

IOWA FALLS & ALDEN  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



EMPOWERING  
EVERY STUDENT  
TO LEARN, LEAD  
AND SUCCEED!

# Cadet Gazette

**A Publication of  
Iowa Falls & Alden Community  
School Districts**

## **From the Superintendent School Board Meeting Information on the Web**

Information about the Iowa Falls and Alden school board meetings is available to the public via the world-wide-web. Anyone who wants to review meeting agendas, explanatory notes for agenda items, and/or support documents may access this information by logging on to the following websites:

**Iowa Falls:**

<http://www.mywebschooltools.com/schools/IowaFalls/BoardMeeting/login.php>  
Click "Public User".

**Alden:** <http://www.mywebschooltools.com/schools/Alden/BoardMeeting/login.php>.  
Click "Public User".

### **What is the Superintendent Thinking?**

Those who would like to know more about what is going on in our school districts can request an electronic copy of the Monday News Line. The purpose of the Monday News Line is to provide weekly updates about the Iowa Falls and Alden School Districts from the superintendent's point of view. The news line is just one of many communication strategies designed to keep students, parents, community and employees well informed. Contact Pat Knipfel ([pknipfel@ifacadets.net](mailto:pknipfel@ifacadets.net)) to be included in the electronic mailing list.

### **Annual Progress Report on Student Academic Performance**

**Background**

The purpose of the Annual Progress Report is to publish an extensive amount of student achievement information for public review. Note that all information included in this year's re-

port is from the 2014-15 School Year. The entire report will be broken down into four parts with one part published in each edition of the Cadet Gazette from now through the end of the school year. Those who want additional information may contact the superintendent's office or visit the Iowa Department of Education Website at <http://www.iowaschoolprofiles.com/>.

## Part 1: Adequate Yearly Progress

Part 1 features achievement data for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is directly tied to compliance with the federal mandate, No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Accomplishment of all goals associated with Adequate Yearly Progress

(AYP) is determined by the Iowa Department of Education in compliance with the federal government's NCLB Legislation.

The requirement for Iowa (and all other states) is that 100 percent of all students must be proficient. A school building that misses one, or more, of the multiple goals for reading, math or "other academic indicators" will cause the building to be labeled as "Missing AYP."

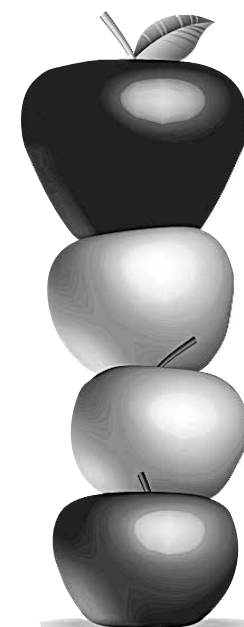
The Iowa Assessments are not given to students below grade 3. Consequently, the state back maps third grade results to Pineview so that every school building is accountable for student achievement.

Posted below are the AYP results for the 2014-15 School Year.

District/School	Participation Assessment	Reading	Math	NCLB Status
Iowa Falls School District	Participation	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Ok for Math
Iowa Falls School District	Assessment	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Ok for Math
Alden School District	Participation	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Ok for Math
Alden School District	Assessment	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Ok for Math
Iowa Falls-Alden High School	Participation	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Ok for Math
Iowa Falls-Alden High School	Assessment	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Ok for Math
Riverbend Middle School	Participation	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Ok for Math
Riverbend Middle School	Assessment	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Delay-2 Reading OK for Math
Rock Run Elementary School	Participation	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	OK for Reading OK for Math
Rock Run Elementary School	Assessment	Missed AYP Goals	Missed AYP Goals	Delay-3 Reading SINA-4 for Math
Pineview Elementary School	Participation	Met AYP Goal	Met AYP Goal	Ok for Reading OK for Math
Pineview Elementary School	Assessment	Missed AYP Goals	Missed AYP Goals	Watch List for Reading Watch List for Math
Alden Elementary School	Participation	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading OK for Math
Alden Elementary School	Assessment	Met AYP Goals	Met AYP Goals	Ok for Reading Delay-1 Math
<b>Other Academic Indicators</b>				
<b>Attendance</b>				
Iowa Falls (K-8)	96.7%	Met AYP Goals		Ok for Attendance
Alden (K-6)	98.4%			Ok for Attendance
<b>Graduation Rate</b>				
IFAHS	96.88%	Met AYP Goals		OK for Graduation

Interpretive information for NCLB Status includes:

- a) OK - Not on the Watch List
- b) Watch List - Missed AYP Goals for the First Time, or was SINA and then Met AYP Goals
- c) SINA-1 - School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 2 Years in a Row)
- d) SINA-2 - School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 3 Years in a Row)
- e) SINA-3 - School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 4 Years in a Row)
- f) SINA-4 - School In Need of Improvement (Missed AYP Goal 5 Years in a Row)
- g) Delay - AYP Goals Met, but on SINA in Previous Year. Delayed in status until next year's results are determined. Must meet AYP Goals for two consecutive years to change status.



## District Attendance Policy and Reminders

Communication is key! Please ensure communication with your child's teacher/office as to your child's absence(s) so we can support your child if there is illness as well as document illnesses for state records, appointments and if there is any barriers to getting your child to school timely, so we can explore options for your child's success! Rick Dunn, Hardin Co. Attorney did meet with school staff last year recognizing the importance of school beginning from kindergarten through high school, thus will be getting involved with chronic absences as they arise.

The policy of the District is that consistent and punctual attendance is of vital importance and is a prerequisite for completing an education. Attendance is a shared responsibility and requires cooperation and communication among students, parents and school. Students are expected to be in class and to make attendance a top priority. Only through attendance and class participation do students achieve the benefits of the education program. Participating in class discussion, developing an appreciation for the views and abilities of other students and forming the habit of regular attendance are legitimate class objectives. Learning lost due to an absence can never be replaced. Regular attendance and being well

prepared for class helps students in school as well as prepares students for adulthood. Students with chronic absences can be identified as at risk and they will be referred to the at risk support team.

Whenever possible, discipline imposed because of absence problems shall not create further class absences. The following disciplinary measures may be used by school authorities as consequences for attendance violations:

1. Upon acquiring 6 absences (excused or unexcused) parents or guardians will be contacted by a member of the at risk team stressing the importance of attendance and the connection to educational success.

2. Upon acquiring 8 absences from school a meeting will be set up with parents by a member of the at risk team to discuss reducing absences. The county attorney will also be carbon copied with notes from this meeting.

3. Upon acquiring 10 absences from school, a meeting will held between a member of the at risk team, student and parent to develop a formal attendance contract. A copy of this contract will be forwarded to the county attorney.

Students who miss three consecutive days of school due to illness, may be asked to provide a doctor's note or may have contact with the school nurse.

## High School News



## From the desk of Clyde Tarrence, IFAHS Principal

We've had a great kickoff to the 2015-16 school year! Our theme for the year is "SPIRIT." SPIRIT is "the general atmosphere of a place or situation and the effect that it has on people." We base our spirit upon showing a positive attitude and servitude to others. We also know when we have spirit as a team, we can achieve together what would remain out of reach for us individually. We communicate openly and candidly with each other and extend our respect and team spirit to students, parents and community members. It's about showing the utmost respect to each other by going directly to the person to share concerns. This starts by building daily relationships, not just with each other, but also with students and parents.

I would like to thank all parents and students for attending our Open House on August 20. The staff and I are really excited for the changes this year that will help ALL students of Iowa Falls-Alden High School. We were able to share with you our goals of Multi-Tiered System of Support that will occur between 6th and 7th period from 1:25-1:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We feel it will help reduce the number of D's and F's, help student engagement, reduce drop out rates and allow a time for all teachers at the same time of day to help students who are struggling in academics. I also shared Gov. Branstad's Teacher Leadership Compensation Grant (TLC) that Iowa Falls-Alden was selected to implement into the 2015-16 school year. Digital Citizenship was at the forefront that parents and students have shared with us from the Clarity Survey they took last year.

