

Mustang News

April 2018

Alynn Coppock, HS Principal

Wow! What an amazing month March has been!! It gave us the opportunity to celebrate the success of so many of our students. Five of our individual speech students qualified for State Speech on March 10th. These speech students included Jenna Coppock, Peyton Wilken, Liz Smith, Emma Stewart, and Alicia Tovar. We also enjoyed an excellent FFA banquet on March 20th, which once again showcased all the hard work our FFA chapter has done this year. Congratulations to the following FFA members for qualifying for State: Paige Roberts, Megan Carlson, Carlyee Clark, Tyler Mandernach, Madison Belcher, Anna Tiefenthaler, and Gabe Sievers. Brittany Linke, Grace Jesse, Megan Carlson and Dakota Richter placed 4th and earned \$500 for our chapter. Also, Tyler Mandernach will be playing in the FFA band and Ian Anderson will be singing the National Anthem at State Convention. We also enjoyed watching our Silver Stars Drill Team during their annual Drill Team Night on March 17th. They've had a very successful year and it was great seeing the culmination of their hard work during this celebratory night. I would also like to congratulate the following art students for having their art selected for the Twin Lakes Conference Art Contest: Hannah Smith, Ian Anderson, Robert Grant, Mariana Gonzalez, Mariah Raveling, Jenna Nieland, Hannah Taylor, Crystal Bahena, Natalie Harms, and Alicia Tovar. Finally, I hope you had a chance to attend the All-School Play on March 23rd and 24th. Mrs. Schubert and Mrs.

Wood's cast and crew worked hard to create a very entertaining performance for us. Obviously, March has given us many wonderful opportunities to celebrate our students' talents.

I also want to congratulate our Newell-Fonda basketball players and coaches on their successful seasons. It was a tremendously fun ride for Newell-Fonda and it doesn't get much better than ending the season with the State Championship game! I am positive the lessons of hard work, goal setting, perseverance, and teamwork will resonate with these athletes well into adulthood. I also want to thank everyone who supported the Mustangs in Des Moines and throughout the season. The "sea of blue" at Wells Fargo was truly amazing. The support our communities give our school district is always very much appreciated. We are very fortunate that our student athletes get to experience such an atmosphere of school spirit. I also want to give a special thank you to the Newell-Fonda Athletic Boosters for their organization of fundraisers and their support of our athletes during the regular season and the postseason. Without their help, many of the opportunities available to our athletes would not be possible.

I want to remind senior parents that open campus privileges will begin in April. Seniors who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 through the 2017 fall semester and are maintaining a "C" average in all their classes will be eligible for open-campus starting April 9th. Any senior with a "C" or better average in all classes or is meeting all IEP requirements, and does not have any detentions or disciplinary issues during the open-campus period, will be eligible on May 7th. Any student with these privileges will be allowed to drive during open campus; however, it is important to remember that any inappropriate behavior will result in immediate loss of these privileges. All eligible students must complete a form that includes parent and teacher signatures. This is a great opportunity for our seniors to be rewarded for their academic efforts, but please remind them of the importance of acting like responsible young adults. I also want to remind this year's 8th graders and their parents that they are invited to attend Freshman Orientation on Tuesday, April 10th from 6:30-7:30. This will be a great opportunity for incoming freshmen and their parents to learn more about the course offerings and expectations of high school before registering for classes next year.

In closing, please continue to stay involved with your student's academic progress. Be sure to check your student's grades on Infinite Campus. Please free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for all you do to support the Newell-Fonda CSD.



Dick Jungers, PK-8 Principal

As the school year quickly winds down there are several areas I would like to address in regards to helping students in their educational development. One of the most important things we can do for our students is to read with them every day. At the Pre-school and Kindergarten level it is important to continue to read to your student and to find them level appropriate books to encourage their reading development. Modeling reading is just as important as students pick up their habits from those that they live with. Reading for information or for entertainment goes a long way in influencing students to want to read. As students progress further into the 1st-4th grades it is important to have books available at their reading and interest level. Reading 10-15 minutes a day goes a long way in fostering that development.

At the middle school level it is important to encourage reading and finding materials that are interesting to your student. Visiting the Newell or Fonda Public Library would create a lot of opportunities for your student to find materials suited to their interests. Encouraging students to find a series that is interesting to them makes reading exciting and hard to put books down. The more we do as parents makes an impact on the life habits of our children.

For students who qualify, we will be offering Summer School. If this is something that interests you or your child feel free to communicate that interest with your child's teacher. We will be offering Summer school two days a week throughout the Summer so be looking for that information from your child's teacher. We will again be offering our Summer lunch program at the school and in Fonda. Feel free to take advantage of these awesome programs that benefits students.

