

Bobcat Bits

Thayer's Thoughts

Yep, we have completed the winter activities, and thank you for the support that you give your kids. To run hither and yonder while keeping up with school work, jobs and friends is full time process for the students. This is where K12 planet helps students keep an eye on their academics. Please call if you are experiencing problems with the site.

There was an interesting article in the Tuesday, February 20, 2007 Omaha World Herald by John Rosemond that discusses a possible method of dealing with a child that is not working to their potential because of the time spent playing video games. If you are interested in reading this article, it can be found in the archives of the *Omaha World Herald* or I would be happy to share a copy with you. Just contact me.



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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Please plan to spend some time at the high school on Tuesday, March 6 for parent/teacher conferences. Confer-

ences run from 2:00 – 8:00 pm. At that time you may pick up your son or daughters report card as well as discuss with teacher the strengths of your child. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss what projects will be upcoming or ask questions. Speaking from when I attended my own children's conferences, they wanted to hear the good as well as how they could do better. Remember conferences are for all the students in grades 7-12.

Community Planning hosted by Family Focus Coalition

From the parent discussion meetings, it was thought that the group should have student input on what activities could be sponsored by the community for youth. There will be two open forum student meetings that will be facilitated by Jessica Davies to gather the information. They will be hosted in the school cafeteria. They will be broke into 2 sessions. Please encourage your child to attend. Their input is vital.

Grades 7-9 on Monday, March 5 at 5:30 pm

Grades 10-12 on Thursday, March 15 at 5:30 pm

School Assembly – Tuesday, March 13 10:30 am—HS Gym

Have you ever wondered how law enforcement uses dogs for tactical situations? The assembly for grades 7-12 will show how an officer that is a dog handler works his dog in various situations, from attack mode on a fleeing suspect to search and seizure. This will be a great opportunity for those students that may be interested in the law enforcement field as well as to see the training that



goes what type of training is needed for a dog.

Teacher Assessment Day

The morning of March 7, teachers will spend time with the 6-trait writing scoring. They will score the writing that was completed early in February. Juniors may find their results additionally beneficial before the April ACT test date especially if they complete the writing portion.

School Activities

During the month of March, the focus is pulled from athletic competitions to the fine arts and academic competitions. Band clinics, instrumental music, quiz bowl teams are all part of the March activities.

World Strides heading to Washington, DC

Thank you for all the support you have given the students in their fund raising efforts for their trip to DC. The long awaited trip will take place the last week in March.

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 has been set for April 10-23. 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.

Chords from Chesley



Music Parents; that is all parents of students who are or will be in the 7-12 Band or the Choir, are asked to attend an important meeting concerning officers, upcoming events and next years events including the music trip. This meeting will be on Thursday, March 1, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Music room. We hope that all Music parents will please attend.

Western Trails Instrumental Honor Band will be March 6, 2007 at Gordon. Hemingford Public Schools may have several students receiving the honor of participating. The Panhandle Conference Band and Choir competition will be held at Sioux County on March 20, 2007. All of the Band and Choral students will be per-

forming throughout the day. The contest will be judged. Rating and awards will be given to all performers. Panhandle Conference Music has been changed from a clinic to a contest with the hopes of improving student musicianship while preparing them for District Contest on April 20, 2007 at Chadron.

The Swing Choir will be attending the Jazz Festival at Chadron State College on March 12, 2007. Students will gain an understanding of Vocal Jazz and performance from this field trip. The Choir will also be participating in a clinic at Chadron High School on April 2, 2007.

Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. will be the High School Spring Concert including Vocal and Instru-

mental works. Tentatively Flag Corp and Drum Major/Majorette tryouts will be that same week on April 25th and 26th. Tryouts will be held during class and before or after school. Any student attending Hemingford Public Schools who is going to be in grades 9-12 may tryout for the Flag Corp and any student who is going to be in grades 9-11 and is going to be in Band may tryout for Drum Major/Majorette.

