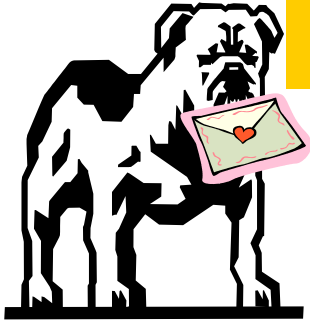


Bulldog Update



Bridgeport Public
Schools
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February 2012

January 22 through January 29, 2012 is School Board Recognition Week

School Board Recognition Week is a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function that the elected board of education plays in our community.

Bridgeport Public Schools is joining with other districts throughout the state to thank board members for caring so much about the future of every child enrolled in our schools.

Nebraskans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive no compensation for their tireless efforts. School board members are extraordinary people who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing school districts. Their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of all our children," said Dave Miller, Bridgeport Public Schools Superintendent.

"Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their work reflects a year-round commitment,"

Miller said. "Every day, board members demonstrate strength and dedication as they focus on excellence for their district programs, their teachers, and most importantly their students. They unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public schools, and represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education," he said.

The men and women serving Bridgeport Public Schools are:

- Justin Corman, President
- George Chikos, Vice-president
- Kay Anderson, Treasurer
- Dale Nichols, Secretary
- Dave Smith, Board Member
- Jeff Pohl, Board Member

P/T Conference 4:30-7:30 7 & 9

No School 10th

WTC Speech 8th

NO SCHOOL-INSERVICE 20th

State Wrestling 16-18th

Senior of the Month

JANUARY



Denise Mier



The Morrill County Spelling Bee will be held at Bayard Public Schools on Wednesday, February 29th 2012. Registration of students will begin at 12:30 p.m. The first round of competition will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by the final round at approximately 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The winner of this competition has the opportunity to represent their town in the state competition held in Omaha.

Make plans to attend:

SUPPER-N-SOUNDS

TUESDAY, MAY 8TH

*****CHECK THE WEB-SITE CALENDAR*****

FOR MANY UPCOMING BAND, MUSIC,

ATHLETIC AND DRAMA

PERFORMANCES

www.bridgeportschools.org

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
 - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
 - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
 - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
 - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
 - Accrediting organizations;
 - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
 - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
 - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

For additional information or technical assistance, you may call (202) 260-3887 (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Or you may contact us at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Take a Minute With Mr. Miller

I have always believed that good teachers will educate their students in character. Teachers, through example or direct instruction are constantly showing their students how to behave in given situations. Theodore Roosevelt's quote; "To educate a person in mind and not in morals, is to educate a menace to society." has been a favorite of mine for a long time.

The core values that include honesty, caring, fairness, respect and responsibility are shared by most people. There have been several studies that show our students, and the country in general is in a moral decline. When we stop and look at what is acceptable behavior today, compared to twenty or thirty years ago, it is obvious. The people on television, in the movies, and on the news are lying, cheating and stealing their way to the top of their given profession. Most of our problems in education today revolve around motivation of students and classroom management issues. Most educators agree that when students take responsibility for their learning, it is more likely to occur.

Honesty is easy when the consequences are minimal. That has become very evident over the past several years. People today can stand up and admit to unethical behavior and there is very little repercussion. We have come to expect it, so as long as it doesn't directly affect us, we shrug our shoulders and move on. When the unethical behavior involves someone that we think should be above it, it has a much bigger impact and the admission is much more difficult.

Hope is probably the one thing that keeps good teachers sane. We hope that we make a difference; we hope that kids will do the right thing and we hope that the world will be a better place when our students have an impact on it. Negative press, new regulations, and constant pressure to push kids to excel does start to wear on teachers. Sometimes hope can be hurt by our own comments about the profession. We all need to remember that our own perception of what we do is the perception others will have. If we all stop and remember why we got into education in the first place, we would realize that hope never dies, it just gets lost in the clutter.

Dave Miller
Superintendent
Bridgeport Public Schools

The Mission of Bridgeport Public Schools is:

"Dedicated to providing opportunities

to generate success for all."

Elementary News by Mrs. Turner

Students and teachers have been very busy during our third quarter. Assessment time is "creeping" up so classrooms have been working diligently on the Nebraska Standards so our students will be prepared and will be able to put forth their very best effort on the tests. Over the past few years Bridgeport students have done extremely well with the reading, writing, and math assessments. This year a science assessment has been added and I am confident that our students will excel in this area too. Teachers are doing everything they can to assist students so they will be successful but parents we need your help. During our assessment periods we ask that your children get plenty of rest, a good breakfast and understand that you value these assessments and want them to do well. Let's keep up our tradition of being a school where education is valued and students are successful!



Parents Reading With Kids

Parents, we are here to help you raise a reader. Because you want the best for your child, we invite you to begin a parenting practice which will benefit your child the rest of his or her life—reading aloud together 20 minutes a day from birth through elementary school. Children whose parents read with them learn to read early and well. It's as simple as that!

Getting your child ready to read is getting your child ready to succeed in school. Schools deliver 85% of the curriculum using printed words in books, written words on chalkboards/white-boards and digitized words on computer screens. Reading is the most fundamental skill your child will use during his or her 12-20 years as a student.

