



BOBCAT BITS

April Newsletter



Notes from Mr. Ningen, School Superintendent

We are entering a pivotal part of our school year at Hemingford. More than three quarters of our year is “in the books”, but the most important part of the year, the part yet to come, carries all of the opportunity and all of the potential that a person could wish for.

Each and every student, teacher, and parent wants to do their very best, in school and outside of school. For this to happen, all three groups must be willing to give a little more effort. With the warm weather here (at least for a day or two at a time) and our world around us turning green, it is tempting to want to put the books down and get outside.

Teachers must continue to encourage students to do their best, and to get schoolwork and projects in on time. They must stress completion but also completeness. A report that is hurriedly put together or a test that hasn't had enough preparation time is not reflective of a student's best efforts.

Parents must set aside time at home for their children to complete work, but can also enhance any results by asking more specific questions at the dinner table. Asking, “How was school today”, is not as effective as asking, “What are you working on in Ag class this week”, or “How are you treating the upcoming election for president in your history class?” Kids want to share what they've been doing with parents, but a generic question will usually get a bland or generic answer.

Students must be made to understand that there is work that needs to be done before recreation. They must be shown that a job well-done gives great satisfaction to the person that did the work. That trip to the lake or that movie will seem even better if homework and chores are done first.

All of us will continue to have setbacks or hurdles that get in our way, but all of us have the ability to start each day with a renewed vigor and put negative things behind us. What a perfect time of the year to encourage each other and remember how we “spring back” from these setbacks.

Because one or two assignments haven't turned out well, doesn't mean that we can't do the next assignment better. If our last test score was a little low, then by all means, let's raise the next one by preparing better. Our teachers want to do their very best in our final weeks. I believe that our parents do as well. Our students will also realize that goal with parents and teachers working together.

Thank you all for your continued and renewed efforts

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.

Remember our motto kids: FINISH STRONG!

SPRING WRITING

The staff evaluated and scored all students papers on March 19th. 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.**

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you for your attendance during our spring conferences. We had a 95 % 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.

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

April 7th – Kindergarten Round Up from 5:45 – 6:45 in cafeteria

April 25th – 1:00 p.m. Dismissal

*****April 29th K - 12 Spring Music program starting at 6:00 p.m. *****

PLEASE NOTICE: The program will start at 6:00 p.m. with the elementary, have a short break, and conclude with the high school program.

May 1st - 3rd – 6th Grade Field Trip

May 6th – Up Shift Day

(6th grade will be in HS from 8:30 - 10:00)

(EL-K- 5th grade will be from 2:30 – 3:00)

May 7th – 3rd Grade Field Trip

May 9th – 4th Grade Field Trip

May 16th – 2nd Grade Field Trip

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.

COMMUNICATION

Together we can make a difference for kids

Call us with any questions at 487-3330.



Thayer's Thoughts

As I turn the page to the April calendar, I wonder where another year has gone. It is exciting to see student growth in areas of maturity and friendships. Also in April, comes weather that is beautiful and activities that tend to have students out for a major part of the day. It may be difficult for students to focus on school work; however this quarter is crucial for students to maintain their grades for semester credit. This semester is especially important 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, that activities of all sorts are still in high gear.

Update on Eligibility—Prom Eligibility

Planning and invitations are in planning stages for the 2008 Prom. This is a reminder to parents that students must meet the academic eligibility to attend. Numerous announcements are being made to the students so that they are fully aware of the time frame also. For students to be eligible to attend prom, they must be eligible for the period of Wednesday, April 16 through Tuesday, April 22, 2008. Progress Reports are scheduled to be mailed on the April 17th. Please use K12 planet or contact the teacher if you have questions prior to this time.



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conference turn out was at about 55%. 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 and for seniors on April 3.

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. 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. Thayer. Once the student sees their schedule, they will still have the opportunity to make changes. Changes can be made up to the first days of school.

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, music, or state competitions and conventions. Eligibility is in effect even if the absence is excused. Check the calendar for dates.

Fine Arts: HS/ELEM Spring Concert, District Music Contest

CSC Scholastic Day:

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

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

Sports: Track and Golf Sports Banquet (May)

UPSHIFT DAY FOR GRADE 6



Wednesday, May 6 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.

Spring Music Concerts

In order to allow the music student teacher to participate in the Spring Concert, we will be combining both the elementary and secondary concerts. There will be a short break to reset needed areas.



● **Elementary Concert –Tuesday, April 29th at 6:00 pm**

High School Concert—Tuesday, April 29th estimated: 7:30 pm

Looking for Feedback—Junior High Closed Campus

During lunch time, the time after students eat and when the bell rings seems to be the period of time that a majority of discipline issues arise with junior high students. It can be in the area of teasing, relationships, or horse-play that crosses the line. This is a time when students leave school grounds and are not supervised but the issue gets dragged back to school. I am looking for student and parent input about not allowing 7th and 8th grade students to leave school grounds. One possible compromise may be that we go as classes once or twice a month for a treat. If you have any thoughts, please share them with me at pthayer@panesu.org or please call the office. A separate letter will be forthcoming to all parents of upcoming 7th and 8th grade students.

