



NEWS FROM DR. GRIFFITH, SUPERINTENDENT

The year is off to a great start I am really enjoying my time interacting with the students and staff. These young people are the future of our country and we are working hard to prepare them for the challenges they will face. This year and every year as the leader of an educational team, the focus has been on staying positive. This goal is promoted through FISH philosophy and is based on the Seattle, Washington fish market. The main concepts of this program include "Be There", "Make Their Day", "Choose Your Attitude", and "Play" or have Fun.

To "Be There" addresses the need for all members of the educational team to focus on the moment. The world of electronic devices and fast paced lives can make it easy to miss the world around us. If we are thinking about what we need to do when we get home, catching up on the latest viral video, or are just not focused on what is going on around us; we may miss an important moment in a student's day or our own life. I admit that this is the toughest concept for me but I make a conscious effort to improve in this area every day.

"Make Their Day" is another important part of the FISH Philosophy and is why most of us became part of the educational system in the first place. Basically we want to help others have a positive day and is as simple as greeting someone with a smile, telling them well done when they do a good job, or some other form of positive interaction can be very important especially to those who may be having a bad day. Every member of the staff, no matter their job title, are equally important in doing their best to make our children's learning a positive experience. Just saying hi and smiling as a student walks by has resulted in some of the best reactions from students.

"Choose Your Attitude" is simple but can be the hardest concept of FISH Philosophy for some of us to accomplish. Each member of the educational team or anyone in or outside of education can decide that they are going to have a good day or a bad day, it's a simple choice. Yes, unpleasant things can occur in life and some days it may be really hard to see the positive through the dark clouds but how we let these things impact us is truly dependent on our thinking. For educators it is important not to let these difficult times in our lives have a negative impact on our interaction with students. It is also important for students to have a good attitude especially in classes they are not fond of. Since you have to be at school, you might as well enjoy it.

"Play" or having fun is the final and my favorite aspect of FISH Philosophy. Play means to have fun at what you do no matter what you are doing. We cannot take ourselves too seriously and need to play or have fun when we have a chance. Of course

we need to be safe but fun can be had in any position you have especially if you like what you are doing. I see this as a very important concept of education because students learn better when instruction is designed to be enjoyable.

So if your child comes home talking about FISH, you will have a better understanding of what he/she is talking about. We will be recognizing an individual staff member at the grade school and one at the high school as FISH of the month. This selection is done through a drawing of all staff members who receive a FISH recognition certificate which can be given to staff for meeting one of the four concepts of FISH. So I hope you have a FISH-filled month.

Stay Warrior Strong!
Dr. G

PRINCIPAL NEWS BY BOB BRAITHWAIT

We are off and running into the 2016-17 school year. We haven't been at it very long, but the students have gotten off to a great start. We really do have great kids here; that's a huge thank you to you, the parents, for instilling those types of values in your children.

We do have some new faces this year. Dr. George Griffith comes to us from Wakeeney, KS. Dr. Griffith has been here only a short time, but has already made a big impact on our entire staff.

Preston Blackmore will take over PE duties for Dustin Sealey. Mr. Blackmore comes to us from Orchard NE. He will serve as an assistant coach for football, boys basketball, track, and will coach most of the JH sports.

Katie Helms comes to us from the Cambridge school district. Mrs. Helms has taught for eight years and will be taking over for Julie Stagemeyer in fourth grade. Mrs. Stagemeyer decided she would like to try kindergarten, replacing retired Karen Custer.

Courtney Bahe also comes to us from the Cambridge school district. Mrs. Bahe will take over for Colin Kubik in Ag. Mr. Kubik accepted an Ag position at Firth Norris Schools.

We also have a student teacher in Mr. Kronhofman's room. Megan Finley will be in that classroom until Christmas, and then will do another semester student teaching in the special education department. She is completing her requirements for a degree from Fort Hays State.

As always, we welcome you to contact any teacher if you have

questions about your child. I do ask that you work hard to keep the conversation nice and non-combative. If you don't get the answers you are looking for, then by all means call me and we can discuss what's going on. I cannot promise you will get the answers you want, but I will promise you that I will listen to you.

Last, and certainly not least, I want to take this opportunity to recognize how outstanding of a staff we have at Arapahoe. Our teachers do such a great job, as does our secretaries, aides, custodians, kitchen staff, and bus drivers. We are so fortunate to have so many caring people looking after your children. Thank you for sending your children to us. Together I feel we all make a great team!!!! Let's have a great 2016-17!

COUNSELOR'S COMMENTS BY PAM BREINIG

Schedules have been finalized for students in grades 7-12, so the days seem to be running more smoothly now. Changes will be allowed for second semester during the week prior to and the week after the holiday break.

Applications for the Everett and Pearl Gentry Memorial Scholarship are now available at the high school office, the First Central Bank (Arapahoe), and the Arapahoe Public Mirror. This scholarship is for past graduates of AHS who are currently in college or are living/working in the Arapahoe school district and may have outstanding student loans. Completed applications should be returned to the AHS office or Pam Breinig by October 18, 2016. Graduates of the Class of 2016 are not eligible for this scholarship because they applied in the spring, and an adult may only be the recipient of this scholarship twice.

