulder for your child to cry on, and most of all, listening and be there. Remember good parents + good kids + good educational staff = Success!!!! Thank you for your continued support of our school, staff, and students.

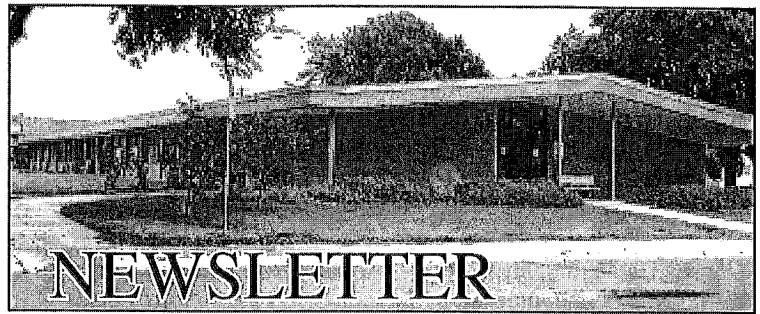
All students in grades 3-8 and 11 will be taking the state test (NeSA) on certain days until April 29th. It is so important that we get students here because there is NO exemptions to that closing date. I would really love to see kids come in rested and focused and ready to go. NeSA is what NDE uses to determine many things. Our students have done pretty well the last few years. I really love to see them get really focused and knock the test scores out of the ballpark.

Have a wonderful April!

COUNSELOR'S COMMENTS BY PAM BREINIG

FAFSA forms have most likely been completed and seniors should be receiving their financial aid packages for review. Pay attention to the time frame that is indicated regarding acceptance of the package. Generally, if a student is seriously considering two (or more) colleges, he/she can request extra decision-making time if necessary.

Once our personnel is finalized, I will begin work on the schedule for the 2016-17 school year. Registering for it will be held before the end of this school year. I will be visiting with students who are currently in grades 6-11 about their options regarding the schedule. Junior high students do not have as many choices to make as do high school students, but all students should take the most challenging courses to get the most from their educational experience at AHS and prepare themselves for life after high school. Parent/guardian signatures will



be required on all student registrations.

Students who are interested in taking the June ACT must be registered by May 6, 2016.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Working with money is not easy but we sure are working hard at it! We can count pennies, nickels, and dimes, and will soon add quarters. Learning to count by 1's, 5's and 10's is challenging but fun! We pretend to buy toys in our classroom to practice these skills. Using real money and objects makes it easier to learn.)

NEWS FROM THE FIRST GRADE BY ELIZABETH KLEIN

We have enjoyed learning about different types of jobs in social studies! From police officers to bakers and teachers to farmers, there are a lot of jobs! First graders have jobs, too. We help wash dishes, sweep the floors, take out the trash and feed our pets. We have also learned the difference between needs and wants and that we make choices on how to spend our money. Making choices can be tough!

SECOND GRADE NEWS BY SHARI MUES

The students enjoyed reading Green Eggs and Ham on March 4 to the kindergarten and first grade classes. The students also presented the reader's theater to the residents at the care home. What a way to celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday!

We welcome Carlos Mar to the second grade class. He comes to us from McCook, Nebraska. We now have sixteen boys and eleven girls in second grade

THIRD GRADE NEWS WITH MRS. SCHUTZ

What's around 2,000 miles long and over 100 years old? The Oregon Trail! The third graders are learning about how over 50,000 pioneers traveled this route from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon in the 1840's and 1850's. Wagons traveled in wagon trains, which sometimes included as many as 1,000 travelers. Wagon trains could stretch for five miles, with over 100 wagons. Students are learning about the reasons for traveling this five-month journey, hardships the pioneers encountered along the way, and landmarks they passed through. In May, we will visit one of the landmarks pioneers passed through on the Oregon Trail. We will travel to Fort Kearney and learn more about the trials and triumphs of the people that traveled west to settle. We will also visit the Great Platte River Road Archway. There we will hear stories of trappers, pioneers, the 49ers and the Pony Express. It will be a great way to end our year!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS BY JULIE STAGEMEYER

The residents and staff of the Good Samaritan Rest Home as well as fourth grade students and teachers enjoyed a day in history. On Monday, March 21, the Rest Home sponsored Pioneer Day. In the morning, fourth grade students thoroughly enjoyed presentations

on pioneer life from local community members. The fourth graders were invited to a pioneer lunch of ham & beans and cornbread with the residents. In the afternoon, the fourth grade joined the residents for entertaining speakers that were made possible by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Rest Home. It was a great day and we wish to thank everyone who made the day possible!