We were able to bring in Mark Sigwarth from the Iowa State Patrol to educate students and parents about social media. I think the presentation was an eye opener for many parents and students. I also shared the importance of parent involvement is as important as it was during your student's time in elementary. A lot of parents feel they have done their job by just getting them to high school. Actually, it's just as important to be hands-on and help students when they visit colleges or when looking into careers that they possibly will be doing for the rest of their lives. I ask parents to please get involved, whether it's attending Parent Advisory meetings that are held monthly, helping class sponsors decorating for Homecoming or Prom, working in concessions or just bringing ideas to the school. We all need to work together. We want the same things that you want for your son and daughter and that is the chance to be successful in whatever they do. This takes teamwork between parents and teachers. We may have bumps and successes while were on this road, but we need to present a positive approach to our young people on how to handle those issues that may come up.

Enrollment has finally settled down and we are pretty close to last year's totals. In ninth grade we have 114 students, 10th grade 125 students, 11th grade 112 students and 12th grade around 98 students. All 9th and 10th grade students will be taking the MAP Test through the week of September 14-18.

The President of UNI contacted us and he would like to visit our school to talk with our teachers, students and administrators. Dr. Ruup will be visiting Iowa Falls-Alden High School on Wednesday, September 23. We were selected because of all the great things he has heard about the Iowa Falls School District.

Homecoming is quickly approaching. Homecoming Week is September 28 through October 2. Please keep our policies in mind.

*The school district will file criminal trespassing charges against any person who is knowingly on school property while an act of destroying, defacing and/or vandalizing school property is taking place. If a person who is charged with criminal trespass is a student in the Iowa Falls Community School District, then additional school disciplinary actions may be enacted. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, expulsion and loss of extra-curricular eligibility. If a person who is charged with criminal trespass is not a student in the Iowa Falls Community School District, then the school district will legally prohibit this person from entering*

*or remaining upon any property owned by the Iowa Falls Community School District for no less than one year.*

## Homecoming Candidate Selection Process

To be part of the Homecoming Court your senior year you CANNOT have the following violations:

- 1) No School Suspension your Senior Year
- 2) Violation of Good Conduct Policy
- 3) Violation of Citizenship Policy
- 4) Must have a 2.0 GPA
- 5) Not failing any classes

## Cadet Color Run 2015

Come and participate in this fantastic fun- filled event! Our timed fun run includes 4 color stations and a color war celebration following the race. Come wearing white and finish covered in color! The IF-A FCCLA chapter and the IFA-AGWSR Cross Country Team bring this event to you.



**Date: Saturday, October 10.**

**Race starts at 9 a.m.**

Location: The race will start and end on the IF-A High school track. Route of the course will be various locations on school grounds.

### Registration Options

#### Category (Circle one):

Timed Race	Fun Run (I don't want to be timed)	Sleep in and Hit Snooze (I don't want to run, but would like to make a donation and would like a T-Shirt)
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#### T-Shirt Size (Circle one):

Youth: YXS	YS	YM	YL	YXL
Adult: S	M	L	XL	

Registration options (Circle one):

Students and School Employees \$20	Community Members \$30	Day of Registration \$40
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**Advanced registration guarantees you a T-Shirt the day of the race!**

**Advanced registration is due September 25, 2015.**

## Did you know....

Students may not possess radios, CD players, televisions, water guns, toys and other similar items on school grounds or at school activities. Electronic beepers, pagers, recording devices and cell phones will not be allowed unless advance permission is granted from the principal. The use of cell phones and iPod type devices may not be used from 8:25 a.m. to 3:16 p.m. each day. No device is permitted which allows students to send or receive personal messages that would contribute to cheating, access the internet or take pictures in the locker room or restroom, are not to take pictures of another for the purpose of ridiculing the other person, are not to use electronic device to harass another person. Inappropriate use of a device, the item will be taken from the student and brought to the office. Students found in violation of this policy may be subject to discipline (to include suspension from school and activities), parent notification and,

in cases where a law may be violated, law enforcement may be contacted. On the first offense, the student may pick up the device at the end of the school day. All subsequent offenses the parent must pick up the device. The school is not responsible for the loss or theft of any device brought to the office. Students need to remember that whatever they put on a personal electronic device could end up anywhere so they need to ensure the devices are used appropriately. Cell phones and electronic devices are subject to search when a school official has a reasonable and articulable suspicion that the device contains illegal, harassing or contraband items, pictures, messages or evidence of a violation of law or school policy or rule.

## Did you know....

There is a strong connection between student academic performance, appearance and conduct. Inappropriate student appearance may cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on school grounds. Students are expected to adhere to reasonable levels of cleanliness and modesty.

Students are prohibited from wearing clothing advertising or promoting items illegal for use by minors including, but not limited to, alcohol, drugs or tobacco; from wearing shoes with cleats except for outdoor athletic practices; from wearing clothing displaying obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, racial or sexual remarks, making reference to prohibited conduct or similar displays; and from wearing clothing that identifies them as members of "gangs" which promote expressions of violence, bigotry, hate and abuse. Shoes are required at all times. Shorts may be worn at the student's discretion. Sunglasses, hats, bandanas, hooded sweatshirts and other such headdresses are not to be worn unless there is a medical necessity. Students may not wear halter-tops, spaghetti straps (less than 1 inch) or bare midriff styles or any apparel that reveals any portion of undergarments.

Under certain circumstances or during certain classes or activities a stricter dress code may be appropriate, and students must comply with the stricter requirement. The principal makes the final determination of the appropriateness of the student's appearance. Students inappropriately dressed are required to change their clothing or leave the school property. Women's tops that allow for visible bra straps or undergarments will not be allowed. All student garments should cover the chest, belly, back, sides and buttocks at all times. Jeans that have holes in them may NOT show any private areas.

## Did you know....

If a student is failing a class at the time of a grade check, that student will not be eligible to compete or perform in a school sponsored activity for a minimum of one week (Monday through Sunday evening) and will regain eligibility once they are passing all classes.

The grade shown as of 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon will be used for the grade check, with no exceptions (i.e. - "I had late work that was turned in but not yet entered," "I was on vacation and have zeros for those assignments" or "But I have a really important performance, game, meet, etc.").

Communication between the student and teacher will take care of most situations and prevent students from failing at that time. MTSS time will certainly help too – help students to be proactive and take ownership of their education.

This will affect very few students, but we want to be sure everyone is aware of the new procedure. Our number one priority is education and progress toward graduation for all students.

## YEARBOOKS

Don't forget to order a yearbook for the 2015-2016 school year. It's a wonderful way to cherish those memories from the year. Yearbooks are \$35 until January. Get yours ordered now!

## PHOTOGRAPHY

A new year in photography brings new students into the classroom. If you see high school students out and about in the community, they are out on assignment taking pictures of our Scenic City. Smile!



## SENIORS!

Please submit your senior spotlight information and your senior picture to Mrs. Truex as soon as possible so we can begin publishing spotlights in the Times Citizen. Senior pictures will be used for both the newspaper and the yearbook.

## Kriegel's Korner

MTSS is off to a great start for the beginning of the year. Students have been pulled from their homeroom classes to get caught up due to illnesses, incomplete work and if they are just not understanding the concepts. We hope to see a reduction in D and F letter grades as the year goes on.