Changes are coming to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). EducationQuest will be providing information regarding the FAFSA and the financial process on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Distance Learning Room (enter through the NW door of the library, please). This meeting is for all juniors, seniors, and their parents. It is equally important for juniors because FAFSA completion will be completed after October 1, yes, that's this October for juniors and seniors! Please come and learn about this process so that college finances are not so overwhelming.

The first ACT (college entrance exam) will be given in every state during September. The only drawback to taking this September test is that the regular deadline was in early August, so students will have to pay late fees and be placed on standby at the testing site. Students should check my office for the latest on the ACT.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS BY JULIE STAGEMEYER

Thirteen boys and 11 girls have started Kindergarten in Arapahoe this year! We are off to a good start as we learn rules, routines and expectations in the classroom. Kindergarten students are busy learning the alphabet, numbers 1-10 and new words. Our first word is I. We are also learning to hold our pencil correctly as we figure out how to write our names with one capital letter at the beginning and the rest of the letters lowercase! We also have a friend in our room, Norman the guinea pig! Everyone is enjoying our class pet!

NEWS FROM THE FIRST GRADE BY ELIZABETH KLEIN

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning in first grade! We welcome two new first graders to Arapahoe: Andy Audon and JJ Vann. With a total of 14 girls and 13 boys, we are eager to work together to learn new things. Some topics we will focus on this year include families and communities, our country and state, our five senses, adding and subtracting numbers and telling time.

SECOND GRADE NEWS BY SHARI MUES

Twenty-three students make up the second grade classroom. There are thirteen boys and ten girls. The boys are so excited to have more boys than girls.

Thank you Cindy Huxoll for bringing the second graders chrysalis and larvae. The students are observing them to see what kind of butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. It is a fun learning experience for the students.

The second graders will go to the care home once a month to participate in activities with the residents. The students will bowl, sing, make craft, decorate cookies, and read to the residence. This is a great way for the second graders to adopt a grandma or a grandpa. The students really enjoy spending time with their friends.

THIRD GRADE NEWS WITH MRS. SCHUTZ

We would like to welcome Anthony Olguin and Camden Vann to third grade. We also welcome back Chloe Gooden. Our class now has 17 boys and 11 girls. We have lots to learn this year, including multiplication and division, reading lots of great stories, and also writing our own stories. In third grade, students will be using Power Point, Microsoft Word, and also Notebook Software to create stories of their own. Each day we will work on time, money, number patterns, and problems of the day during our Calendar time. It's going to be a great year!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS BY KATIE HELMS

The fourth grade is off to an exciting and busy start! After spending some time helping me get to know all of the students a little bit better, we have jumped in with both feet. There are many new things in the fourth grade curriculum to get used to, so we are learning to use textbooks for our math lessons among other things.

The fourth graders have done a fantastic job being welcoming and helpful to me, along with our new students. This year we have two new additions to our class, Roberto and Lidia. We look forward to all of the new things that we are going to learn in the fourth grade this year!

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY MRS. QUINN

Welcome back to another school year. We begin the year with a fresh coat of paint on the walls and new carpet. What a nice calming environment for your child to learn in. The younger students are working on learning the letters of the alphabet as well as the letter sounds. Next, they will work on mastering the Dolch Sight Word lists. Some students are still learning how to write their first name while others are learning their last name.

Parents need to remember that writing and reading go hand in hand. When you read with your child, try to follow it up with a writing activity. The older students are sharpening reading skills and focusing on comprehension by being able to answer questions about the story. All students need to work on number recognition, counting to 100, and learning basic addition and subtraction facts. Another key component in the classroom is being able to listen and follow teacher direction. Completing assignments in a timely manner is a goal that all the students should strive for.

TITLE 1 NEWS BY SUE HELMS

Well, summer flew by quickly and I'm sure you were as busy as I was. But now the reality has set in, and ready or not school has started. If your child didn't get a chance to open a book all summer, chances are their reading and math skills took a nosedive. Thank goodness we have excellent teachers at Arapahoe eager to help get your child back in the groove. It might be that your child even qualifies for Title 1 this year. When someone asks me what I do in Title 1, I simply say that I help students who need extra help. I have sent letters home with those who qualify. The papers will need to be signed and returned to me. If your child qualifies for Title 1, please give it a chance and let me help your child. If you did not receive a letter, but feel your child needs help, feel free to visit with me. I'm looking forward to an awesome year!

BUSINESS NEWS BY LYNN CROSLY

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start in the Business Department. The Accounting students are learning a lot of new terms such as debit, credit, assets, and capital. They are also discovering that A has to equal $B + C$. A new class has been added to the Business curriculum this school year entitled Marketing. The Economics class is learning about the thought process associated with making consumer decisions.

All and all, the year is and running!