5TH AND 6TH GRADE SCIENCE BY MRS. WILLIAMSON

In 5th grade, we are studying rocks, minerals and landforms. We have explored weathering, erosion, and deposition using stream tables. Now we are learning about minerals and finding their hardness, streak, luster and other properties for identification purposes.

We will also test at the end of April for the NeSA science test. This test is very important and is taken in grades 5, 8, and 11. There are many activities coming up as we near the end of school but it is vital that students miss as little school as possible because although they "make up" the work they missed, it is not the same as being active in the class discussions and explorations to fully understand science concepts.

The 6th grade class is reaching the end of their unit on mixtures and solutions. They have created several solutions and realize that a solution is made of a solute and a solvent. They have discovered how to determine the amount of solute dissolved in a solution, to compare concentration levels, and create saturated solutions. They are great scientists doing the real work of scientists.

8TH GRADE ENGLISH BY CHRIS SNYDER

It is testing time again, and the pressure is on. The 8th graders have been busy getting ready for their NeSA-Reading test. This two-day test is extremely important. The students have been learning, discussing, reviewing, and taking practice tests on computers thanks to the DRC Check for Learning technology. This NeSA-Reading test deals with the two basic areas of vocabulary and comprehension. The students have to analyze, identify, summarize, synthesize, select, determine, evaluate, infer, generate, build, use, develop, and apply. This is a stressful time and a stressful test. The 8th grade students have certainly been diligent and have the desire to master this test. I have confidence in their skills.

GIFTED NEWS BY SUE HELMS

It has been a full year for the elementary gifted students. We started out the year with GeoCaching, which is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) mobile device to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook. The GeoCacher enters the date they found it and signs it with their established code name. After signing the log, the cache must be placed back exactly where the person found it. GeoCaching is an activity any family with a smart phone can enjoy right here in Arapahoe or while on vacation literally anywhere in the world. Check it out at geocaching.com.

Another activity the students took part in was 'Hour of Code.' Code.org, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting computer science education. The organization promotes the "Hour of Code" targeting 10 million students in the United States. For a week in December, Code.org asks schools, teachers, and parents for their help in motivating students of all ages to try computer programming. It challenges educators to teach their students one-hour lessons designed to "demystify 'code'" and show that anyone can do it. The students try challenges to program the characters on the screen to move in certain directions and perform certain tasks. The tasks become increasingly challenging, but these students are always up for a challenge.

These are just a few of the activities the elementary gifted students have done this year. They never cease to amaze me. Why not try your hand at these activities.

TITLE 1 NEWS BY SUE HELMS

Ten Things Parents Can Do To Help Their Child Read Better:

1. Read to your child- every day, from ages 1 to 12. Choose a wide variety of materials: books-both fact and fiction, magazines, how to guides, etc.
2. Encourage writing- begin with scribbling and pretend writing. Write letters and stories. Help them write a simple book about family outings and vacations.
3. Have reading material at home- books, children's magazines, pamphlets or brochures about vacation destinations, etc.
4. Take your child to the library- mainly check out books. If you must check out movies, choose classics and check out the matching books to read before or after viewing the movie. Discuss which they enjoyed better.
5. Encourage conversation- talk about animals, family problems, world events. Discuss the books they are reading.
6. Control TV usage- It must not be on all the time. Have silent times for reading. If they do watch TV, set a certain time and choose good shows about science, history, animals and major events.
7. Model reading- let your child see you reading. Read books, magazines, and newspapers regularly.
8. Have your child read aloud- to you. They need you sitting and following along, not just listening. Young children get in the habit of guessing at words they don't know. Help with mistakes. If many mistakes are made, select an easier book.
9. Do many educational activities- visit zoos, museums, and different places. Help your child cook, construct things, clean, play games and exercise.
10. Value school and learning- visit with your child's teacher regularly. Talk to the teacher about reading progress. Praise academic achievement. If your child is behind the class, ask for suggestions to help him/her to catch up.

NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE ROOM BY GLENNA HOEFS

The physical science classrooms have been extra busy this last month and are excited for what spring will bring! Chemistry students are taking a look at biochemistry before we jump in to some fun forensics labs, physical science and general science have both been studying waves and will be transitioning in to sound in the next week, and physics students will be constructing thermal energy projects. All classes have been taking a look each week at current events in science and working to apply what we learn inside of the classroom to what we experience outside of the classroom.

