

# Bobcat Bits

Hemingford Public Schools

## Fostering Education

November 2007

### HEADING TOWARDS NOVEMBER

Where has the school year gone? November will be upon us before we know it. Things are continuing to go well here at school. I believe that we are making wonderful progress each day. We are all working together as a team (**parents, kids, and teachers**) which makes the biggest difference in creating a successful learning environment for the kids. **Thank you for your support.**

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please remember to visit our school website for the latest happenings. The address is:  
[www.hemingfordschools.org](http://www.hemingfordschools.org)

### DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Please help keep the kids healthy this year by seeing they have the needed clothing for the type of weather that is upon us. **PLEASE PUT THEIR NAME INSIDE THE COATS.** Thanks, this will help us identify their coat if it is misplaced. This will take a team effort to keep them healthy. We miss them when they are absent from school.

### 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE DIME CARNIVAL

The middle school students will hold a dime carnival to raise money for their spring field trip on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The students do an excellent job of running the games and all of the children who attend have a great time. Parents, I would like to thank you for supporting our students.

### UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

#### November:

2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Dime Carnival  
15<sup>th</sup> - Chadron State College Theatre Program @ 10:00 a.m. in the big gym  
21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> No school (Thanksgiving Break)

### FALL WRITING

The kids did their practice writing for the fall on October 10 - 12<sup>th</sup>. The students are practicing the 6 traits of writing they are learning here at school. **Here are the 6 traits that we want students to model their writing after:** **Ideas:** The ideas are the heart of the message, the content of the piece, the main theme, together with the details that enrich and develop that

theme. **Organization:** Organization is the internal structure of a piece of writing, the thread of central meaning, the logical and sometimes intriguing pattern of the ideas. **Voice:** The voice is the heart and soul, the magic, the will, along with the feeling and conviction of the individual writer coming out through the words. **Word Choice:** Word choice is the use of rich, colorful, precise language that moves and enlightens the reader. **Fluency:** Sentence fluency is the rhythm and flow of the language, the sound of work patterns, the way in which the writing plays to the ear - not just to the eye. **Conventions:** Conventions are the mechanical correctness of the piece - spelling, grammar and usage, paragraphing, use of capitals, and punctuation.

**The teachers scored the fall writing on October 25<sup>th</sup>. These results will be shared with the kids.**

### COMMUNICATION

Let's continue the great communication we have established with each other. **Together we can make a difference.** Call us with any questions at 487-3330.

## WORLDSTRIDES

**\$250 DEPOSIT DUE NOVEMBER 1.** Letters were sent out to all parents with their child's balance and the list of fundraisers in which they have participated. Upcoming events:

November 3 - Bosses' Night at the Fire Hall.

November 18 -9:30 A.M. Babysit for the Berean Church at the **High School in Alliance.**

January 12 - Italian Buffet at the Country Club.

**January 15 - FINAL PAYMENT**

# Thayer's Thoughts



As the days slip in November, it begins the close of the fall activities and post season tournament play. Students are very busy with activities, jobs, friends and homework; however, it is my hope that students maintain their focus on academics. School is still the primary “job” for students with attendance and grades as top priority. Just a reminder that course selection or graduation hinges on passing the current courses that the students are enrolled during this school year. Progress Reports for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter are slated for mid November.

## No School Wednesday, November 21

It is the hope of the school that sending out school newsletters will improve the communication that exists currently. Please check out the website for the school calendar. It is updated as events change. It is found on the school website: [www.hemingfordschools.org](http://www.hemingfordschools.org)

## Fine Arts Students on the Move

Upcoming activities will showcase the talents of the fine art students with the conference art show in Chadron as well as the WTC Vocal Music at Morrill. Hitting the stage for performances will be our One-Act troupe. Productions begin on November 16 for Elementary and High School Students; competition on November 19 and 20 with the goal of District competition on November 28. Grades 7-8 as well as the One-Act Cast will have the opportunity to view a theatrical performance by Chadron State College on Thursday, November 15.



**K12 Planet—Are you having trouble?** If you need help or would like to have access, please email your request to [pthayer@panesu.org](mailto:pthayer@panesu.org) and we can set up your account and provide you the directions.

## NWEA Student Progress Reports

Attached to your son/daughter's report card (either you picked the report card up at conferences or it was sent with your child) are the results of Fall MAP testing. The report shows growth from previous years as well as giving you the student growth and typical growth and district growth comparisons. School-wide all grades did have growth. Faculty will continue to use this information to adjust curriculum to review areas of concern and drive expectations.

## Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey

Every other year grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 participate in a survey that is designed to provide schools and communities with local-level data to help them plan effective prevention and intervention programs to reduce substance abuse. There is a one page letter giving more details. If you do not wish to have your child participate (grades 6, 8, 10, 12) please contact the school. The survey is such that students individually put their survey in the envelope and a designee seals it and mails it. It is not looked at by school personnel.

October 24, 2007

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Youth substance abuse is a concern not only for parents, but also for the entire community as a whole. In order to promote the well-being and life outcomes of Nebraska's youth in every community, the State of Nebraska is committed to empowering local communities to effectively identify and address local substance abuse and violence prevention issues.

An important part of this commitment has been the development and implementation of the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey, which is co-administered by the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. In 2005, 27,625 students participated in this survey, which identifies the underlying risk factors within the community that predispose youth toward substance abuse and violence, as well as the protective factors that protect them from those destructive behaviors. Armed with this information, schools and communities can develop effective and locally-appropriate strategies to reduce youth substance abuse and violence.

Your student's school is participating in the 2007 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey this October/November. All participating students (Grades 6, 8, 10 and 12) will be asked to complete a questionnaire about their opinions and beliefs toward alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence. Some questions will be asked about their own drinking, smoking, and experiences using drugs. Even if your student **does not** drink, smoke, or use other drugs, their participation is very important. In order for this survey to provide a truly representative picture of the community, it is important that as many students as possible take part.

The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, and is **completely anonymous**. The confidentiality of every student response is protected and your student's name will not appear anywhere. A copy of the survey questions is available for review at your school. If for some reason you would prefer not to have your child participate in this important survey, please contact your school office.

We hope that we can count on your partnership, and we thank you in advance for your support of this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thayer  
HS Principal

## Girls Basketball

Coach Chatelain wants to let all Prospective Girls Basketball players and parents know that the first day for winter sports practices will be on November 12. I anticipate a good group of young people playing this winter, and look forward to a very competitive team. Please feel free to contact me with questions that you might have about the upcoming season.

*Hemingford Public School District #10 will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or marital status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. If you feel you have been discriminated against, please contact Casper Ningen, Superintendent of Schools for more information.*

*For school closing because of severe weather, please listen to one of the local radio stations **KCOW AM 1400** and **KAAQ FM 105.9**, as well as **KNEB FM 94.1** or **AM 960**, or check the [www.hemingfordschools.org](http://www.hemingfordschools.org) website or the [www.bbc.net](http://www.bbc.net) website (Information provided by The Ledger). When you are unsure if school will be held or not, please turn on the **radio** or **check the websites**.*

Dear Parents,

On November 13, 2007 we will be celebrating

## **America's Biggest Bedtime Story. So, of course, students will need to wear their pajamas to school!!!**

We would like to invite parents, grandparents, community members and anyone interested to visit our classrooms on this day to share a favorite bedtime story with our students.

If you would be interested in doing something like this, please contact Deb in the Elementary office or email [lfolkerts@bbc.net](mailto:lfolkerts@bbc.net). Let us know what Pajama-clad class you would like to read to and what time is most convenient for you.

Starting at 4:00, your student can log on to the web site below and listen to the program. If they can answer the questions the next day at school we will be in the running for some awesome prizes from Book It.

This year, popular children's author and entertainer John Lithgow will lead the celebration of National Young Readers Day with a special bedtime reading of *The Remarkable Farkle McBride!*

**What:** Webcast

**When:** November 13, 2007

**Where:** [www.bookitprogram.com/bedtimestory](http://www.bookitprogram.com/bedtimestory)

**Time:** 4:00 p.m., CST (viewable all night long)

Make special note of that last line. If you can't watch it at 4:00, it will be on all night long.

Hemingford Elementary School Teachers

## Veteran's Day Program

Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>

2:30 p.m.

In the Gym

Everyone Welcome

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Winter Basketball Pep Band 2007/2008

\*Please note that these dates do not include concerts, contests and other similar dates.

\*These times are only estimation; therefore times and dates are subject to change.

11-30 Basketball tune at 5:15 p.m. in gym *ready* at 5:30 p.m.

12-14 Basketball tune at 5:15 p.m. in gym *ready* at 5:30 p.m.

1-26 Basketball tune at 4:15 p.m. in gym *ready* at 4:30 p.m.

2-9 Basketball tune 5:15 p.m. in gym *ready* at 5:30 p.m.

2-16 Basketball tune 5:15 p.m. in gym *ready* at 5:30 p.m.  
(JV and Varsity Boys Only we play for both)

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## Western Trails Honor Vocal Concert

5:00 p.m.

