

Bobcat Bits

Hemingford Public Schools

April 2007

Fostering Education

HEADING TOWARDS APRIL

We are into the fourth quarter of school. It is time for me to start to reflect on this school year. We have had a very productive and rewarding year so far. I've seen what the kids have done and believe together we can achieve even more. **We are just getting started!** Please continue to encourage your child to finish the school year in a strong manner.

TESTING

We will administer the spring MAPS tests in April. The tentative dates are April 10-19 and 24-27. **Please ask them about their testing.** In addition to these tests the teachers have also been administering many other forms of assessments to measure your child's progress this year. I have been very pleased with the results so far, but remember **FINISH STRONG IS OUR MOTTO!** We appreciate the support and encouragement you give your child each day to do their best in school.



SPRING WRITING

The staff evaluated and scored all students papers on March 7th. This opportunity provided both the students and staff with information necessary to improve our writing process. We made good progress from the fall to the spring. We will continue to work at getting even better. Remember being a good writer is one of the cornerstones to being successful.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please remember to save the box tops that are found on many different food items. They allow us to earn money for our school. This is another great way to help our school.

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you for your attendance during our spring conferences. We had a 91 % turnout. **GREAT JOB, PARENTS!**

I know how busy our lives can be, but remember 10 – 15 minutes is a small amount of time that can make a world of difference in your child's life. Thanks again for your commitment to our school. Please feel free to visit us anytime.

Together we can make a difference for kids! Call us with any questions at 487-3330.



April 5th – 1:00 p.m. Dismissal

April 6th – 9th – No School Easter Break

April 10-19 & 24-27 MAPS TESTING

April 19th 6th Grade Bingo Night 5:30p.m.

April 20th – 1:00 p.m. Dismissal

April 30th – K – 6th Music Program 7:00 p.m.



Hot Lunch accounts need to be at a positive balance by May 17, so your child will be allowed to check out on May 18!



Grease

The Hemingford High School Drama department proudly presents **Grease** at this year's dinner theater. Performances will be held April 13 at 7:00 p.m., April 14 at 7:00 p.m., and April 15 at 5:00 p.m. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each performance. All tickets will be

sold in advance. Prices are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students and senior citizens. If you want to purchase tickets, contact a drama member or call Jane at (308) 487-3328. Step back into the '1950's and come have fun with us!

Thayer's Thoughts

As I turn the page to the April calendar, I wonder where another year has gone. With the weather this beautiful, it is difficult for many students to focus on school work; however this quarter is crucial especially to juniors where often the 6th semester GPA is used for college applications and scholarships. As you can see elsewhere in the newsletter and calendar, many activities of all sorts are still in high gear.



Update on Eligibility

A group did present to the school board asking that they do not consider PROM into the eligibility policy. The board did affirm their position that the eligibility policy will apply to Prom. This means that for students to be eligible to attend prom, they must be eligible for the period of Wednesday, April 25 through Tuesday, May 1st. This period of time is after progress reports. Again K12 can help keep students and parents informed. Please ask your child about their grades before it may be an issue.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conference turn out was at about 68%. This may be down slightly from the 1st quarter due to the fact that you may monitor your child's progress via K12 planet but if you have suggestions on how the school can increase attendance or make it more beneficial to you, please call me or contact me via email- pthayer@panesu.org Progress reports for 4th quarter should be in the mail on approximately April 17.

Absent or Truant?

When it is necessary for a student to be absent for a non-school related activity, the parent or guardian is asked to call the school prior to 9:00 am. This is to ensure safety and accountability for your child. After this time students who have not been called in will be marked truant. According to the school handbook, students may make-up the missed work, however, no credit is earned when a student is considered truant. Your help is appreciated in calling students in prior to them being absent.

Scheduling Process

Progress is just beginning with scheduling for next year. Students have turned in their course selections for next year. Throughout the rest of the school year, Mrs. Hucke and Mrs. Thayer will be working on a preliminary schedule. This would include what courses are being offered and which period. Any semester failures will result in scheduling for recovery credit. It is more difficult to put a schedule together for a student when they are out of sink with the normal classes. It will limit their choices. If your child wants to take a look at their choices, have them contact Mrs. Hucke. Once the student sees their schedule, they will still have the opportunity to make changes.