NEWS FROM THE AG ROOM BY COURTNEY BAHE

Happy new school year from the new ag teacher and FFA advisor Courtney Bahe. This is my first year in Arapahoe and I am very excited to be here. I am originally from Wall, South Dakota, where I grew up on a small cattle ranch with one brother and three sisters. I started my degree at Chadron State College where I first majored in range ecology. I worked one summer as a range technician for the USDA Forest Service in South Dakota, one summer for the Bureau of Land Management in Lewistown, MT, and one summer for the UNL West Central Research Station in North Platte. My experience there led me to the decision that I did not want to clip grass for the rest of my life. I switched my major to ag education and transferred to UNL and received a Bachelor of Science in Ag Education in December, 2013. I taught at Cambridge for 2 ½ years before coming to Arapahoe. My husband Peyton, son, Braxten (3), daughter Josslyn (1) and I live in Cambridge. We have several events going on for FFA in September, including both Area and State competitions for Range Judging, Area Land Judging, Husker Harvest Days, and the FFA portion of the state fair. Hope everyone has a great year!

FROM THE PODIUM BY VALERIE LEISING

Music is handed out and the jr. high and high school bands are hitting the street for marching band. 5th Graders are getting their instruments figured out and 6th graders are picking up where they left off. I am excited for the potential in all of these young musicians!

LIBRARY NEWS BY VALERIE LEISING

The school library is up and running. Students have checked out books and they all should be reading!

One thing parents can do at home to encourage your students to become life long readers is to simply read with your child at home. Here are some tips for integrating reading into your daily family activities: (from community.scholarschoice.ca) The school library is up and running. Students have checked out books and they all should be reading!

One thing parents can do at home to encourage your students to become life long readers is to simply read with your child at home. Here are some tips for integrating reading into your daily family activities: (from community.scholarschoice.ca)

Read bedtimestories

Play a board game

Visit your local library

Read a recipe and cook something yummy together!

Create a comfy reading space in your home.

Put your child in charge of reading the grocery list at the

store.

It is very important to read with beginning readers! The following are some tip for how to read with a beginning reader: (from community.scholarschoice.ca)

Encourage your child to use his/her finger to point to each word.

Encourage your child to use his/her finger to point to each word.

Read a sentence and have your child repeat it.

Take turns reading a sentence each or a page each.

Talk about the story as you read it. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of? How do you think this character feels?

Don't be afraid to read the same book again! Repeated reading helps build reading fluency!

15-20 minutes is plenty of time for a beginning reader.

Students and parents can access our library catalog at home.

Simply go to [HYPERLINK "http://www.arapahoe.follettdestiny.com"](http://www.arapahoe.follettdestiny.com) www.arapahoe.follettdestiny.com. Have fun with your child and help them choose what book they want to check out next!

Please help your student remember to bring back their library books. Last year there were many that were lost and did not get returned. The schedule for the library is:

Monday – 3rd Grade

Tuesday – Kindergarten

Wednesday – 1st Grade

Thursday – 4th Grade

Friday – 2nd Grade

CROSS COUNTRY BY COACH MARCIA FOLEY

It is my pleasure to begin my sixth year as the Arapahoe Cross Country Coach. Cross Country is a wonderful sport that enables the participants to develop a healthy life-style, set personal and team goals, plus enjoy the comradeship of their teammates. This year's team has 12 competitors. There are four returning runners, two returning letter-winners, and one returning state qualifier. Senior members: Abraham Whitson, Michael French and Jeffery Adam bring experience and leadership, along with junior Adrienne Einspahr. The new team members are senior, Derek Monie; junior Tyler Kapperman; sophomores Colton Hearn, Desteny Miller, Alex Roush, Nikita Sadok and Jadn Whittenberg; and freshman Tanner Deisley. The team will compete in their first meet in Cambridge on September 2nd. GO WARRIORS!!

ARAPAHOE FOOTBALL BY DUSTIN KRONHOFMAN

The start of a new school year brings the start of a new football season. This summer we went to a couple camps that were beneficial and fun for the boys. We went to a full contact camp at Harvard with 11 other teams and made some good plays and improvement. I also took seven guys to a 5 on 5 passing camp/tournament in Elm Creek where there were 15 other teams. It was one of the hottest days of the summer, over 100 degrees the whole day. We ended up getting 3rd in the tournament with our seven, while beating the champion earlier in the day.

We started fall camp with 19 guys. We are changing some things on offense and defense this year so we have to learn some new systems. We have some great young men on the team that are giving great effort and I look forward to seeing what they can accomplish this year. Hope everyone can come out to the games to support these guys who have been putting in a lot of work. See you on Friday nights!

JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL BY COACH STRAND

This year we have 24 athletes out for junior high football. We are excited about having good numbers, and players out that are excited about playing football. We have been working on learning fundamentals of the game while learning some plays and defensive schemes. Our first game this year is on September 8th against Medicine Valley. Our schedule also includes games against Elwood, Bertrand, Dundy County-Stratton, Alma, and Southwest.

VARSITY/JV VOLLEYBALL BY COACH CLUBINE

The Varsity and JV Volleyball Teams are off to a great start. The team started the season with two-a-day practices focusing on serving and passing the ball, as well as getting new positions learned. We are continuing to focus on working together as a team and are looking forward to our first games against Hitchcock County and Dundy County/Stratton on September 1st.

Arapahoe Public Schools
School District No. 18



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