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. PRUITT

I can't believe that the third quarter is now over and that we are getting closer to crossing the finish line of this school year. Currently, in English 7, we are working hard to prepare for the state reading test and are enjoying the novel "The Outsiders" by S. E. Hinton. Students really seem to connect with the teenagers in this book. In English I, "Romeo and Juliet" is the next thing on our "to do list" to study. People often wonder why Shakespeare is still taught in classrooms today. Students will learn why "Romeo and Juliet" is still relevant today and why it has remained an important piece of literature. Sophomore English is completing their poetry unit with a poetry slam on the 22nd. We will then move on to the novel "Night" by Elie Wiesel. Like Anne Frank, Wiesel is a famous teenager who experienced life in a concentration camp. Unlike Anne, however, he survived and is currently a well-known author, speaker, and activist. We will conclude this unit, eventually, with

what is called the "Butterfly Project." This is a project based on a book, written by many children while they were in Holocaust camps, called "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." Senior English is finishing up research papers that are preparing them for the rigors of a college classroom. We are also working on "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen. Surprise, surprise, even the boys have really become interested and involved with this story. Here is hoping for a smooth ending of our year and the success of our children and students.

LIFE AND EARTH SCIENCE: JOHN PAULSEN

7th Grade Earth Science: The 7th graders have just completed 4 units where they studied the formation, changes and classification of minerals, igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks and metamorphic rocks. This portion of Geology led to the current unit where the students will be examining a fictional problem with groundwater contamination. They will study ground water, ground water movement and contamination. The unit will then have student groups testing the groundwater in this fictional area and presenting the results to the city council. The unit will conclude with a controversial city meeting with student's role playing presenters for various cleanup proposals and voting.

8th Grade Live Science: These students have moved from the invertebrate nomenclature into the vertebrates. The vertebrates start with examination of general skeletal structure. This was introduced with owl pellet dissection and critter re-articulation and identification. The unit concludes with the increased complexity of vertebrates looking at their systems and behaviors.

10th Grade Biology: These students are in the middle of a 3-unit stretch in Genetics. The concept started with Mendelian genetics, which included probability, face genetics, biotechnology of generation of ideal wheat hybrids and the like. The unit they are currently working on looks at mutation, variations of normal genetics and population genetics with survey activities. The unit will conclude with a bioethics section that takes a controversial look at genetics and our current technology.

12th Grade Anatomy: These students just completed a unit on the digestive system. That unit highlighted cat dissection of mouth and abdomen, disease comparison and laparoscopic cholecystectomy surgery. The current unit is the circulatory system that will look at general circulation, blood quality and properties, immunity, blood typing, heart anatomy, blood clotting, blood pressure and pulses, EKG interpretation, CPR and disease comparison.

NEWS FROM THE GOLF COURSE BY KIP STEPHENS

This year at the start of golf season the weather has been amazing on the golf course. Although, because this is Nebraska, we know we better enjoy it, as it could change at any moment. We have 11 golfers on the team, with a very strong senior class. There are six seniors and they have shown great leadership. So, with the first meet at Cambridge on March 30th, we are very excited to see the ball flying!

JH QUIZ BOWL BY HEIDI THOMAS

Another season of junior high quiz bowl has come to an end, with 10 students from both 7th and 8th grades. Three students were first-time competitors, learning how academics are linked to the success of competition. The high-answer and team captain this year was Maggie Weatherwax, who answered 28 questions at one meet. The previous record was 17 questions.

JH SPEECH BY HEIDI THOMAS

Another season of junior high speech has come to an end, with six students competing in two separate meets. Arapahoe hosted a JH meet on February 27th, competing with North Platte and Cambridge. Eight teams have committed to next year's meet. Our six students competed in Grand Island on March 4th in 4 of 7 categories. All six students received superior recognition or placement awards.

AHS WARRIOR SPEECH BY HEIDI THOMAS

We are winding down the competitive season in Speech for the '15-16 year. 30 students competed throughout the season in 9 different event categories. Our AHS students earned a 2nd place RPAC team award, a 2nd place District C2-4 award, competing in all 9 categories of competition at both events. Eight students will have continued to state competition at the publication of this newsletter, all who will be recognized at the AHS Academic Honors night on May 10th. Thank you Arapahoe for your continued support of the art of public speaking.