Monday, April 30, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. will be the K-6 Elementary Spring Concert. Remember to dress nice so you can look your best on stage! Students in Elementary have been working on steady beats, singing songs, playing rhythms, recorders, mastering music from other cultures, playing in the 5/6 Band and more!

Dates to keep in mind:

- 3-1-07 Music Parents meeting 6:00 p.m. -Music Room**
- 3-6-07 Western Trails -all day-Gordon**
- 3-12-07 Jazz Festival-Swing Choir-all day field trip-CSC**
- 3-20-07 Panhandle Conference-all day-Harrison**
- 4-2-07 Choral Clinic-all day-Chadron High School**
- 4-20-07 District Music Contest-all day-Chadron**
- 4-23-07 High School Spring Concert -7:00 p.m. -Gym**
- 4-25 & 4-26 tentative Flag Corp and Drum Major tryouts**
- 4-30-07 K-6 Elementary Spring Concert -7:00 p.m. -Gym**



Seniors!

Please..... get you Senior And baby pictures into Mrs. Horstman by March 15th or we will put a candid snapshot of you in the yearbook. We have a deadline to meet and we would appreciate your cooperation!

By the way, I know that Melissa Cervantes would like to work on the graduation video. Please get her a baby picture and senior picture as well. Time is flying by and it takes lots of time to create greatness. Please do your part!!!!

senior Parents

If you would like to order a PDA ad for your senior son/daughter please do so by April 1st. We need to reserve room in the yearbook for you and meet our required deadlines as well. More information will be given at parent-teacher's conferences.

Thanks for supporting the class of 2007.

Old monitors to give away!
First come first serve.
Contact the school before
March 7th. 487-3328

Superintendent's Notes— Mr. Ningen

Congratulations to the winter sports teams! The efforts by the girls and boys basketball teams, as well as by the wrestlers gave our fans plenty to cheer about in the cold winter months. Every team we played or wrestled against had to play hard. The speech team will soon be competing at District as well, with several of our students competing for a chance to be part of the state speech meet. Good luck to all of the members.

Speaking of cold winter months, I am hopeful that our weather will lean towards moisture and not so much towards low temperatures. Even though February is nearly over, those spring blizzards can still be a problem for ranchers and travelers. *Please take a look at our school web page and you will notice two new buttons on the right-hand side of the web page.* One button gives a quick look at our local weather for the next several days, while the other button will allow readers to access live weather cameras across the state, showing highway weather conditions.

One last item this month: Our small parking lot located next door to the Bobcat Pit Stop will soon undergo some changes that will allow our students to walk across that area, instead of in the street. This will require our faculty members that park in the front row to park further back on the north edge, but will increase the safety of our students that cross at the Sidney Avenue/ HWY 2 intersection. Our district is applying for grant funding that will allow further work in this area, but some immediate changes will take place over spring break, creating some parking changes when students and staff return on March 12th. I encourage everyone's anticipation and preparation for a successful spring!

4th Grade Explodes

-By Mrs. Osmotherly For the last three weeks the 4th graders have been studying the properties of matter. We have done several projects such as changing the shape of items to show a physical property and burning paper to show a chemical property. Well on Monday we made volcanoes to show the chemical reaction between baking



MaKayla and Alex are watching as their volcano explodes

soda and vinegar. It was a blast, literally. After creating their volcanoes around a cylinder with clay, the students poured baking soda into their flasks. Then the big excitement came when they poured the vinegar into the volcano. Students soon discovered that they made the gas carbon. To realize that a chemical change had took place they had to look back and see that their baking soda was missing.



Amelia and Bethany are molding the clay around their cylinder.

3rd Grade

Watch for the upcoming 2nd annual Liberal Arts Festival on March 30th. It will be an all day affair for grades K-6. We have an awesome variety of presenters from poetry to dance to artistry



To celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder's birthday the third graders dressed up like a child during that time, read some information about her life, had a spelling contest, and brought some items from home to share that might have been used during the time that Laura was a child.