Football News

While it is early spring, it is never too early to begin thinking football! We have had some boys make excellent progress in the weight room this off-season, but we would certainly welcome more participants. The weight room is open and staffed every morning before school, and after school if supervision is arranged with a sponsor. Summer weight room hours will be published at a later date.

We would like to attend the Chadron State football camp this summer with as many athletes as possible. This is not a mandatory camp, but it will help with the transition to 8-man next season. Please have permission slips and payments turned in as early as possible. Our camp session is June 15-18.

Football t-shirts for the '08 season go on sale starting Monday, March 31. If interested in ordering a shirt, please let us know the quantity and sizes you will need. Please contact the booster club or me as well if you are interested in helping with our sportsmanship efforts after home games next season. We are planning on showing our hospitality to a whole new group of visitors, and we would appreciate any of your efforts to help us meet that goal.

Finally, we are considering starting a flag football league next fall for all interested boys and girls in grades 3-6. If you have a child or children that would be interested in playing or you would like to volunteer, please contact me at the school.

Thanks for your support of our school and our football program.

Patrick Robinson

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Friday	Sept. 5	Edgemont	HOME	7:00
Friday	Sept. 12	Mullen	Away	7:00
Friday	Sept. 19	Banner County	HOME	7:00
Friday	Sept. 26	Leyton	Away	7:00
Thursday	Oct. 2	Crawford	HOMECOMING	7:00
Friday	Oct. 10	Potter-Dix	Away	7:00
Friday	Oct. 17	Garden County	Away	7:00
Thursday	Oct. 23	Creek Valley	HOME	7:00

****All Times are Mountain Time Zone****

On June 4-6 we will be hosting a volleyball/basketball camp for grades K-6. Details and brochure to follow at a later date.

Coaches Chatelain and Janssen will be putting on the camp



8th Graders

As a fund raiser for the eighth grade class dues the students are raising tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers to be sold in May. The tentative dates for the sale are May 9 -10, May 12-17. In all there are sixteen different varieties of tomatoes and multiple hot peppers. Please plan on supporting the 8th grade on this endeavor

*Dave Chatelain
Brad Olson
Class Sponsors*



Giorgi's Gym



14 Students Receive Boater

Safety Cards

9th grade physical education students completed a 6 hour Boater Education class with Officer Scott Eveland, from Nebraska Game and Parks, sharing his expertise.

Skip'n Cats Trip

Cooper Weber, Carli Cullan, Hannah Fessler, Natalie Gasseling, Aubrey Picket Pin, Kaitlyn Bergfield and Rebecca Stone made the trip to Louisville, Colorado, for a rope skipping workshop. Have them show you the new tricks they learned or tell you about the people they met and jumping double dutch with a unicycle!



MY PYRAMID

Steps to a Healthier You

For a 2,000-calorie diet, you need the amounts below from each food group. To find the amounts that are right for you, go to MyPyramid.gov

Grains	Eat 6 oz. every day
Vegetables	Eat 2.5 cups every day
Fruits	Eat 2 cups every day
Milk	Get 3 cups every day (2 cups for kids aged 2-8)
Meat & Beans	Eat 5.5 oz. every day

Be physically active for at least 30 minutes most days of the week. About 60 minutes a day of physical activity may be needed to prevent weight gain.

Get outside and enjoy the spring weather!

Hike, bike or just walk around town with a friend.

C O U N S E L O R ' S

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Seniors ... it's decision time!

Attention seniors: Now that you have been accepted by the colleges that you have applied to, 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?

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6th grade students and parents: During the month of April we will be doing a unit on career exploration. We will be registering for classes for next year also. Parents your child will be bringing home a registration sheet that they will talk over with you and have you sign it. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call Mrs. Huckle at 487-3328 (school) or 487-5332 (home). We are having up shift day on Tuesday, May 6, 2008.



SUMMER SCHOOL



This year's summer school program will be three weeks long and runs from July 7 through July 25. Students will attend from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The target ages are preschool through 8th grade. Summer school is open to students who receive special education or Title 1 services, students who have been referred by their teacher(s), or those who have attended summer school in past years. Siblings of children qualified to attend may also come and participate. If your child is not in the above-mentioned groups but you would like him/her to attend, please call the school (487-3330) and let Brianne Moudry know. We would like to make the program available to any student who needs it. The purpose of summer school is to maintain the skills already known, not to introduce new material. We plan to have a light-hearted, enjoyable three weeks and hope to see your student(s) there! **If you have received a notice about summer school, please check whether your child will be attending or not and return it to the school so we can have an approximate count of students and are prepared with enough materials and snacks. I will send a reminder to all invited students in late June.**

Chords from Chesley

Vocal and Instrumental students traveled to Crawford for Panhandle Conference music contest. Though we were missing several students from both the Choir and Band, student performances were outstanding and we brought home several awards.