Busy, Busy, Busy

The April calendar is full of activities; however, students can not afford for the academic piece to slide. Assignments should be turned in prior to leaving for golf, track, art day, music, or state competitions and conventions. Eligibility is in effect even if the absence is excused. Check the calendar for dates.

Fine Arts: Vocal Clinic, WTC Art Day, Spring Musical, HS Spring Concert, District Music Contest

Quiz Bowl:

FFA: Safety Day, State FFA, Ag Field Trip, Banquet (May)

FCCLA: State Convention, Big Brother/Sister, Banquet (May)

Sports: Track and Golf Banquet (May)

Spring Standardized Testing (Map Testing)

It seems not long ago that the fall testing was finished. The spring testing helps the faculty gauge what information has been retained throughout the year. Faculty also uses this information to modify curriculum to meet the needs of the students. The testing window is been set April 10-23. Normally we schedule during the first week and complete during the second. These tests are done on the computer with results back to the student instantaneously. We will be able to share the progress made by students with the students later in April.

Getting a good night's sleep and eating breakfast does help the students concentration levels thus enabling the school to get a better picture of your child's strengths.

This is an excerpt taken from the NWEA website to help to provide additional information the MAP test.

During the weeks of April 10-23; your child will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics, reading, language usage, and science. Your child will take the tests on a computer. Cont'd on page 3

Thayer's Thoughts cont'd

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the next few days, your child will spend a total of about three hours completing these tests.

Each school year, students in grades K– 1 take the tests in September and then again take the tests in April. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child's growth.

Other testing that also takes place in April are the State Required STAR assessments which students take during their scheduled class period; Juniors will be taking the ASSET test which is used at Community Colleges and some on-line classes, ACT if the student has signed up for the April date.

UPSHIFT DAY FOR GRADE 6

Wednesday, May 2 8:30-10:30 am

A slight change in the schedule this year—6th grade students will be in the high school building for part of the morning. At that time, they will visit with representatives from student council and current 7th graders; participate in a building tour, and visiting with next year's teachers. They will return to their classroom for the rest of the day. Lunch will not be open campus that day. An individual schedule will be going home with the 6th grade students.



Cat Scratches

Mr. Ningen, Superintendent

A Time for Renewal

This time of year the challenge in our classrooms in Hemingford is to not dwell too much on the warm sunny days that approach, or the thoughts of baseball, fishing, hiking, camping, and getting that perfect summer job. The task of doing school work, of trying to stay busy, and squeeze in a few more productive days seems difficult some days. *(And I'm just talking about the staff members!)*

Seriously though, for parents, teachers, AND students, spring means that everywhere around us, the world is changing. It is alive with new colors and textures, new life in the fields, new plants springing up, and new days ahead. The air seems fresher, the birds are singing, and it's great to get outside.

In order for all of these new things to fit into our busy lives, there is an overwhelming need to prepare. The renewal and newness that is upon us can be made even better because we have laid some groundwork. Just like the farmers and ranchers all around us, there are preparations required so that spring, summer, and even fall will be successful.

The few weeks that remain in the school year are golden opportunities to get things in order so that our summer can be focused on family, a job, additional school, or recreational activities. The feeling that we have all done our best *(students, parents, and staff)* to complete assignments, study for exams, and put forth our very best effort will help to guarantee a happy summer, as well as putting us all in a better position for next fall.

PARENTS

1.) *I ask that parents help their children to continue to get enough sleep for the next two months, as well as asking specific questions about classes or activities;*

STAFF MEMBERS

2.) *I ask teachers and staff to reach out to students and each other to provide additional time before and after school to assist the completion of coursework; and:*

STUDENTS

3.) *I ask students to not back away from their work the last quarter. Keep asking questions – keep challenging yourself by going beyond the minimum assignments*

There is tremendous value in being aggressive with the final nine weeks. Attacking homework and studies is necessary. Not only will the completion of all this hard work be more meaningful, but the days will pass much more quickly!!

Let's work hard this spring!!