Another great learning opportunity would be to work with your student on IXL Math. Every student in our PK-8th grade has a username and password to this online program to work on their math skills. This program can also be utilized during the Summer. The best feature of IXL math is that it will explain how to solve a problem when they get one wrong. <https://www.ixl.com/signin/newellfonda>

The last area to work on with your student is their writing skills. Having your child write letters to relatives, keeping a journal or diary, or creating stories about their favorite characters in a book, or people in their lives are great ways to keep students engaged in their writing development. I encourage you to talk to your child's teacher on creating ways to encourage learning opportunities throughout the year. I know a lot of parents are making plans for their Summer routine. The following article is a link that is designed to help parents plan activities for their child over the Summer.

<http://workathomemoms.about.com/od/childcare/tp/summer-planning.htm>

Creating a Summer routine for children is a great way to keep structure in their lives. Some ideas to consider when creating a routine: A plan to include reading, writing, and math work (not over the top, may look different for each student), age appropriate chores around the house, involvement in Summer activities such as swimming lessons, camps, clinics and Summer Baseball/Softball. Planned family time such as camping, eating meals together and playing games create strong family bonds.

A few areas that may create concern: students spend large amounts of their day at a friends house when no one is checking on them, or students spend large amounts of time playing video games, and are not being active. Students spending large amounts of time on the computer and are using social media sites unsupervised. The following article link is a guide for parents to keep their students safe from computer predators.

<http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide>



Staff Updates

Courtney Vaughn, 3rd Grade

This year I have 15 students who are hard-working and ready for a challenge. The students do an excellent job working together as a team and always using positive attitudes. Each day they are encouraged by each other to do their best. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Wadle in our room to help throughout the day.

We have paired up with the Mrs. Christiansen's Preschool class for a program called Martha Speaks Reading Buddies. Martha Speaks is a show on PBSKids! Each

third grade student has a preschool buddy. Every other Thursday, we go down to their classroom for 45 minutes. During this time, we hope to enhance our vocabulary, social skills, develop self-esteem, and increase their love for reading. We begin with a brief video that includes a couple of vocabulary words. From there, the buddies choose to either read a book, write about the video in their journal, or do activities that involves communication between the buddies. The third graders have been great role models for the preschoolers! Thank you to Mrs. Christiansen for finding this program and collaborating with us.

In math, we are learning our multiplication and division facts. We switched to flashcards to assess the students' knowledge of their facts instead of timed tests. This allows us to identify which facts the students struggle on the most. To help learn our facts, we have been using many card games. I think sometimes they even forget they are working on their facts because they are having so much fun. These games are great to use at home while practicing the facts! As well as learning our facts, we are just starting our elapsed time unit. We used the time unit activities to find out how much time we spent on our daily classroom work. It is amazing how much we rely on our digital clocks in our technology based world.

Mystery Science has been a great addition to our Science curriculum. The activities are very hands-on and very informational. Our favorite activity has been the magnetic lock. We created a useful lock for a door that only opened using a magnet. The students engaged in the engineering design process. They used trial and error to improve their designs. We are excited to end our science units learning about weather and how to predict patterns in weather.

Amy Freese, 2nd Grade

Fourth Quarter has just begun! It is time for the second graders to take all of the writing knowledge they have gained and work on a research project. We have done this for several years, but this year it has a new twist. Each student has chosen a state to research. They are using websites and books to locate information about the economy, tourism, resources, geography, sports and history of their state. As students find information in each category they write down notes on a graphic organizer. Then, each student will decorate a gift bag with the name and outline of their state along with the capital, state flag, state bird, or state flower. Their next step will be to find a small object to somehow represent each fact category that they researched. For example, they may put a rock in their bag to represent the Rocky Mountains; or they may put in a toy car to

represent that their state is known for making many automobiles. It will be fun to see what they come up with. Finally, we will work on our presentation skills. Instead of just reading a report to the class, each student will present their bag to an audience and tell about their state by sharing their objects that match each fact. Learning how to speak in front of others can be daunting for some children. Hopefully, the objects they choose will make it more meaningful and fun for both the presenter and the audience.



Kari Limbert, Elementary Art

Printmaking in the Elementary Art Classes

The elementary art students have been experimenting with various types of printmaking in art. The first grade students are monoprinting. This means the process yields only one print. They are using our new Gelli Plates. Gelli Plates are made of soft, pliable plastic—similar to gummi worms in texture. The students apply ink with a roller and then draw images into the ink or lay stencils on the ink. They press a paper on top, rub and pull off a one-of-a-kind print. The second grade students studied Native American/Indigenous symbols and created a symbol to represent themselves. They are

using styrofoam printing blocks to create their prints. The third grade used “found objects” dipped in ink to print patterns on colored paper. They used spools, keys, foam, washers, and other objects to create their prints. The fourth grade will be creating their own logos to turn into foam stamps to print with after discussing the printmaking techniques used by the West African Adinkra culture. 5th grade artists learned about the process of collagraph printing. They created their plates by gluing objects to a piece of cardboard to recreate a personal sketch. Then they applied ink with a brayer and printed multiple copies. All of the students are learning the correct art terminology that goes along with printmaking and practicing how a professional printer would sign their prints. It has been a messy but fun unit!