Children who read succeed, in school and in life. The simple act of enjoying books together every day from birth through elementary school establishes essential reading skills while building warm relationships. Your love and time are priceless. The reading skills you nurture are worth a quarter of a million dollars. For every year you read with your child, average lifetime earnings increase by \$50,000. **You make a \$250,000 gift to your child by reading aloud just 20 minutes a day!**

Hot book titles to enjoy: *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos

Winterling by Sarah Prineas

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Elementary continued...

A Great Success

We would like to say a great big THANK YOU to all of our "boys" who came to school to participate on January 20th in our first "Boys and Books" program. We had a very nice turnout and the students really enjoyed having the guest readers. Ladies, mark your calendar for March 2, "Ladies and Literacy" will be your opportunity to read to students. We look forward to seeing you here!



Building Family-School Partnerships That Work

The evidence is in: when schools and families work together to support learning, everyone benefits.

- Students do better in school and in life.
- Parents become empowered.
- Teacher morale improves.
- Schools get better.

Communities grow stronger.

Parent/Teacher Conference time is one way in which parents can begin to get involved in their child's education. **Spring conferences are scheduled for February 7 and February 9th. Our goal is for 100% participation by elementary parents, help us reach our goal by planning to attend.**

Elementary continued...

Be Watching For.... 

February 7 p.m.	Parent/Teacher	Conferences	4:30-7:30
February 9 p.m.	Parent/Teacher	Conferences	4:30-7:30
February 10	NO SCHOOL		
February 13	School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.		
February 20	NO SCHOOL K-12 Teachers training in Scottsbluff		
February 22	Early Dismissal 2:15		
February 29	Spelling Bee @ Bayard Grades 1-8		
March 2	"Ladies and Literacy" 8:00-8:30 a.m. Coffee and rolls served		

For the "Ladies and Literacy" please join us by checking in the elementary office between 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. All "Ladies" are welcome to read their favorite book or select one from the school to read to the students. We look forward to seeing you there.



C-SHOP FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS AND SOPHOMORES – From Nurse Dean

C-SHOP stands for **C**ardiac-**S**chool age **H**ealth **O**pportunities **P**rogram. It is a program that was initiated in the elementary and high school fourteen years ago in conjunction with the Heart Center of the Rockies/Poudre Valley Health Systems. C-SHOP believes that the key to reducing cardiovascular disease is **early identification** of those at high risk and **education** to control their risk.

The purpose of C-SHOP is to identify children with a tendency toward high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol through blood pressure measurement and blood testing. Additionally, C-SHOP will educate students and families about heart disease and encourage lifestyles that promote cardiac health.

This year, the Morrill County Hospital and the Bridgeport Public Schools will again be offering C-SHOP to all students in 5th and 10th grade. By doing so, we hope to give students and families the opportunity to monitor any changes that may occur in their son/daughter, possibly identifying at an early time in their lives, their pre-disposition to cardiovascular disease. Testing students when they are fifth graders, and then again as sophomores, will give us the ability to assess for improvement between the students who were elevated at the fifth grade level in comparison to their test results as sophomores.

C-SHOP begins on Wednesday, FEBRUARY 15th when FIFTH GRADE students will have the opportunity to attend an assembly on cardiac health at the school presented by Tammy Dean, R.N., School Nurse. This program emphasizes the importance of a healthy diet, regular exercise, and non-smoking. Students will also receive basic information on the effect of atherosclerosis on the heart.

Then, the next morning, on Thursday, FEBRUARY 16th, students may choose to participate in a screening procedure that involves the following: (1) measures blood cholesterol levels via blood samplings from a finger stick and (2) records blood pressure results. Consent forms will be sent home with students, and MUST BE RETURNED TO THEIR TEACHER NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 10TH!

Professional medical staff from Morrill County Hospital will be available to take the blood samples necessary for evaluation. Your child will need to fast after 10:00 P.M. on February 15th. **This means they cannot eat or drink anything other than water from 10:00 P.M. on FEBRUARY 15th until after their finger is poked for a blood sample on THURSDAY, February 16th.** The testing will begin at 6:00 A.M. at the middle school office; consequently, your child will need to be brought to school that day. After the screening, students will be given a continental breakfast before going to class/recess. **Students living within a five mile radius of the school are asked to report between 6-7:00 A.M. All other students are asked to report between 7-8:00 A.M.** Parents need not be present during the testing procedure unless they choose to stay.

The results of the screening will be mailed to each child's parent. If you have indicated on the consent form, a copy of your child's results will be sent to his/her doctor. If results of the testing indicate an elevation in blood cholesterol or blood pressure, it is our recommendation that you consult your child's doctor.

Sophomore students may ALSO come to be tested on FEBRUARY 16th between 6-7:45 A.M. Results will be sent home to parents via the postal service. This is to give those students who participated in the screenings as a fifth grader an opportunity to observe any changes in their blood tests.

We are pleased to be able to bring this service to the students of Bridgeport Public Schools, offering them a head start toward lifelong health. If you have further questions, or if you would like to reserve a time for testing for your child, please call either one of the contact persons listed below!

What better Valentine gift for your heart is there?

Tammy Dean, RN, BSN 262-1574
Bridgeport Public Schools

Candy Lussetto, RN, BSN 262-1616
Morrill County Community Hospital