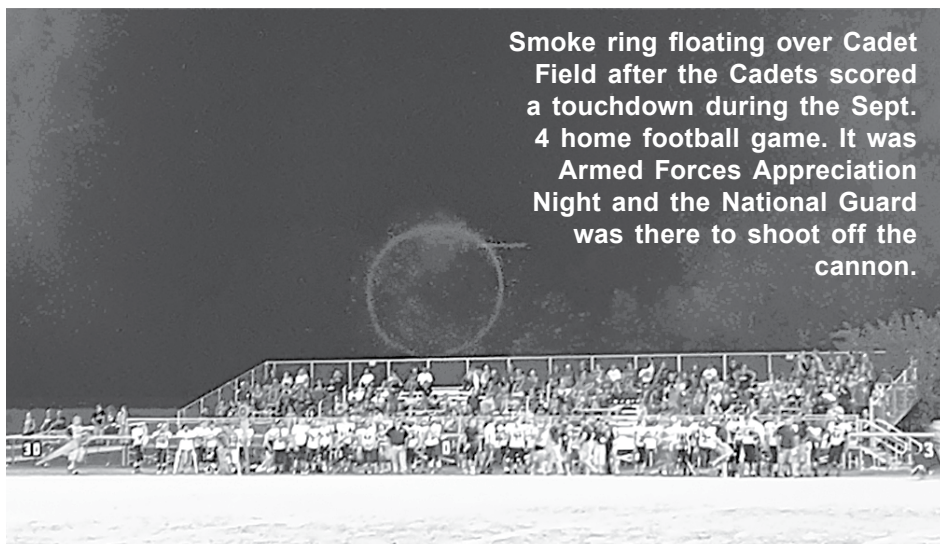
Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week- (September 7-13) <http://www.afsp.org/news-events/in-the-news/national-suicide-prevention-week>

September 8 was the first meeting for Fight Club. I have had many students and parents ask what this is all about. It is not a self defense class, nor is it a place where fighting takes place. Fight Club is a support group for students to come talk about everyday issues like bullying, mental health issues, substance abuse, etc. It is also a place to create leaders out of our students. If you are passionate about something, this is the place to come and create ideas and awareness for others. We started on a perfect week as students were very passionate about suicide awareness. This group meets bi-weekly. Our next meeting will be held on September 22 right after school in room N110. Please visit the website for more information: [http://kriegelm09.wix.com/fight-club?\\_ga=1.92424093.1829796940.1439822948](http://kriegelm09.wix.com/fight-club?_ga=1.92424093.1829796940.1439822948).

## From a Student's perspective

So, I bet I know how you feel, why is he here just to tell us something we already know, but what you don't understand is that you are the New America. Some of the people we go to school with will one day become, possibly, the President of the United States or something in the higher government. We are the future of America. We need to relate and not hate. We need to rise up to the challenge to become the strong America that was once envisioned by Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln. I want this school to become leaders. If we work on this, we will do great things in the nation and prove once and for all, that no matter what skin color and differences, we can get along. Well let me tell you this – one day all of us together could make a difference and maybe one day everyone could look at each other without thinking about skin color. This can change in one simple rise to power by coming together to make that difference, but it's up to us as not only a school, but a community. I also would like to thank the teachers for always trying to stick up for people who are bullied and if we didn't have you guys, we wouldn't have a president and we wouldn't be able to know the simple things we know, like how to talk or the alphabet. For that, I thank you teachers. You may say it sucks, but in the long run you will thank the teachers. It is the only reason anybody has a job. These hard working people don't get enough gratitude for what they do. Think about where you would be in 10 years with no teachers.

- IFAHS Student



Smoke ring floating over Cadet Field after the Cadets scored a touchdown during the Sept. 4 home football game. It was Armed Forces Appreciation Night and the National Guard was there to shoot off the cannon.



Date	Time	Event	Place
Sept. 24	3:30-7:30pm	IFAHS Parent/Teacher Conferences	IFAHS
Oct. 2		Homecoming	IFAHS
Oct. 13	1 hour early	Conferences at other buildings	All Buildings
Oct. 20	7:00pm	7-12 Fall Vocal Concert	IFAHS
Oct. 27		End of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	IFAHS

## Riverbend Middle School

### Riverbend Middle School to Host Fall Dance on Thursday, October 29, Starting at 7:00 p.m.

The first Riverbend Middle School dance of the 2015-2016 school year is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 29, at Riverbend Middle School. Although this is called a dance, this is in reality more of a middle school "social," due to the numerous activities that are planned for the evening. A disc jockey will be set up in half of the gymnasium for the dance portion of the event. In addition, throughout the evening students can participate in karaoke and board games in the cafeteria, Wii Guitar Hero and Just Dance in the music room, a movie in another classroom and the student lounge will also be open for students. Concessions will be available for purchase throughout the evening in the cafeteria, including Pizza Ranch pizza and Cadet Concessions.



In addition, it is also important to note that Riverbend Middle School dances are not "formal events." We like to think of our dances as "come as you are" events. We want all Riverbend students to feel that they can attend the event without having to worry about wearing new clothes or dresses. Students can choose to dress up if they want, but it is not encouraged by Riverbend Middle School. All students are expected to follow the Riverbend Middle School handbook dress code expectations for their dance attire: "Clothes that are too tight, too short, or too revealing are not to be worn. Students may not wear halter tops or bare midriff styles or any apparel that reveal portions of undergarments." These expectations are included in our student handbook. No strapless dresses or "spaghetti straps" are to be worn. Students not following these expectations should be prepared to change. In short, students, if you have to ask yourself if it is appropriate to wear to a dance or not, then it probably is not. Your assistance with these expectations is appreciated.

Riverbend Middle School students also do not need to feel that they need to have a "date" to attend a dance. Most students come by themselves, with a friend, or with a group of friends. Students can choose to ask someone if they want, but it is not encouraged by Riverbend Middle School. Only Riverbend Middle School students are allowed to attend middle school dances.

The dance starts at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. for seventh grade students, 9:15 p.m. for eighth grade students. The staggered ending times assist with the flow of traffic in front of the building after the dance. There will be a cost of admission as determined by the Riverbend Student Council to help offset the cost of the DJ. Glow-necklaces may also be available at the dance for purchase. Our dance will be supervised by at least twelve Riverbend Middle School teachers and staff.

We look forward to a fun dance and social on October 29!

Students enjoy a Riverbend Middle School dance during the 2014-2015 school year. From left: Emma Harding, Abby Redmond, Chase Meyer (rear), Jaclyn Lewer, Logan Sanders, Briar Hoversten, and Caden Mentzer.

## Please Plan On Attending Conferences with your Riverbend Middle School Student

*submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield*

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences are scheduled at Riverbend Middle School from 3:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, and Tuesday, October 13. Middle school students are often quick to point out to parents and guardians that, now that they are at or near their “teenage years,” they are ready for more independence. Even though our students are growing up, your involvement is still key to their success. Parent and guardian participation in conferences communicates a commitment to your student having a positive experience here at Riverbend Middle School during the 2015-2016 school year.

All Riverbend teachers will be assembled at tables in the gymnasium to meet with students, parents, and guardians during fall conferences. During spring conferences, students will be “leading” these conferences for their parents / guardians as we transition to “student-led conferences.” Conferences really do work best when the students are present to actively participate in the conference. The teachers have been advised to adhere to a 5-minute time limit per conference, especially if there are others in line. If five minutes for a conference is not sufficient, you can utilize this conference to schedule a more in-depth conference at a later time. We look forward to seeing you at conferences on Thursday, October 8, and/or Tuesday, October 13.

## Strong Participation in Activities at Riverbend

Riverbend Middle School again had nearly all of our students participate in at least one activity during the 2014-2015 school year. Students at Riverbend had the following co-curricular activity choices: band, chorus, honor band, honor choir, and jazz band. In addition, students could choose to participate in the following extracurricular sports activities: football, volleyball, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, cheerleading, track & field, and softball. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs and organizations: dance team, student council, science club, art club, girls’ group, FFA, FCCLA, TRIO Educational Talent Search, yearbook, publications, book club, and chess club. In all, there were 25 activities offered at Riverbend Middle School during the 2014-2015 school year. Each of our approximately 200 RMS students participated, on average, in nearly four activities per student.