Fostering Education

HEADING TOWARDS MARCH

We are heading towards the fourth quarter of school, it just doesn't seem possible. We have had a very productive and rewarding year so far. I love walking into the classrooms and seeing the kids engaged in learning. The reward in education is seeing the smile on a child's face when they've succeeded in learning a skill. As principal I feel blessed having children who are coming to school each day eager to learn. Our teachers are doing an excellent job helping the kids reach their potential.

TESTING



We will administer the spring MAPS tests in April this year. The tentative dates are April 16-23 for students in grades 2-11 and

April 23-27 for students in Kindergarten - 1st grades. 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. We appreciate the encouragement and support you are providing your child. We also are encouraging the kids to do their best each day in school.

STATE WRITING

Grades 4, 8, and 11 participated in the state writing assessment. This took place on Tuesday, January 30th and Wednesday, January 31st. The students in all other grades wrote using the spring prompts that have been developed by our staff. The staff will be evaluating and scoring all papers on March 7th.



DATES OF INTEREST

March 6th - 1:00 p.m. Dismissal
Parent / Teacher Conferences will run from 2:00 - 8:00p.m.

March 7th - No school for kids
Teacher Assessment 8:00-12:00

March 8th - 9th
No School - Spring Break

March 13th - 1:30 p.m. Ronald McDonald assembly for Kdg. - 3rd

LATE STARTS

When the weather turns bad and our students and staff are at risk we will begin school at 10:00 a.m. Please listen to the local radio stations AM 1400 and FM 105.9, also check our school's website for the announcement: <http://www.hemingfordschools.org/>



Parents with students that ride the bus should plan on having them picked up approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes later than normal.

THERE IS NO PRESCHOOL OR BREAK-FAST ON LATE STARTS

Together we can make a difference for kids!

Call us with any questions at 487-3330.

Wade's World

March! Wow, what a month! SOPHOMORES interested in the WorldStrides D.C. trip, there will be an organizational meeting **TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007**, in the high school science room - 7:00 P.M. It is very important to have a parent there so they, too, know the procedure and expectations as well as the benefits of this program.

And, speaking of D.C., JUNIORS load the bus at 2:30 A.M. for 3:00 A.M. departure on **SATURDAY, MARCH 24**. A full itinerary will be sent home with the students with phone numbers and addresses of the hotels/motels as well as a guideline for packing and protocol in the airports. Many students have never flown and it is an exciting time for them. I recommend they TRY to sleep some before meeting at school because they "hit the ground running" when they get to D.C. This year, they are actually leaving a day earlier so they can go to Gettysburg first. (Maybe they'll be in the hotel that says "Lincoln

slept here"!) They will return about midnight on Thursday, March 29. We're anxious to hear all about their experiences!!! Then, when they get home - we start PROM decorating!

March is also the month of Quiz Bowls. They are tentatively set for March 26 (PAN Conf) and March 28 (WTC). I'm recruiting students now - and those who read a lot are good candidates! Unfortunately, we always lose our juniors to D.C. at this time, but it is a good time to take the sophomores to get some experience.

I, personally, will be attending an art workshop sponsored by the Sheldon Art Gallery which will be held in Grand Island on March 20. It will be a busy time for sure!

M. Wade

Speech and Language of the 4-Year-Old

At age 4 years, your child...

- pints to colors red, blue, yellow, and green
- identifies crosses, triangles, circles, and squares
- follows commands even though objects are not present
- can speak of imaginary conditions such as "suppose that..." or "I hope..."
- asks many questions but is more interested in how answers fit his or her own thoughts than in the explanation
- uses sentences of 4 to 5 words
- asks "who" and "why" questions
- begins to combine sentences with **and**
- uses past tense correctly
- copies a line and a circle
- uses the following sounds correctly: m, n, ng, p, f, h, w, y (as in **yes**), k, b, d, g, , t
- stays with one activity for 11 to 12 minutes

You can stimulate your 4-year-old child's speech and language if you...