ACT Prep Spring 2007

The ACT Prep class is coming to your school. The ACT Prep class will be offered over a three week period starting on March 28th and finishing on April 12th via distance learning. All sessions start at 7 a.m. and it will only cost you \$10.

The ACT measures the knowledge, understanding, and skills that you have acquired throughout your education. Although the sum total of what a person has learned cannot easily be changed, your performance in a specific area can be affected by adequate preparation, especially if it has been some time since you have taken a course in that area.

This class will cover the three strategies that will prepare you for the content included in the ACT:

Familiarize yourself with the content of the ACT tests.

Refresh your knowledge and skills in the content areas.

Identify the content areas you have not studied.

Class Schedule (each session runs from 7:00 to 7:50 a.m.)

March 28th - Test Taking Skills

March 29 & 30, April 2 - English

April 3, 4, 5 - Science

April 10, 11, 12 - Math

Cost: \$10 per student

(make checks payable to Gering High School)

Giorgi's Gym

2007 World Sport Stacking Championships

The Sport Stacking Championships (cup stacking) will be held April 14th and 15th in the Denver Coliseum. The Sunday competition will be filmed for ESPN. If anyone is interested in forming a team of 4 and competing, please see Mrs. Giorgi for registration form and more info.

Physical Fitness Testing

Testing will be taking place the end of April/beginning of May. Make sure your child is getting exercise at home - remember at least 10,000 steps a day and an hour a day of physical activity.

FAMILY POWER EXCERPT #2

Weight and Behavior Change

Body weight is actually the result of many, many behaviors that include both food and activity, everything from how many soft drinks are consumed to how many hours are spent watching television. If weight gain is a problem, the only way to stop it is to change some - but not necessarily all - of the behaviors that are behind the gain. If weight loss is a goal, either more behaviors need to be changed or more significant changes need to be made to a few behaviors.

It is nearly impossible, and it is not recommended, to try to follow every one of the 5 Simple Rules at once. Instead, it works better to take small, progressive steps and make changes one at a time. Most of us are ready to make some of the recommended changes but not others. That's okay. For example, you may feel comfortable adding an after-dinner walk as a family activity, but you may not be comfortable with cutting down on fast-food meals. Focus first on those changes that are realistic - it improves the chances that the changes you make will become part of the family's routine. It is also not necessary to follow all the 5 Simple Rules completely. Consistency in making a few changes is more likely to lead to lasting success than trying to do everything at once.

Miller-Kovach, Karen. Weight Watchers Family Power. New Jersey: Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006.

The Music Parents will be having another meeting April 12, 2007 at 5:30 in the Music room. They are planning a day trip for 7-12 music students in May. See you there!

We had four students qualify for Western Trails Honor Band this year. Melissa Cervantes, Flute who received honors for 4 year participation, Gina Jespersen, Flute Megan Roland, Alto Sax and Britt Anderson, Clarinet. The students spend the day in rehearsal with Mr. Lambert from Chadron State College and gave an evening performance.

The High School Band and Choirs attended Panhandle Conference Music Contest on March 20th where they received several honors. The Band and Choirs received the top rating of Superior. Michael Bergfield, Britt Anderson, Robyn Wright, Kate Kraenow, Melissa Cervantes, Ashley Yardley, Taylor Jespersen, Brooke Hannaford, Jordan Peterson, Shawney Wright, Felicia Vela, Kayleen, Katoya, Bethany Wacker, Emily Sample, Meranda Keane, Adam Jensen, Tanner Sorensen, Travis Kettlemen, Tami Goldstedt, Sha-nea Orr, Todd Procaska, Cody, Jake Yardley, Stephanie Whipple and Tanner Green also received top Superior ratings.

Britt Anderson was awarded the best Solo overall, while Taylor Jespersen and Jordan Peterson received top Duet overall and Megan Roland, Kate Kraenow and Brooke Hannaford received top Trio overall. Hemingford was named Panhandle Conference Music Champions for 2007!

The Choir will be participating in a choral clinic in preparation for district Music Contest that will be held on April 20, 2007. The clinic will be held on April 2, 2007 at Chadron High School.

Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. will be the High School Spring Concert. Please join the Choirs and the Band for their home performance and Champion Musicianship.

That same week the Flag Corp tryouts will be held for any student attending Hemingford Public Schools who is going to be in grades 9-12 in the 2007-2008 school year. Drum major/majorette tryouts will be going for any student who will be in Band in grades 9-11. Monday, April 30, 2007 will be the K-6 Elementary Spring Concert. Students in grades K-6 need to remember to dress nice. Students in Elementary continue working on steady beats, singing songs, playing rhythms, recorders, mastering music from other cultures, playing in the 5/6 Band and much more!

Neefe's News:

FCCLA:

State FCCLA: April 1-3

- Congrats to our state STAR participants. Gina Jespersen in Job Interview and Tasha Moss and Ashley McCoy in Health and Wellness
- Good Luck to the following in running for a District officer:
 - Taylor Jespersen for President
 - Josie Fletcher for Financial Coordinator
 - Gina Jespersen for Student Body rep.
 - Megan Roland for Family First rep.
 - Teonna Schleicher for Middle School rep.

Big brother/sister: April 4

Monthly meeting: April 16 at 7:00 pm.

We will be electing officers for the 2007-08 school year.

FCS:

Child development: We have been doing the "Baby think it over program" in this class. We will also start planning our preschool for the end of the year.

Interior design: We have been learning about the elements and principles of design. We will be applying these principles in the FCS room.

Foods: We are learning about breads this month with donuts, cream puffs, and muffins!

8th FCS: We have just started our cooking unit and will be sewing soon. They need to pay for their sewing projects before they get them.

C O U N S E L O R ' S

O R N E R

Seniors ... it's decision time!

Attention seniors: It's time to make the big college decision and determine where you'll spend the next 4-5 years of your life!

As you make your decision, have a heart-to-heart talk with your parents to make sure you pick your college for the right reasons, not because it's where your friends - or your girlfriend or boyfriend - are going. Talk about:

Location. Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If travel costs are prohibitive, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.

Cost. Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond the freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships?

Academic program. Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors—does the college offer other programs of interest?

Amount of loans required. If you borrow the maximum Stafford loan amount each year for four years, you're looking at over \$19,000 in loans – and that means a future monthly payment of nearly \$220 per month. You should also calculate how much your parents will need to borrow in PLUS loans. Use the [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) at www.educationquest.org to estimate future student loan payments.

The Education Quest website features other tools that can help you make the final decision including the [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#) and the [College Comparison Calculator](#).

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Speech and Language of the Five-Year-Old

At age 5 years, your child...

defines objects by their use ("you eat with a fork")

knows words for spatial relations such as *on top, behind, far, near, & over*

knows his or her address

identifies a penny, nickel, and dime

uses sentences of 5 to 6 words

uses all speech sounds correctly with the possible exceptions of: *v, l, th, ch, j, s, z, zh* (as in measure), and *r*

knows common opposites such as *big, little, hard, & soft*

understands the words *same & different*

counts 10 objects

tells a story with a simple plot (problem, action to solve problem, and outcome)

uses future, present, and past tense

stays with one activity for 12 to 13 minutes

asks questions to get information

distinguishes own but not other people's left and right hands

uses all types of sentences, some of which will be complex (for example,

"I can go in the house after I take off my muddy shoes.") Cont'd on page 7

Cont'd from page 6

You can stimulate your 5-year-old child's speech and language if you...

listen to your child when he or she talks to you

encourage your child to use language to express feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes, and fears

comment on what you did or how you think your child feels; this will stimulate more speech than a direct question

allow your child to create new, free designs with crayons, markers, or pencils

ask your child to tell you about his or her experiences at school, a friend's home, or the park

allow your child opportunities to learn songs, rhymes, or verses from memory

continue to read longer stories

read signs to your child when you are out on drives or walks

talk with your child as you would an adult in most instances

remember that your child will still understand more than he or she will be able to say



RULES ON ROLES FOR COMPETITIONS

Parent's Roles:

Be a fan of everyone on the team.

Respect the coaches' decisions.

Respect other fans, coaches, and athletes.

Talk to your child if they have any questions and, if they still have questions, contact the coach through agreed upon procedures.

