

Bobcat Bits

HEMINGFORD
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

September, 2008

Notes from Mr. Ningen, Superintendent of Schools

The beginning of our 2008-09 school year has gone well. Students have been enthusiastic, as well as staff members. There are a number of new faces in the hallways of the elementary and high school. These students and families that are new to our system expect a lot from our school. I know that if we work hard we can provide that for them.

Watching the Olympics the past two weeks has been a positive experience. I know that I cheered more loudly for American athletes, but was impressed with efforts of athletes from across the globe. In most cases, there was genuine joy when their efforts were rewarded with a medal. In a few cases, winners as well as losers were not able to keep their composure, and were poor sports.

I would like to congratulate our student-athletes in advance for their high regard for sportsmanship, win or lose. If our coaches, parents, and athletes can find joy in their effort, and not worry about the score too much, we will have used sports educationally. I like to see wins as much as the next person, but seeing outstanding effort is very satisfying. Good luck to our cross country, football, and volleyball teams in junior and senior high this fall.

The last thing I want to mention deals with keeping this feeling of excitement about school and activities. Parents and teachers need to continue to encourage our sons and daughters to do their best each day at school. Even if there has been a day when work wasn't done completely or correctly, that doesn't mean that the next day we can't put forth even greater effort. One bad class or one bad day doesn't need to lead to two or more bad classes or days. As I said last month, we are given **NEW** opportunities each day. Let's all take advantage of them. Have a good September!

Stop in at *your school* anytime, or visit us on the web at <http://www.hemingfordschools.org>

Our phone numbers are:

Elementary Principal **Ron Foster**– 487-3330 rfoster@panesu.org

High School Principal **Peggy Thayer** - 487-3328 pthayer@panesu.org

SPED Director – **Mandy Plog** (487-3330) mplog@panesu.org

Superintendent – **Casper Ningen** (487-3328) cningen@panesu.org

School Fax number – (487-5215)

Mr. Ningen, Hemingford School Superintendent.



Fostering Education

WE'RE OFF!

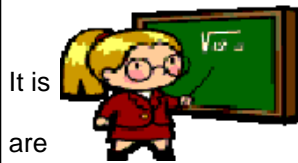
The first part of school has been terrific. It was great to see all of the kids and their faces filled with smiles and anticipation on the first day. I have made it around and met all of the new students enrolled in our school and said hello to everyone else. My word for this year is "MANNERS". I spoke to the kids about how we are going to help each other succeed this year. We'll be there to encourage, help, and give them whatever they need to be successful in school and life. I also talked about how they need to help their classmates who are struggling, having a bad day, or just need a word of encouragement. **Together we can make a difference for kids when we have a common goal** 😊

FRONT DOOR ENTRY

The front door of the elementary will once again be accessible for parents to enter. We have a system that requires you to push a button (like a doorbell) and talk to identify yourself. We then can open the door for you. This system is located on the west wall (on the left) by the front door. Please feel free to visit our school. Remember we are very concerned with the safety of our children. Please give this system a try; it will be very easy to get use to. **THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

TESTING

We will administer the fall MAPS tests in September this year to students in Kindergarten -11th grade. The tentative dates are September 15-19 and September 22-26. Please help by making sure your child/children are in school and have had a good night's sleep. We appreciate the support and encouragement you give your child each day to do their best in school.



It is
are

WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S MATH SKILLS

very important that younger children gain a firm grasp of basic math concepts, so algebra and geometry become part of a natural succession rather than an uphill struggle. There are many practical things every parent can do to greatly improve their child's math skills and conceptual understanding.

1. **Play cards and board games with your child.** Simple games such as Go Fish and Crazy 8's are a great way for young children to learn the value of numbers.
2. **Count change with your child and have him or her use money in real-life situations.** Use nickels and dimes to have children count by increments of 5 and 10. For older children, have them play "cashier" and count back change to you after you "purchase" an item.
3. **Play number guessing games.** Here is an example: I am thinking of a number between 1 and 100. It is more than 50. It is an even number. It is the product of 8 times 9.
4. **Fill a jar with jellybeans and have your child estimate how many there are.** After their initial estimate, take out 10 and allow them to amend their guess. When you count the actual number, show your child how to count in increments of two.

Use dice to do mental addition and teach probability. Ask your child, "Am I more likely to roll a 7 or a 12?" For a challenge, use more than two dice. You can list all of the possible combinations on a piece of paper.

As you try these math activities with your child, remember to be positive, patient and encouraging. You want your child to understand that math is both fun and useful.



Fostering Education Cont.

For more helpful hints try these websites:

http://www.earthskids.com/ek_math_page.aspx

<http://school.familyeducation.com/math/parenting/38812.html>

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.

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

Sept. 1st – No School – Labor Day

Oct. 3rd – No School – Teacher Inservice

WORDS TO THINK ABOUT ☺

Never look down on anybody unless you're helping them up.

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.

People who do things without being told draw the most praise.



COMMUNICATION

Call us with any questions at 487-3330.

Together we can make a difference ☺

C O U N S E L O R ' S

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Murray the Mannerly Mouse will make his debut during the second week of September. He will be coming to grades K – 2. He is bringing with him good manners and how to use them. Ask your child about Murray and what he is all about.



During the month of October the 6th grade will be working with a character development program. It has units on learning social responsibility, taking responsibility for you, getting along with others and coping with life changes and loss. If you have any questions about the program, don't hesitate to call. My number is (308)487-3328.

Seniors be watching in the mail. We will be having a meeting about your life after graduation. We will cover release of transcripts, college visits, senior mailboxes, ACT test dates, scholarships, world of work after graduation, etc. The letter will be coming soon.