In Morrill

Congratulations

Taylor Jespersen, Baily Wood, Taylor Forgey, Katee Folkerts, Ashley Yardley, Brittany Shaver and Katoya

Rosentrater

For being selected

## GIORGI'S GYM

Fitnessgrams were handed out with report cards so be sure to look them over to see where your child fits in the healthy fitness zone.

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grades - gymnastic skills: animal movements, rolls, balances and stunts.

3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grades - tug-of-war ropes, relays, and gymnastic skills.

5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades - soccer skills.

9<sup>th</sup> grade - fitness testing, volleyball

### WHAT'S COMING UP IN NOVEMBER:

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grades - jumping, tossing, catching, moving in general space, kicking, trapping, bowling, and rolling.

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades - soccer skills, parachute, and walking and jogging skills.

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades - recreational activities, walking and jogging skills, and rhythmic movement skills.

9<sup>th</sup> grade - basketball, country dance

**Remember to check the school's website for the latest PE happenings and photos! Click on Physical Ed. on the left sidebar.**



Be sure to get out and exercise after your Thanksgiving feast. A family walk is a great idea!

Mrs. Giorgi

# COUNSELOR'S

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## Timeline for College Admissions

### Senior Year Winter

Work on those college applications. Many applications are due in early January.

Check with your prospective colleges about additional financial aid application forms and requirements.

### Junior Year

Think about your college choice. Talk with your school counselor about your options.

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade Parents

Please watch in the mail for a letter inviting you to school for a working lunch. We will be discussing your son's or daughter's plans for the future.

Remember to get your flu shot!



## News from the Nurse

With all the recent publicity about staph infection in schools, I want to take this opportunity to speak about infections and illness in general.

The best way to prevent infection is good hand washing. Try taking 4 deep breaths in and out while washing your hands. This will allow you sufficient time to perform good hand washing and will allow you to relax! Both healthy habits!

Remember to wash your hands:

- Before eating
- After using the restroom
- Several times a day if YOU have a cold
- After petting animals

After working with fresh meats

Please keep all open cuts, scratches and wounds covered with a bandaid or bandage at school.

Please do not send your students to school if:

1. They have a fever greater than 100 degrees.
2. They have vomiting or diarrhea.
3. Unusually listless, irritable or tearful.
4. Bronchitis, flu, or another upper respiratory sickness. However, if they have only a simple cold and no fever, you can send them to school.
5. Bacterial conjunctivitis (pinkeye) or yellow eye discharge.

Signs of strep throat such as red swollen tonsils (possibly with smelly white spots), rough red patches on the roof of the mouth, a whitish tongue, fever, swollen glands, and difficulty swallowing.

If we all work together we will keep student absences to a minimum.

Thank you for your help in keeping our students and staff healthy!

Nurse Judy



## If You Think Your Child Has a Hearing Loss

It is important that parents be aware of their child's hearing from the moment their child is born. A child's hearing can be affected by many things. Some children run a high risk of hearing loss due to certain medical diseases or medications, heredity or perinatal complications, including rubella, syphilis, low birth weight, meningitis, and asphyxia. Toddlers and preschool-age children may acquire a temporary or permanent hearing loss with repeated middle ear infections. Older children may acquire a hearing loss with repeated exposure to loud noises such as loud music. If you suspect your child has difficulty hearing, seek professional help immediately. Early attention to your child's hearing will help your child reach his or her full potential.

Here are a few guidelines to help you determine if your child's hearing is normal.

From birth to 3 months, the child should...

- Startle or cry at loud noises
- Stop moving and seem to listen to speech or sounds
- Awaken at a loud sound

From 3 to 6 months, your child should...

- Look toward a sound or speaker
  - Smile when spoken to
  - Recognize mother's voice
- Enjoy rattles and other toys that make sounds

From 6 to 9 months, your child should...

- Respond to his or her name
- Babble and make lots of different sounds
- Respond to "No"

From 9 to 12 months, your child should...

- Turn or look when his or her name is called
- Listen to people talking
- Respond to simple commands such as "give me," and "come here"
- Understand "bye-bye"

From 12 to 18 months, your child should...

- Point to objects or familiar people by name
- Imitate simple sounds or words
- Follow simple spoken directions
- Say 2 to 3 words by 12 months and 8 to 10 words by 18 months

By 18 months, your child should...

- Hear you call from another room
- Hear and understand conversation easily
- Hear TV or music at the same loudness level as everyone else
- Hear quiet speech
- Hear normal voice qualities
- Have normal verbal language development (vocabulary, speech sounds, Sentence structure)
- Show social rapport and emotional development appropriate for his or her age

Michael Olson