Don't poison the water toward a coach, the program, or teammates by your conversations.

Don't talk to coaches on competition day about a complaint.

Understand that the coaches' responsibility is to make certain that students are safe and become better people and athletes, not to win every contest.

Be supportive of your child.

Athletes Roles:

Be positive and have a good attitude.

Support your teammates.

Work hard at practices.

If you have any questions, ask the coach.

Know and follow school and team rules.

Challenge yourself as athletes and as people.

Meet classroom expectations.

Notify the coach of any scheduling conflicts as soon as possible.





Hemingford Public Schools

April 2007

Lunch Menu

Milk is served with all meals

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Pig In Blanket Corn Applesauce No Bake Cookie Alt. Pizza Cold Sand. PBJ	3 Beefy Nachos Lettuce Salad Pears Roll & Butter Alt. Baked Potato Cold Sand. Bologna	4 Chicken Nuggets Green Beans Pineapple Roll & Butter Alt. Cheese Pasta Cold Sand. Turkey	5 Corn Dog Tater Bar Peaches Roll & Butter Alt. Crispito Cold Sand. Ham	6 No School 
9 No School 	10 Tacos Spanish Rice Fruit Cocktail Roll & Butter Alt. Baked Potato Cold Sand. Bologna	11 Sausage Gravy Green Beans Fresh Fruit Cookie Alt. Burrito Cold Sand. Turkey	12 Pizza Carrots Peaches Pudding Alt. Stromboli Cold Sand. Ham	13 Hamburger/Bun French Fries Peaches Dill Slices Alt. Hot Ham Cold Sand. Cheese
16 Sloppy Joe French Fries Cherries Cookie Cake Alt. Chicken Sand. Cold Sand. PBJ	17 Crispito Corn Fresh Fruit Roll & Butter Alt. Corn Dog Nuggets Cold Sand. Bologna	18 Chicken & Noodles Green Beans Fruit Cocktail Roll & Butter Alt. Quesadilla Cold Sand. Turkey	19 French Dip Tater Bar Peaches Au Jus Alt. Pizza Cold Sand. Ham	20 Italian Dunkers Carrots Applesauce Marinara Sauce Alt. Chicken Fajita Salad Cold Sand. Cheese
23 Hot Dog /Bun Tater Bar Pineapple Baked Beans Alt. Pizza Cold Sand. PBJ	24 Bobcat Taco Lettuce Salad Peaches Roll & Butter Alt. Baked Potato Cold Sand. Bologna	25 Spag./ Meat Sauce Coleslaw Pears Garlic Bread Alt. Beef Fritter Cold Sand. Turkey	26 Chicken Sandwich Corn Applesauce Cookie Alt. Ready Rib Sand. Cold Sand. Ham	27 Grilled Cheese Green Beans Fruit Cocktail Tomato Soup Alt. Crispito Cold Sand. Cheese
30 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Peaches Roll & Butter Alt. Chicken Nuggets Cold Sand. PBJ				

Menus are subject to change

This facility is operated in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture policy which does not permit discrimination because of race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. More information may be obtained here or from the Office of Equal Opportunity, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



The Hemingford Public School provides lunches in accordance with the National School Lunch Program. The cost of a lunch is as follows: K - 6 Lunch - \$1.40 7 - 12 Lunch - \$1.70 Adult Lunch - \$2.50

Hemingford Public Schools

April 2007

Breakfast Menu

Milk is served with all meals

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice	3 Pancakes Fruit or Juice	4 French Toast Fruit or Juice	5 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	6 No School 
9 No School 	10 Breakfast Burrito Fruit or Juice	11 Waffles Fruit or Juice	12 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	13 Cinnamon Roll Fruit or Juice
16 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice	17 Scrambled Eggs Toast Fruit or Juice	18 Pancakes Fruit or Juice	19 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	20 Breakfast Pizza Fruit or Juice
23 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice	24 Pancake & Sausage On a Stick Fruit or Juice	25 Egg&Cheese Omelet Toast Fruit or Juice	26 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	27 Cinnamon Roll Fruit or Juice
30 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice				

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