During the first day of school this year, all students were presented with an activity interest sheet where they indicated what activities they are interested in for the 2015-2016 school year. Research has shown that students who are active in school activities are more connected to school, and that students who are more connected to school do better in school. It is our expectation that each student be involved in at least one activity; most are out for multiple. Get involved, Riverbend students!

## Riverbend Middle School concludes fundraiser

Again this year, Riverbend Middle School held its annual fundraiser to help raise money for the school. As of press time for this newsletter, Riverbend’s fundraiser has concluded. A big thank you goes out to all of you parents, family members, and community members who supported our fundraising efforts during September. Incentives for selling subscriptions and renewals included students earning money pencils for cash and prizes and earning their way to a movie day during the afternoon of a school day.

During past years Riverbend has purchased some chairs, tables, books for the library and classrooms, technology, and supplies for the classrooms. This year we are going to use some

of our fundraising proceeds to add motivational quotes and murals to our school’s hallway walls. At this time when funding for our schools is a challenge at best, we are acutely aware of our need to do well with our fundraising endeavors to benefit our students and staff here at Riverbend. Again, thank you to those family and community members who supported our fundraising efforts, and a huge thank you to those students who made the effort to make a difference here at Riverbend Middle School through this fundraiser. Your support, time, and efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you still want to renew or subscribe a magazine through Riverbend Middle School or purchase additional products through our fundraiser, please contact the school at (641) 648-6430.

Students who won “neatness awards” for their postcard booklets as part of the Riverbend Middle School fundraiser pose with their prizes: a giant tub of cheeseballs:  
7th Grade (top, left to right): Hannah Ellerding, Payton Hoffman, and Kolbi Tjarks (not pictured, Olivia Winkels).

8th Grade (left to right): Jacob Fjeld, Hannah Calkins, Chloe Fagerlind, and Jaclyn Lewer.



## Academic Eligibility for Middle School Extracurricular Activities

Middle school students are encouraged to participate in as many extracurricular activities as possible. Past research has shown that students who are involved in activities generally achieve academically higher than students who are not involved in these activities. Students who participate in extracurricular activities and school-sponsored clubs and organizations will be subject to the Riverbend Middle School Academic Eligibility Policy: Student grades will be checked every two weeks. All graded classes are included under this policy. If a student has one “F” at a grading checkpoint, he/she will be ineligible for a minimum of one week. If grades are passing after one week, he/she will regain eligibility. If not, they remain ineligible until grades are passing. While a student is ineligible, he/she must attend four study tables per week. Study tables will be from 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. and 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. All extra-curricular activities and before / after school clubs will be included in this policy. A student who is academically ineligible will be able to practice with his/her athletic team, and even travel with the team for competition, but will not be able to participate in competition while academically ineligible.

## An Opportunity for Parents / Guardians to Provide Feedback, Direction, and Leadership at Riverbend Middle School

*submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield*

The Riverbend Parent Advisory Council will meet monthly at Riverbend at noon on the second Thursday of each month. The purpose of this council is to learn about the day-to-day operations of the school, to serve as a sounding board, and to open the channels of communication between the principal and the parents / community. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 8. Council members are welcome to bring their own lunch or purchase school lunch (we do ask that you RSVP that morning if you are eating school lunch for the lunch count). You are welcome and invited to any council meeting that works for you and your schedule.

The Riverbend Parent Lighthouse Team will meet one Wednesday a month at 3:00 p.m. and additionally as needed. The purpose of the Parent Lighthouse Team is to provide direction and assistance with the implementation of "The Leader in Me" initiative here at Riverbend. Examples may include painting murals and motivational quotes on our walls, helping with field trips, assisting with community service projects, volunteering during the school day, etc. The first Parent Lighthouse Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in either or both of these or if you want additional information, please contact Riverbend Middle School.

## Riverbend Middle School Welcomes Mrs. Chelsie Meyer

Mrs. Chelsie Meyer joins the Riverbend Middle School teaching staff as 7th and 8th grade art teacher. Her hometown is Manning, Iowa. Mrs. Meyer received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, and earned her Master's Degree from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Meyer's previous teaching experience includes teaching 7th- and 8th-grade art at Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School for the past seven years. She student taught here in Iowa Falls and Riverbend Middle School.

"I have truly enjoyed getting to know my Riverbend students. I have been impressed with their sense of character. I have also enjoyed getting to know the faculty and staff at Riverbend, as everyone is so helpful!" Mrs. Meyer noted.

Mrs. Meyer's emphasis in college was sculpture. "I designed and constructed a sculpture for my high school, now IKM-Manning. This piece is titled the '3 A's to Academics' and was installed in June of 2008. Public art is a form of communication, and previous 8th grade students have been able to express their creative ideas through two student-designed sculptures. The Geometric sculpture project was a collaborative effort by many teachers, which involved a design imagined by 8th-graders and was constructed by the high school welding



"I have truly enjoyed getting to know my Riverbend students. I have been impressed with their sense of character. I have also enjoyed getting to know the faculty and staff at Riverbend, as everyone is so helpful!" – Mrs. Chelsie Meyer, middle school art teacher.

class. This project was installed at the Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School in May of 2013. This past August a sculpture titled 'Collision' was installed at Kohlmann Park in Waverly. This project was made possible by a \$5,000 R.J. McElroy grant. Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School 8th-graders designed the sculpture, and the University of Northern Iowa's Public Art Incubator constructed this sculpture. This was made possible with a collaborative partnership titled School & Community Public Art Partnership, which included the Waverly Design and Beautification Committee," added Mrs. Meyer. "Grant writing and continued collaboration is currently in the works for a future sculpture for Iowa Falls. I'm looking forward to connecting with Iowa Falls-Alden to create an art room where students and community come together!"



Eighth-grade students Cameron Neubauer and Tyler Watterson work at the pottery wheel during art exploratory class.

## Welcome to Riverbend Middle School, Mr. Dennis Knights

Mr. Dennis Knights joins the middle school teaching staff as 8th grade language arts and reading teacher. His hometown is right here in Iowa Falls. Mr. Knights's educational background includes an Associate's Degree from Ellsworth Community College here in Iowa Falls, a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from Buena Vista University, and a Master's of Education also from Buena Vista.

Prior to joining the Riverbend Middle School staff, Mr. Knights previously taught 6-12 language arts and reading at CAL-Latimer, 7th-grade language arts and reading at Mason City, and middle school / high school language arts and reading for Belmond-Klemme.

When asked what he has enjoyed most about his Riverbend experiences so far, Mr Knights responded with "Being able to come home and contribute to the school district which I graduated from." Something unique about Mr. Knights is that he collects antique and vintage typewriters.

"I most enjoy being able to come home and contribute to the school district which I graduated from." – Mr. Dennis Knight, Riverbend Middle School 8th grade language arts and reading teacher.





## Riverbend Middle School Welcomes Miss Paige Hageman

Miss Paige Hageman joins the Riverbend Middle School staff as 8th grade math and gifted education teacher. Her hometown is Coggon, Iowa, and she graduated from North Linn Community School District in Troy Mills, Iowa. She received her Bachelor's Degree in math education from the University of Northern Iowa. She has a degree in Math Teaching for grades 5-12 with a minor in Women and Gender Studies.

This is Miss Hageman's first teaching position. "I love the staff at Riverbend. I also enjoy getting to know the students," noted Miss Hageman. She also added, "Pigs are my favorite animals."

"I love the staff at Riverbend. I also enjoy getting to know the students." – Miss Paige Hageman, 8th grade math and gifted education teacher.



## Welcome to Riverbend Middle School Ms. Paula Tripp

Ms. Paula Jean-Klein Tripp joins the Riverbend staff as the 7th grade special education teacher. Her hometown is Alden, Iowa, and is shared between Riverbend Middle School (afternoons) and Iowa Falls – Alden High School (mornings). Ms. Tripp earned her undergraduate degree from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake and her graduate degree from Morningside College in Sioux City.