AHS HISTORY DAY COMPETITION BY HEIDI THOMAS

As April begins, 18 AHS students are preparing to compete at the state History Day competition at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln on Saturday, April 16. 35 students competed in 4 of 5 categories in March at UNK (exhibit boards, performances, documentaries, and websites). History Day competition criteria leads classroom teachers to promote rigorous academic research, putting students in a position to defend a thesis with thorough examination. The benefits of this activity are apparent in College English, where students begin writing rigorous research papers, and are expected to come equipped with appropriate skills. State competitors will be recognized at the AHS Academic Honors night on May 10th. Thank you Arapahoe for your continued support of academic quality.

HIGH SCHOOL QUIZ BOWL TEAM BY MARCIA FOLEY

This year the Arapahoe Quiz Bowl team has 19 participating members and they have already competed in five meets. In November they place 3rd at both the Medicine Valley and Arapahoe meets. At the Cambridge meet a largely freshman team had fun and gained valuable experience in a round-robin competition. On January 13th, the team place 2nd at the RPAC meet hosted at Southwest and on February 29th, the team earned first place at the Southwest meet. The team will complete their season with a double-elimination meet at Southern Valley and the ESU 11 district meet in April. Excellent work team!

FROM THE ARAPAHOE SCHOOL SAFETY COMMITTEE

What a successful Safety Week 2016! The students were very respectful during the speaker visits and we hope a lot of helpful information and useful safety tips were absorbed by the kids.

Some of the links used during the week can be found below:

Good Manners Video: <https://youtu.be/o1WJnbJDTs0>

Parent/Teenager Driving Contract: <http://www.cdc.gov/ParentsAreTheKey/agreement/index.html>

McCook DASAS: <http://www.dasas.net/>

Karen Haase, Internet/Social Media Safety Speaker: <https://twitter.com/KarenHaase>

Nebraska State Patrol: <https://betweenthelinesblog.wordpress.com/tag/nebraska-state-patrol/>

Valley Hope: <https://valleyhope.org/locations/kansas/norton/>
<https://valleyhope.org/locations/kansas/horton/>

2015-2016 YEARBOOK ORDERS

Now is the time to place your order for a 2015-2016 Arapahoe Yearbook. The cost is \$25 for a book and insert or \$20 for the insert only. Orders will be accepted through May 1. Contact Mrs. Connie Hoefs or Mrs. Joanna Pruitt if you have questions, or to place an order with payment.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK OUTLOOK BY COACH SCHABEN

After a strong finish last year where seven athletes qualified in 10 events and finished 3rd in both boys and girls at Districts, this year we have 27 track athletes, 15 boys and 12 girls.

For the girls, returning state meet medal winner in the high jump Olivia Tenbenschel is looking forward to increasing her jump of 5'1". Mirandah Schaben would like to add to her school Record performance of 7'6" and Shelby Kapperman will continue to be a strong middle distance runner. Our only junior, Brielle Weverka, is looking to bring her times down in the long and middle distance races. Sophomore Adrienne Einspahr will also be a huge contributor in the middle and long distance races. Her state performance in cross-country should help her tremendously in the 3200. Alayna Whipple will be burning up the track again this year in the 100 and 200 meter dashes and Madison Hanke will also be making big contributions in the middle distance races. We have five freshman girls, Mariah Watson, Hannah Jenkins, Bar-Lee Klein, Joslyn North, and Yelithza Olivas, who will be contributing everywhere during the day, from hurdles and field events to middle and long distance races. This is a big group of freshmen and I am looking forward to what they can do on the track.

On the boys side of things Cooper Breinig will again be adding to his 5'10" high jump and helping in the middle distance races, while Pedro Gutierrez will be dominating the 400m and 800m races. I look to see Austin Koller returning as a dominant force in the hurdles and Devin Sonksen helping in the throws. Junior Noah Wadleigh will be throwing for the first time this year and Abe Whitson will be our running specialist helping out in everything from sprints to long distance. Sophomore Noah Koller will help out that strong middle distance core we seem to be developing at Arapahoe, while Anthony Meyers will help in discus and middle distance. This year there are seven freshman boys. Gentry Anderson, Dalton Franssen, Yordi Gutierrez, Colton Hearn, Jackson Koller, Branigan Schaben, and Carson Schroeder will also be all over the track from Pole Vault and weights to middle distance. This group will contribute in some big ways starting early in their career.

Arapahoe Public Schools
School District No. 18



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