PHC Results

I-Superior Ratings

Vocal

Mixed 9-12 Choir, Taylor Jespersen-Vocal Solo, Bethany Wacker-Vocal Solo, Katoya Rosentrater-Vocal Solo, and Katoya Rosentrater and Bethany Wacker-Vocal Duet chosen PHC Women's Vocal Duet Champions



Instrumental

Taylor Jespersen-Baritone Solo, Brady Horstman, Kyle Kumpf, Kohl Boone, Jeromy Skinner and Stephanie Whipple-Percussion Ensemble, Kaitlyn Jespersen, Sammy Huss and Kelli Frahm-Woodwind Duet also chosen PHC Woodwind Duet Champions

II-Excellent Ratings

Vocal

Swing Choir, Women's Choir, Bailly Wood and Katee Folkers-Women's Duet, Taylor Jespersen and Brittany Shaver-Mixed Duet, Tasha Moss-Vocal Solo, Shaylea Hinojosa-Vocal Solo,

Instrumental



Concert 7-12 Band, Gina Jespersen and Rachel Kaman-Flute Duet, Beau Hartman-Bari Sax Solo, Mindy Gibbons and Katie Heitz-Trombone Duet, Bethany Wacker, Amber Adamson, Kayleen Boone and Felicia Vela-Mixed Woodwind Trio, Jake Yardley, Travis Kittelmann, Tanner Green, Cody Minich, Taylor Yardley and Stephanie Whipple-Percussion Ensemble, Katoya Rosentrater, Bethany Wacker and Emily Sample-Mixed Trio, Kendal Colson, Richard Heule and Hans Hansen-Baritone Trio, Cash Weber and Kendal Colson-received a Good Rating for their-Baritone Duet

April will be a busy time for H.H.S. music students. We will not be attending the district #6 choral clinic this year. Our next big event will be the district music contest in Chadron on the 18th followed by the Spring Concert and Awards on the 29th that will include all music students. We will finish the year with Marching Band practice and a graduation performance on Mother's Day in May.

Thank you to everyone who made the Dinner Theater such a wonderful success!!

It would not have been possible with out everyone's help and support!

A special thank you to the supportive businesses in the community; the parents for having such great kids; the wonderful parents who stepped up and made the supper come together; the amazing students who took some chances and worked really hard! Most importantly thank you to everyone who attended the dinner theater!! Theater is not possible with out an audience!

Thank you for supporting the arts!!



How to Teach Your Child Early Writing Skills

Parents should give their children lots of opportunities to enjoy early attempts at writing. Children observe family members writing lists and letters, making notes, and working at computers. Children need to pretend to do the same things too. Enjoying early attempts at writing will enhance your child's ability to formally write in Kindergarten and First Grade. The following activities encourage children to begin to see the visual forms, structures, and spacing necessary for writing, and to understand that symbols convey meaning.

Have available pencils, crayons, pens, chalk, markers, and paper for children as young as eighteen-months old to use for marking and drawing.

Cut out letters and numbers from different textures such as sandpaper or clay. Have your child run his or her finger over the shape of the letter or number and then try to draw that shape with a finger, followed by a marker or pen.

Talk to your child about different shapes and describe how they look. Use words such as straight, circular, and zig-zag.

Use modeling in early writing just as you do in speech. Draw a letter, and have your child draw the letter. Hang the letters up in the child's room. Begin to associate each letter with a familiar object such as a fruit or toy. Practice the alphabet in this way.

Have your child pretend to write a letter to a relative. Encourage your child to "scribble" pretend words or to draw a picture to represent a word. Have your child "read" the letter to you. Be sure to address an envelope and mail the letter.

Help your child practice simple letters such as O, T, C, and U. You can then make simple words, with the child writing "t" and you writing "o" and "y" for *toy*. Your child will quickly understand and like to play this writing game.

Have your child practice making shopping lists. Sit next to your child and talk about what you need to buy at the store. Write key words such as "milk" and encourage your child to make a copy of the list. Your child can make his or her list by drawing, scribbling, or copying the letters.

Have your child practice writing his or her name. Print the letters in the child's name, let your child try to copy the letters, then hang the letters up in the kitchen so the child can see and practice them.

Provide magnetic letters for your child to use to make words on the refrigerator. Have your child use the letters to form some of the words from your grocery list.

Writing a story is great fun for a child. Children can draw pictures to represent words or actions, or can print key letters. Have your child draw, going from left to right and from the top of the page to the bottom. Then have your child practice telling the story to you. This is a wonderful verbal and prewriting activity that encourages creative thinking.

Encourage your child to write a story about his or her feelings or wishes. Again, pictures, scribbles, or letters all work well to tell the story.

Point out familiar signs you see while driving or when in stores (for example, "stop," "exit"). Talk about the letters and what the words mean. Encourage your child to include these words when drawing or writing a story.

Let your child explore the computer keyboard and learn what happens when he or she presses a key. Children especially like to use drawing programs and to have letters appear in color. Movement and sound are very exciting to children. Always sit next to your child when he or she is exploring the computer so you can talk about what is happening and encourage your child to try different things.

As your child approaches four years of age, you can incorporate verbs and adjectives in writing activities. Use simple verbs or adjectives such as *go*, *red*, and *good*.

Never pressure your child to "write perfectly." Always have fun with learning activities. Children have years to perfect their writing. Also, allow your child the choice of which hand he or she wants to use to write or draw.