Ms. Tripp previously taught at CAL-Latimer as a middle school special education teacher for one year before taking a position as a high school special education at South Hardin High School in Eldora for seven years. Last year, she accepted a special education teaching position at Iowa Falls-Alden High School.

"I love how excited all the students are each day! The staff is so helpful and friendly, and I like the fact that I get to be in the same building as my 8th grade son, Stephen," Ms. Tripp stated about her time here at Riverbend so far. Ms. Tripp loves to sing and played the part of Sandy when her high school performed the Musical "Grease." When asked if she had anything else to add, Mrs. Tripp added, "GO CYCLONES!!!"

"I love how excited all the students are each day! The staff is so helpful and friendly." – Ms. Paula Tripp, 7th grade special education teacher



## Riverbend Middle School Welcomes Back Mrs. Holly Meyer

Riverbend Middle School is happy to welcome back Mrs. Holly Meyer to Riverbend this year, joining the staff as Student Success Coach. She previously taught grades 7-12

Family & Consumer Science at RMS and IF-A HS, and has also served as a substitute teacher. Mrs. Meyer's hometown is Geneva, Iowa. She earned her degree through Iowa State University.

"Hands down, the most enjoyable part about being at Riverbend Middle School is working with the students and staff. I love entering the building each day, knowing I get to build relationships with the phenomenal bunch of people inside that brick structure. I'm still trying to figure out how I got so lucky!" stated Mrs. Meyer when asked about Riverbend. "I'm a "behind-the-scenes" kind of gal. I am most comfortable outside of the spotlight. Oddly enough, over the years, I've sung at more than 100 events ranging all the way from baptisms to funerals, added Mrs. Meyer. "As both a parent and a staff member of the Iowa Falls and Alden Community School Districts, I'm so proud of everything our districts have to offer to the students and families in our community. There are some truly amazing things happening! I encourage you to find ways to use your talents to continue to make IF-A great!!"



"Hands down, the most enjoyable part about being at Riverbend Middle School is working with the students and staff. I love entering the building each day, knowing I get to build relationships with the phenomenal bunch of people inside that brick structure. I'm still trying to figure out how I got so lucky!" – Mrs. Holly Meyer, Middle School Student Success Coach.

## Welcome to Riverbend Middle School, Mr. Bud Ites

Mr. Bud Ites joins the Riverbend Middle School staff as our new head custodian. Mr. Ites's hometown is right here in Iowa Falls. Prior to accepting the head custodian position here at Riverbend, he served as a custodian at Iowa Falls-Alden High School.

Mr. Ites most enjoys, "... the nice and friendly staff, the challenges, seeing the kids enjoying themselves, and being a part of a great team." Mr. Ites loves to bow hunt, ride Harley Davidson motorcycles, see people enjoying life, and enjoying life to fullest. "Look at the positives and not the negatives of a situation," added Mr. Ites.

"I enjoy the nice and friendly staff, the challenges, seeing the kids enjoying themselves, and being a part of a great team." – Mr. Bud Ites, middle school head custodian



## Heat and Humidity a Challenge During Second Week of School

Have a plan for weather-related early outs, late starts, and no-school days  
submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield

For the first time in recent memory, the first week of the school year was a mild week for temperatures. This was welcomed, as it assisted our students and staff to settle into a routine right away. However, as luck would have it, the second week of school

the heat and humidity climbed, leading to consecutive early outs due to heat. Thank you to all students and families for your flexibility during these early outs.

I am sorry to have to say it, but winter weather is, in reality, just around the corner. Please develop a plan for your student(s) and communicate this to him/her in the event of an early out or late start due to weather. Iowa Falls and Alden Schools will continue to participate in a state-sponsored communication program entitled Iowa Alerts. Iowa Alerts provides another means by which parents, community members, and other interested persons will be notified when our schools have a delayed start, an early release, or are cancelled due to adverse weather. Participation in the Iowa Alerts program is free. It's easy to receive notices through the Iowa Alerts program. Interested persons can subscribe by going to the designated website (<https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>) and creating an account by clicking on the "Sign Up!" link. Once the account is created, notices can be received via email, cell phones, or email capable PDAs. There is no limit to number of addresses in the account. If there is ever a delayed start to school on a Wednesday, there will not be an early dismissal for teacher professional development that same day.

The humidity level was so high inside Riverbend Middle during the second week of school, that the tile floor in Mr. Gronewold's 8th-grade science classroom was accumulating moisture. Temperatures inside the building approached 90 degrees.



## Cadet Concessions!

Welcome to the Cadet Concession Stand at Riverbend Middle School! This year we will be trying new items in our concession stand. The Riverbend Middle School would appreciate your support (and, of course, your appetite). The Cadet Concession Stand will be open during middle school home volleyball and basketball games, as well as our home wrestling meets.

We will be trying new items as the year goes on. If you have a suggestion or a concession stand favorite, stop by and share.

We would like to recognize our student leaders who will be helping out in the concession stand as well as Mrs. Isaacson, the concession stand coordinator. Thanks, in advance, for supporting our Cadet Concessions here at Riverbend Middle School!



Student leaders Patience Smith (left) and Skylar Warmbier will be helping out at the new and improved Cadet Concession Stand during home sporting events at Riverbend Middle School during the 2015-2016 school year.

Below is the menu of what we are going to start off with at our Cadet Concession Stand.

<b>Hot Dogs</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Nachos with cheese</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Pretzels with cheese</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Fruit Snacks</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Candy Bars/Candy</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Pop/Water/Tea/Gatorade</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Popcorn</b>	<b>\$0.50</b>
<b>Homemade Goods</b>	<b>\$0.50</b>

## Iowa State Patrolman Mark Segworth Teaches Digital Citizenship

*submitted by Mr. Jeff Burchfield*

On Wednesday, August 20, Iowa State Patrolman Mark Segworth met with fifth grade through high school parents/guardians and students in the Iowa Falls-Alden Jerene Barlow Auditorium for two sessions on digital citizenship. Trooper Segworth has been with the Iowa State Patrol for 19 years, and eight of those years have served to educate families and the public.

"Students, you are LUCKY that the schools are providing you with computers to use," stated Trooper Segworth. "Technology is a PRIVILEGE, not a right. If you do not use the technology ethically, there are consequences. The Internet is a worldwide billboard. Once you post, you can't bring it back," continued Trooper Segworth. "Think before you post! Be careful what you post!"

"A lot of my presentation is going to be geared to the parents. By providing your son or daughter with a computer, the school has saved you a lot of money. With that computer comes responsibility." Trooper Segworth went on to address to parents and guardians the difference of the students growing up with technology while the parents/guardians did not. "Parents and computers often equals confusion. Facebook, for example, is often a smokescreen for other social media that the students are using without parents' knowledge." Trooper Segworth then listed several social media outlets that students have "at their fingertips all the time."

"Privatize stuff and be careful what you put out there," advised Trooper Segworth. He further advised students not to post pictures for anyone to see that can be used to identify what school they attend, where they live, how old they are, what activities they participate in. "Anything you post could be used against you." He then went on to give the following advice before posting, "Take three deep breaths before posting. After three deep



Iowa State Patrolman Mark Segworth met with fifth grade through high school parents/guardians and students in the Iowa Falls-Alden Jerene Barlow Auditorium on digital citizenship on August 20. He will be back to give two more presentations on Thursday, September 24, for anyone who missed his first presentations, at 5:30 and 6:15 p.m.

breaths, ask yourself 'Is this a good idea?' If you have any inclination that this is not a good idea, do not post!"