- help your child classify objects and things, such as talking about what kinds of things you can ride in
- teach your child correct use of a telephone
- ask your child to help you plan activities such as what to prepare for Christmas dinner
- use words indicating space and position as you play (for example, "Go under the coffee table, walk in front of and behind the chair, go in and out of the tunnel")
- give your child more responsibility
- talk with your child as you would any person
- read longer stories to your child
- let your child make up stories for you as you type them into the computer; let your child edit, if desired, and then illustrate the story
- continue to show your pleasure at your child's development in speech, language, and thought
- try not to expect absolute perfection in the way your child pronounces words

If you have questions or concerns about your child's speech, language, or development of his or her communication skills, feel free to call the school at 487 3330.

Michael Olson
Speech-Language Pathologist

Grease is the Word

This spring, the Drama Department will be putting on Grease, April 13, 14 and 15 2007. As this is only six weeks away, we need your help locating items that could be used for costumes for the play. If you can help out, please contact Mrs. Fastnacht, Mrs. Thompson or Ms. White at 487-3328. Thanks



Middle School News

Sammy Huss is a 6th grader from Hemingford Public Schools and was nominated last year to participate in People to People World Leadership Forum by her teachers. People to People is for students that show academic excellence, as well as outstanding leadership potential. People to People's World Leadership Forums are held each spring and fall in Washington, D.C. As a World Leadership Forum student leader, Sammy will join some of the world's top 6th, 7th and 8th graders for [a week of interactive leadership training](#) from members of the U.S. Congress and other government officials. She will also gain [a deeper understanding](#) of the accomplishments of America's most prominent leaders throughout the history of the United States.

After being nominated Sammy actually pursued this honor even though it was going to cost around \$3,000 to go. She has worked so hard, having several different fund raisers, saving birthday/Christmas money, working on a paper route and getting donations from businesses, family and friends. She is the

one putting for the effort too. Sometimes on things like this the parents just foot the bill, not this girl, she's worked hard for every dime. As part of the program she is actually required to do 3 assignments before she goes too, just to be prepared.

She is so excited to go and flies to Washington, D.C. on Friday the 2th.

She will be staying a week in D.C. learning about the city and our country. Miss Huss says,

"This is going to be a life changing experience. I hope I learn a lot and make new friends. THANKS for everyone that has helped me to go. When I get back I would love to share my experiences with you." For more information on the program go to www.wlfleaders.org



Jeromy says, "It was fun going over there playing with Donna. Sometimes we just sat there and joked around." Jesse said, "It was fun hanging out with the residents and playing games with Donna."

As part of the Hemingford Middle School and Exploratory class is offered once a week. Each student gets a chance to take these classes in a three week rotational schedule. Art, Protecting Me/Protecting You and Community Service are the three classes offered this quarter.



Briley says, "We made Valentine baskets. When I was hanging out with Eva I had a blast with her."

Christian says, "We played dominoes and it was awesome!"

As part of the Community Service class 5th and 6th graders discussed needs of our community. Our local Care Center came up and it was decided to go visit. Students came up with their own activities to do with the residents and went there twice after planning. A few of the things planned were Valentine Crafts, homemade books, reading out loud to resident, roping a pretend steer, playing cards, just visiting in their room, and board games. The kids and residents BOTH had a blast and look forward to the next visit!!

COUNSELOR'S

ORNER

ACT Prep Spring 2007

An 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 \$10.

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

Keep your heart healthy! Make sure you and your family get daily physical activity. Buy step counters for the whole family and keep track of your daily steps. Have contests, give rewards for the most steps, compete with another family, try to add steps each day to move up to the next activity level. At least 10,000 steps a day is recommended!

STEPS PER DAY	ACTIVITY LEVEL
Less than 5,000	Inactive
5,000 - 7,499	Slightly Active
7,500 - 9,999	Moderately Active
10,000 - 12,499	Active
12,500 or more	Very Active

Don't let the weather stop you from exercising! Remember, the more active kids can be, the better!