Trooper Segworth then challenged the parents or guardians with some homework:

- Put your home / school computer in a family room, kitchen, or living room. Check the history to see what sites your child is visiting.
- Monitor your child's texts and data. If they abuse it, discontinue these services.
- Talk with your child about the dangers of sharing information on social media sites. The more information that is out there, the greater the chance they can be bullied or preyed upon.
- Establish rules. Discuss the rules. Get your child to adhere to them. Post them near the computer as a reminder. If rules are broken, computer privileges are gone.

Trooper Segworth then closed his presentation with the "Bottom Line":

- Don't lose it!
- Don't break it!
- Be careful what you post!
- Be careful who you chat with and share information with.
- You break the rules, then the school and parents need to do their job and agree on the ramifications.

On behalf of the Iowa Falls and Alden school districts, I would like to thank Trooper Segworth for his presentations. He will be back to give two more presentations on Thursday, September 24, for anyone who missed his first presentations. He will be again at the Iowa Falls-Alden Jerene Barlow Auditorium at 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. Each presentation will be approximately 30 minutes in length. An additional make-up session will be arranged for anyone who is again not able to attend.

## Rock Run Elementary

### 2015 Summer Reading Challenge:

#### Wild About Reading

For the third annual Summer Reading Challenge, the Rock Run staff challenged incoming third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders to a reading duel. Students were given a book log to record the minutes they read over the summer. Each student also received a United Book (a specific title to read for that grade level) to read over the summer. When students turned in a book log this fall, they received a bookmark and pencil. Then, for every 60 minutes students read, they were able to fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win prizes such as: a tablet, a GoPro Camera, a comfy reading chair, being a banker for a day at Iowa Falls State Bank, presenting a donation to the Greenbelt Humane Society sponsored by Green Belt Bank & Trust, and a pizza lunch with Mr. Swartzendruber.

An assembly was held the first Friday of the school year to draw for the prizes and announce other surprise rewards. Students that read over 1,200 minutes received a certificate and learned they soon would be receiving a special "Wild About Reading" T-shirt. The top reader from each grade level also earned a "Readers Are Leaders" cinch bag.

But after all was said and done, perhaps the most motivating part for the students was the chance to beat their teachers again. Each grade level of students faced a group of about 10 staff members, with the reward being not only bragging rights but also a popcorn party. This year's totals proved that every minute counts, especially in 4th grade! Here are the results:

#### 3rd Grade

Teachers: 42,280 minutes

Students: 31,614 minutes

\*Teachers won!

#### 4th Grade

Teachers: 57,880 minutes

Students: 61,799 minutes

\*Students won!

#### 5th Grade

Teachers: 45,000 minutes

Students: 49,619 minutes

\*Students won!

#### School Totals

Teachers: 145,160 minutes

Students: 155,925 minutes

\*Students won!

As you can see fourth- and fifth-graders squeaked out a narrow victory. They will both be joined by 3rd grade teachers for a popcorn party. As a school, we met our goal of 250,000 minutes by reading a total of 300,365 minutes! We are very proud of our students and their commitment to become better readers. Nothing beats the "summer slide" like reading all summer long. Congratulations to students who par-

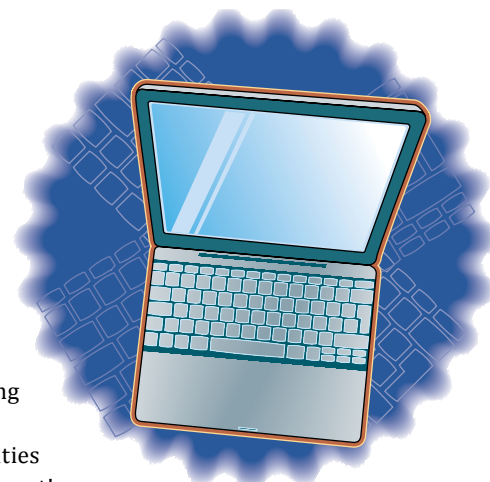
ticipated in the Summer Reading Challenge and read over the summer!

#### Students vs. Businesses Reading Challenge

This summer, at the BIE breakfast, students of Rock Run Elementary challenged local businesses to get Wild About Reading! The Students vs. Businesses Reading Challenge, set to kick off September 1, will put students head to head...or book to book... with area participants. Logging minutes read, participating businesses will compete with an assigned classroom at The Rock. Minutes read will be score boarded at Rock Run, so students and businesses can keep tabs on who's ahead. The challenge will wrap up in May...just in time for the Teachers to issue a challenge of their own.

### Technology Galore

When you walk into a fifth grade classroom this year, what do you think you will see? We are thrilled to say that you will see every fifth-grader with their own laptop. The kids are very excited about this opportunity and are adjusting to managing their own computer throughout the day. Having computers has allowed us to integrate more technology into our daily routines. Students are learning how to use email appropriately, use Google classroom to complete assignments, use Google docs to collaborate on assignments, and much more. It has allowed teachers to find some great online opportunities for students to use to increase comprehension and keep up on current events. Newsela is a great site that allows kids to read non-fiction articles at all different reading levels and then engage in a writing activity or a conversation. For language, we have found a wonderful program called Write to Learn that we will be implementing soon. This program allows students to have instant feedback when they finish a writing assignment and helps them redo the assignment until they hit a mastery level. Students are also excited to have more iPads in our classrooms thanks to a donation from Cargill last spring. The teachers have spent time finding motivating apps that make learning fun for students. We can't wait to see what other opportunities we will find throughout the year to implement!



## Toothpaste Fun

The 5th grade hallways smelled minty fresh during the first week back to school. Students were using toothpaste to learn some valuable lessons, but the lessons were not about brushing their teeth. Students competed in teams to get as much toothpaste out of a tube as possible. The catch was, that once the toothpaste was out, they had to figure out how to get it back in. Getting the toothpaste back in proved to be much more difficult than getting it out- a concept that students were able to relate to social media and rumors. Fifth-graders made connections about how messy the toothpaste got when it was out and how hard it was to get back, to the hurtful words that people use online or with their friends. Students also related the activity to the 7 Habits because people who say mean things are not beginning with the end in mind or being proactive, which results in situations that are not win-win. In the end, it was a fun activity that allowed students to synergize and learn some valuable lessons that they will remember every time they brush their teeth.



## Collecting For Education

It's time once again to start collecting Hy-Vee receipts for the Shop Smart for Education program. Save your receipts from our local Iowa Falls Hy-Vee and send them to school. Rock Run also collects Box Tops for Education, located on a multitude of General Mills products. Cut out the small Box Tops rectangles and send them to school. Pizza Ranch Wagons (off of pizza boxes), are also collected. Pop tabs are also collected to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. These can be sent to school with your child or dropped off in the main office. Saving these items and sending them to school only costs you your time, but provides us with much more than that. Each year funds from these sources enable us to provide books, resources and materials for students that would not otherwise be possible. Thanks for your support.

## Elementary Fund Raiser

The annual Elementary Fundraiser kicked off on September 16 and ended on October 2. Family and friends again had the opportunity to purchase Chip Shoppe food items from Rock Run and Pineview students. The fundraiser money will be used for technology, curriculum, student activities and re-

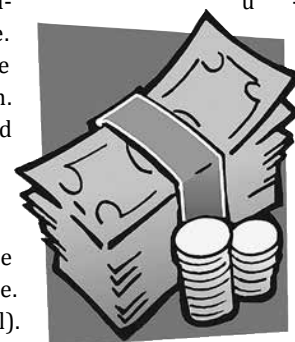


wards. The delivery date is November 4 from 4-6 p.m.

## Rock Run Computer Students Explore AEA Online Resources

by Lisa Bartlett

The students at Rock Run Elementary have been exploring the many uses of the Iowa AEA Online Databases in computer class. These educational tools are available to all students free of charge. The students are given time in class to explore each site in hopes of becoming an "expert" at locating information. We have also discussed examples of how each site could help students with different tasks throughout the school year and even scenarios for how it might help them at home. So far student favorites include: Britannica Online, Culture Grams, and Learn360. Your students can access the AEA resources from the following site: [www.iowaaeaonline.org](http://www.iowaaeaonline.org) (username and password are available from the school).



## Welcome to Art!

**CLASSROOM WEBSITE:** [iafallsart.weebly.com](http://iafallsart.weebly.com)

This site is intended to serve as both an informational tool for parents and to help provide students with the means necessary to be productive, contributing members of the Art class. As you navigate this site, you will find a host of tools, resources and information related to the Art class and curriculum.

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** Rock Run Elementary & Riverbend Middle School Art

## Looking to support the arts?

Please contact Chelsie Meyer via email [chelmeyer@ifacadets.net](mailto:chelmeyer@ifacadets.net) if you would be willing to volunteer your time helping in the art room. This could include taking photos of students' artwork, sorting supplies, and helping organize students' artwork for display opportunities. If you would like to help with Fine Arts Night, we are also looking for volunteers for this date as well!

## What have students been up to in art?

### Rock Run Elementary

Third-graders are learning how to draw self-portraits for a "We Are Leaders" display! They learned about Chuck Close, a famous portrait artist.

Fourth-graders are learning how to draw various plants for a "Growing Leaders" display. Looking at Georgia O'Keeffe's flower studies from her time in New Mexico.

Fifth-graders are thinking about ways in which they are leaders at school and at home as they create a super leader based on their own leadership qualities!

Elementary students are learning basic drawing skills through these projects as we explore ways in which we can all be leaders!

### Riverbend Middle School

Seventh- and eighth-graders are into their first exploratory hex!

Seventh-graders just finished up learning about color and color theories! They were also able to study the foundations of art through elements and principles of design. We are just starting to learn how to draw in one-point perspective.

Eighth-graders designed their own personal logos after learning about branding



and marketing. They then learned about printmaking techniques as they completed their first linoleum block print. We are just starting to learn how to throw on the potter's wheel.

**Eighth-graders are sharing their artwork via their Data Notebooks!**

**We would greatly appreciate comments on our artwork!**

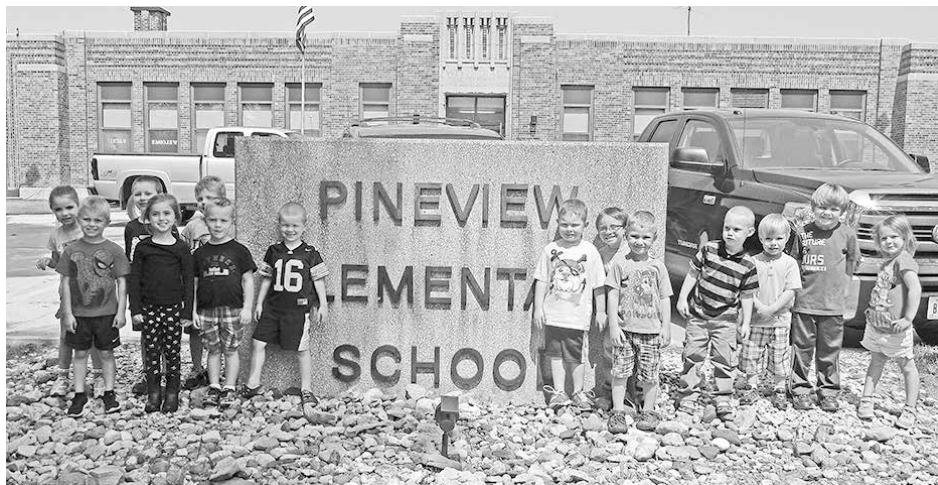
**Swing on over to [www.iafallsart.weebly.com/2015-2016-data-notebooks](http://www.iafallsart.weebly.com/2015-2016-data-notebooks) Check out how they created their masterpieces as they explain the process!**

### TEN Lessons the Arts Teach from the National Arts Education Association

1. The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships, unlike much of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the arts, it is judgment rather than rules that prevail.
2. The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.

3. The arts celebrate multiple perspectives. One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.
4. The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed, but change with circumstance and opportunity. Learning in the arts requires the ability and a willingness to surrender to the unanticipated possibilities of the work as it unfolds.
5. The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor numbers exhaust what we can know. The limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognition.
6. The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects. The arts traffic in subtleties.
7. The arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means through which images become real.
8. The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them feel, they must reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job.
9. The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling.
10. The arts' position in the school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults believe is important.

## Pineview Elementary



### Excited for an AWESOME Year in K-Prep

K-Prep students are off to a very exciting start! During the year the students will learn their letter sounds and names. They will also be introduced to pre-primer sight words. In Math K-Prep students will start building their math skills with the numbers 0-20. They will work on shapes, colors and patterns. As a part of the



Everyday Math program students will explore how math is all around them.

K-Prep students will learn about the 7 Habits and what it means to be a leader. We will read stories about the 7 Habits and look for ways to be leaders at school and home. K-Prep will use all 7 Habits while keeping our main focus on Habits 1-3. As we learn about ways to be a leader, we will learn to set goals and to reach those goals. These leadership skills will help K-prep students to become independent.

### Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's off to Kindergarten We Go!

We are off and running in Kindergarten! Some faces have been in Pineview before but many faces are new so we



have been spending the last few weeks learning about our new friends, new class routines, and learning about being a leader using Covey's 7 Habits! We have been practicing how to be leaders at recess, in the lunchroom, the hallways, and in the classroom.

## Pineview First Graders Get A "Boost-Up"

The first-graders at Pineview Elementary are enjoying "Boost Up!" During Boost Up, first-graders learn and practice skills that involve crossing the mid-line, using upper body muscles, gross motor muscles and brain stimulating activities.

Boost-up is a multi sensory approach to learning and involves brain stimulation activities to help prepare children to learn. The program develops visual, auditory, balance, fine and gross motor skills, which are all essential for classroom and academic success. These activities also improve each child's physical fitness, strength, coordination and ability to pay attention. Some activities include: crawling, creeping, balancing, rolling, and eye tracking. Once these readiness skills are in place, the children will have the foundation necessary to succeed in school. They are truly getting a "Boost-Up!"



## 2nd Grade Subject Spotlight on Writing

This year the second grade students are switching classes in the morning for 30 minutes of work on different subjects. In Mr. Johnson's room they are focusing on writing. This year the students will be focusing on the 6-Traits of Writing. Each month of the school year will focus on one of the traits. In September and October we will focus on Ideas and Content. In November we will focus on Organization where kids will make sure their stories have beginnings, middles, and endings. In December we will focus



on Word Choice where students will be challenged to use strong verbs and interesting adjectives. In January we will focus on Sentence Fluency where students will work on varying sentence length and fixing run-on and rumbly sentences. In February we will focus on Voice where students will need to use formal and informal language and use different writing styles. In March we will focus on Conventions. The rest of the school year will be spent working on perfecting our writing skills by writing creative stories. Be sure to check your child's Leadership Notebook for the exciting stories they will be writing this year!

## What Is Reading Recovery?

"Just give me that book. I can read it myself." Hearing those words is every Reading Recovery teacher's dream. It is the goal of the Reading Recovery program to develop strategic independent readers. Iowa Falls has endorsed this philosophy through the Reading Recovery Program for the last 18 years, serving 273 students. The district has three Reading Recovery teachers: Miss Adams, Mrs. Hastings, and Mrs. Hunt. They not only use this training with Reading Recovery students, but also to effectively reach Title I Reading students in kindergarten, first and second grade.

Reading Recovery is an individualized program for selected first-graders. Each child receives a 30-minute one-on-one lesson designed to work on early reading and writing strategies. During each lesson the student rereads familiar books, learns how words work, writes sentences about the books he/she reads or happenings in their lives, and reads a new book that is slightly more challenging. Through running records and observations, teachers form teaching points to direct a student's learning. Teachers encourage rereading, learning word chunks, and checking the picture. Within the lesson, students work on fluency and flexibility in both reading and writing. Students build up a writing vocabulary of known words and learn to stretch through new words they want to use in their writing.