FAMILY POWER EXCERPT #1

What is a Healthy-Weight Home?

A healthy-weight home is one in which everyone who lives there has a lifestyle that encourages them to be at a weight that is right and healthy for them. This means children and adults, including those who are very thin and those who are rather heavy. A healthy-weight home is not about being on a diet. It embraces meals and snacks that focus on wholesome, nutritious foods and it includes treats. Activity plays a vital role. Because parents create the home for their families, they are the "change agents" that make a healthy-weight home happen. This is done by surrounding the family with the 5 Simple Rules, using a style that will make them last.

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

Hemingford Public Schools

March 2007

Lunch Menu

Milk is served with all meals

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Quesadilla Lettuce Salad Pears Roll & Butter Alt. Corn Dog Cold Sand. Ham	2 Italian Dunkers Carrots Pineapple Marinara Sauce Alt. Pizza Hot Pocket Cold Sand. Cheese
5 Chicken Nuggets Corn Applesauce Roll & Butter Alt. Stromboli Cold Sand. PBJ	6 Corn Dog Tater Bar Peaches Roll & Butter Alt. Burrito Cold Sand. Bologna	7 No School 	8 No School	9 No School
		Spring Break		
12 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Fruit Cocktail Roll & Butter Alt. Oven Chicken Cold Sand. PBJ	13 Bobcat Tacos Lettuce Salad Pears Roll & Butter Alt. Baked Potato Cold Sand. Bologna	14 Chicken & Noodles Green Beans Fresh Fruit Roll & Butter Alt. Pizza Cold Sand. Turkey	15 Hamburger/ Bun French Fries Peaches Dill Slices Alt. Hot Ham & Cheese Cold Sand. Ham	16 Mac & Cheese Carrots Pineapple Roll & Butter Alt. Crispitoe Cold Sand. Cheese
19 Hot Dog / Bun French Fries Peaches Baked Beans Alt. Sloppy Joe Cold Sand. PBJ	20 Crispitoe Corn Fresh Fruit Roll & Butter Alt. Corn Dog Cold Sand. Bologna	21 Spag. & Meat Sauce Coleslaw Applesauce Garlic Bread Alt. Pizza Hot Pocket Cold Sand. Turkey	22 Chicken Sand. Tater Bar Pineapple Cookie Alt. Ready Rib Sand. Cold Sand. Ham	23 Fish Green Beans Pears Roll & Butter Alt. Pizza Cold Sand. Cheese
26 Frito Pie Green Beans Peaches Roll & Butter Alt. Quesadilla Cold Sand. PBJ	27 Taco Burger French Fries Pears Pudding Alt. Baked Potato Cold Sand. Bologna	28 Pizza Corn Fruit Cocktail Cookie Cake Alt. Burrito Cold Sand. Turkey	29 Turkey Gravy Mashed Potatoes Pineapple Roll & Butter Alt. Chicken Nuggets Cold Sand. Ham	30 Grilled Cheese Carrots Applesauce Tomato Soup Alt. Crispitoe Cold Sand. Cheese

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

March 2007

Breakfast Menu

Milk is served with all meals

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	2 Cinnamon Roll Fruit or Juice
5 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice	6 Pancakes Fruit or Juice	7 No School 	8 No School	9 No School
12 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice	13 Scrambled Eggs Toast Fruit or Juice	14 French Toast Fruit or Juice	15 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	16 Breakfast Pizza Fruit or Juice
19 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice	20 Breakfast Burrito Fruit or Juice	21 Pancakes Fruit or Juice	22 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	23 Cinnamon Roll Fruit or Juice
26 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit or Juice	27 Waffles Fruit or Juice	28 Pancake & Sausage On a Stick Fruit or Juice	29 Cereal Muffin Fruit or Juice	30 Breakfast Pizza Fruit or Juice

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