Parents are a vital part of this program. Daily home reading practice is essential for the student's success. Classroom teachers and Reading Recovery teachers work closely to help the students make progress. A student is ready to be discontinued (graduated) from the program when he/she is independently reading and writing at the average of their class. The goal is for the child to have a self-extending system that allows him/her to read increasingly difficult text as he/she continues through school. Reading strategies taught in the Reading Recovery program are good for all children. The techniques taught in the Reading Recovery program are the same strategies that are taught in the classrooms. They are just selectively taught, as a child needs them in an individualized manner. Since all of us become better readers by reading and reading often, it is important for all students to practice reading books at his/her reading level every day.

If you have any questions about reading to or with your children, please feel free to call one of the Reading Recovery teachers at Pineview, 648-6410.

## Pineview Mentors Needed

The Pineview Mentoring program is looking for a few good mentors to work with children in grades kindergarten through second for this year. We still have several children who need mentors for this school year. Pineview mentors serve as role models for children who are currently identified as needing support in their academics or in learning important social skills.

A mentor might read with a child one-on-one, play a game together, work on writing skills, talk, or enjoy working on math problems. Currently, our mentors work with students in the areas of reading, math, writing, and social skills.

If you are interested in becoming a Pineview mentor or are thinking that you might enjoy this role but have questions, please feel free to contact Kate Hornung at Pineview Elementary, 648-6410.

## We Need Your Help!!

All you have to do is save your Hy-Vee receipts, Pizza Ranch Wagons, and General Mills box tops and turn them in to the school! The school receives money from each of these receipts or box tops. Last year the school redeemed approximately \$1,000 from Box Tops, \$600



from Hy-Vee, and over \$100 from Pizza Ranch. Thank you in advance for your help with this great fundraiser!!

Pineview is in need of a volunteer to add the Hy-Vee receipts that are turned in for the Dollars For Scholars program, as well as a volunteer to count and bag box tops. Please contact Melanie in the office (648-6410) with questions or if you are interested in helping us out.

## Alden Elementary

### “Shoot for the moon...even if you miss, you will land among the stars.”

We are BLASTING OFF into a new school year! Our space theme has us actually starting at Pluto and shooting for the sun! Read more information in our School-Wide Goal article. We are looking for area businesses to join us in reading as well. If you'd like to track your reading minutes and join in the friendly competition, please contact Mrs. Nelson!

As always, we encourage parents to keep our school informed of anything we can do to best support your child(ren) and their learning. Each teacher has a phone with voice-mail, email address, and can also meet in person. We also welcome parents during lunch time; adult lunch cost is \$3.35.

### Alden's School-wide Goal

Everyone has heard the proverb “Practice makes perfect.” In learning to read it is true that reading practice—just reading—is a powerful contributor to the development of accurate, fluent, high-comprehension reading (Allington, 2009a).

At every age level, reading more pages/minutes in school and at home each day was associated with higher reading scores. All children need to acquire the ability to read for at least 30 minutes a day independently.

With this research in mind, a school-wide goal committee was set up. The theme for the year is “Read to the Outer Limits.” Our goal is to get kids to read more and in turn, increase reading achievement. Classrooms have set their goals and each class will be racing to all the planets.

Information was sent home in the Wednesday folders and teachers have sent home reading logs to track minutes read at home. Please do your part to support our school-wide goal.

Here is one more piece of research on why reading outside of school is so important (Anderson, Wilson & Fielding 1988):

#### READING VOLUME OF FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement Percentile	Minutes read/day	Words per Year
90th	40.4	2,357,000
50th	12.9	601,000
10th	1.6	51,000

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

We look forward to 100 percent attendance for fall conferences this year! Sixth grade is an open house format, with times running 3:30-7:30 pm, on October 8 and 13. Mrs. McDaniel will be scheduling K-5 conferences with notes coming home by the end of September. If those dates do not work for your schedule, please let us know so we can set up an alternate time. Sixth grade conferences are a come and go format. However, if

you wish to meet with teachers, we will schedule individual appointments. We are also available before or after school as well. We are excited to share your child(ren)'s progress and fall assessment scores.

### Principal Chats

Mrs. Nelson will be meeting with every student in grades K-6 this school year. The goal is to collect student input and feedback on how things are going at Alden Elementary. Students will meet in groups of 4-6 for a few minutes each week. So far, kindergartners have shared that they love recess and free choice time. Sixth grade students like the staff and school lunches!

### Fall Parties

PK-5 students will have the opportunity to wear their costumes on Friday, October 30, for our annual fall parties and costume parade. The parade will begin at 2:30 pm. Sixth grade students will have an alternate activity that day, based upon the Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum. Information will be sent home in Wednesday folders in regard to their expectations. A reminder to parents of the costume areas to avoid:

1. No masks (not safe when going on our parade up/down steps)
2. No make up—no time to apply
3. No weapons

#### PK Students:

\*Only 4- and 5-year-olds will bring costumes and will join K-5 students in the parade.

### Fall Fundraiser

All PK-6 students will bring home information on September 30, about our school fundraiser. This year we are again selling food items, including French Silk Pie, pizza, and much more! Orders will be due October 13, and items will arrive before Thanksgiving so you can make deliveries to relatives. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 this year to support our purchase of classroom literacy items and technology.



### Leader in Me Gallup Student Poll

During the month of September, our fifth and sixth grade students will participate in a 10-minute survey to measure the three key indicators shown to drive student achieve-

ment, future employment and leadership skills: 1) student hope for the future, 2) engagement with school, and 3) well-being. The poll is a part of our Leader in Me efforts and will be anonymous.

## Veteran's Concert

Our Alden Elementary School Sixth Grade Band and Choir invite all family and community members, especially those who have served in our armed forces, to our Veteran's Concert on Monday, November 9, at 7 p.m. in the Alden School gymnasium. This year's concert lifts up those veterans who are currently serving as well as those who have returned home. The concert features selections by band and choir, as well as students narrating the program.

Additionally, the Veterans Wall gives community members an opportunity to lift up those veterans who are family or friends. To be included on the veterans wall, please send the following information, either by returning this form or emailing koliver@ifacadets.net by November 5.

Veterans Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch of Military and Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates of Service (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_  
 Any interesting fact about their service (if desired) \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to seeing you at this year's concert!

## Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 30: Fundraiser Kick-Off

Oct. 8 & 13: 1-Hour Early Dismissal for P/T Conferences



Francie Off: Teachers shared photos of the amazing places they read over the summer!



Mrs. Duit has a new role as Success Coach this year. She will be working with teachers and students, helping them be leaders and learners! Kindergarten students have started Principal Chats with Mrs. Nelson this year!

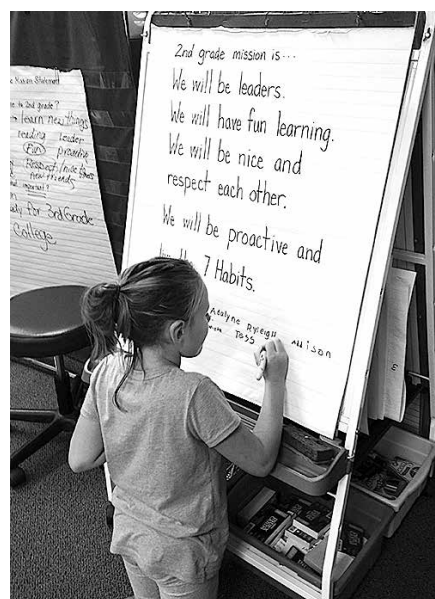


Chart one: Students have been working on class mission statements to kick-off the year!



We hope all kids are 'wild' about reading!



Students: We kicked off our schoolwide reading goal, focusing on reading.