As parents, students, and educators, we need to remember to treat each other with respect so that we can receive respect back.

Thayer's Thoughts

Who would have thought that rain would have greeted us the first two days of school? It put a slight damper on our outside welcome back activities; however, the kids were great and enjoyed the time. I believe that the 7th grade has settled into their routine and the seniors are beginning to make graduation decisions regarding colors, flowers, etc. Now that school is rolling, and activities are in full swing, please check out the calendar on the website for the most current information. The Booster Calendar is an asset, but a few events have changed since the calendars were printed. Many items are added and deleted on a continuous basis. Currently enrollment for JH/HS is 160 students, with still some still moving in and out. Seniors: 28; Juniors: 26; Sophs: 26; Fresh: 27; 8th: 30 and 7th: 23.

Questions – Answers

- What are class dues used for? Each class votes on class dues that accumulate each year. Expenses from this account include Homecoming float costs, possible class projects, but mainly it accumulates for Prom and graduation costs. Class Dues voted on as follows: Seniors: \$0; Juniors: \$40; Sophs: \$40; Fresh: \$30; 8th: \$25 7th: \$ undecided The sponsors and classes are looking for ways/projects to help with the dues. For example last year the 8th grade sold pepper and tomato plants and cover the student class dues.
- How do students get their cell phones back? On the first violation (page 12 of handbook), parent contact must be made prior to returning the cell phone to the student. On the second violation a parent must pick up the cell phone from the office.



Who are Class Officers this year? Leading Student Council this year are: JoeBob Haas and Anthony Adamson (Co-Presidents) and Secretary/Treasurer: Kelly Marie

Class	Seniors	Juniors	Sophs	Fresh	8 th	7 th
President	Ashley Y	Brooke H	Chance C	Katie H	Cassie E	Blake H
Vice	Heston P	ShaNae O	Katee F	Taylor Y	Kelsy W	Paige P
Secretary	Shelby C	Nakaya F	Andee M	Kayleen B	Caleb M	Tyler H
Treasurer	Jordan P	Taylor F	Jose C	Felicia V	MaKenzy F	Cali R
St Rep	Jason R	Tylor K	Nick W	Hans H	Brady H	Kyle K
St Rep	Allison L	Jo D	Baily W	Rachel K	Briley H	Tegan Y

K12 Planet – Student and Parent Access

One tool that all students are able to use is personal access to their grades via the internet. Teachers are required to post updated grades by Monday noon. Changes to K12 planet take affect each morning after the upload scheduled for 7:30 am.

Mrs. Thayer is in the process of getting the parent-portal ready. There is a form in the newsletter if you need to set up a new account. Parents that would like to access the system need to have an email account. Those with current accounts, you may continue to use your same user name and password. If by chance you forgot your password, you mail email Mrs. Thayer at pthayer@panesu.org and she can reset it. Once a new account is set up, Mrs. Thayer will send an email to you with the directions on how to use K12 planet. Previous users may review the directions under schedules/forms on the school website.

Thayer's Thoughts Cont.



Upcoming Dates: HS Picture Day – September 11

Picture Packets will be available prior. Some of the activities will also be having pictures on this day. Please bring your packets, smiles and uniforms.

One Act Play Workshop/Tryouts: Tabi Bryner and Kelly Thompson will be the coaches for this year's performance. Plans are in the works. Students will be notified through announcements and postings when tryouts will be scheduled

Testing – September is the beginning of a variety of testing. Testing window runs from September 15-26th. Junior High and High School students usually test in 2- 2 hour blocks. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find some information about MAP testing. Teachers use the results for curriculum adjustments and to see the changes in student growth. Questions that you may want to ask your son/daughter about the tests may include:

Did you have gains in the RIT score? (students get feedback immediately on their results)

Students will test for Reading and Science and then Math and Language Arts. Ask them which seemed the best for them?

Ask if they felt like they knew most of the material?

More importantly—ask them if they gave it their best effort—If so, then whatever they scored is ok.



Progress Reports—September 16: 1st quarter progress reports will be mailed out.



Homecoming Week -- September 29-October 3

(Changes due to Inservice Day on Friday as well as FB game on Thursday)

- Homecoming Parade 1:00 pm (Thursday, October 2)
- Homecoming Dance 8:30 -11:30 pm (Thursday, October 2)

Wade's World

The World Strides students are working again toward their D.C. trip. (I already have sophomores asking about when they go!) September 6 is the village-wide yard sale and we will be set up in the school as we have for the last three years. Also, Mr. Olson is organizing a trash pick-up for a KAB grant to be done in September. Wreath sales will start around the first of October.

#1 PET PLASTIC - We are collecting the plastic bottles again this year. Although the contest does not officially start until March 1, I do have a place to store them and our main objective is to KEEP THEM OUT OF THE LANDFILL!! Please have your students bring them to school on Thursdays - we have a tally sheet started for the elementary. The high school already has 10 bags from fairgrounds clean up. Again, if you do not have a child in school right now, you may drop them off at my house, 421 Box Butte, and leave them on the porch. Thanks!

MWade



Giorgi's Gym



We started out the year with swimming. Many thanks to the administration and the Village of Hemingford for making it possible to use the pool!

The last week in August was preliminary fitness testing: mile, sit-ups, push-ups, and flexibility. We are going to focus on fitness this year so please make sure your child gets plenty of exercise at home and eats right.

Grading

Kindergarten through Third Graders receive a behavior and participation grade: 4-exceeds expectations, 3-consistently meets expectations, 2-inconsistently meets expectations, 1-does not meet expectations.

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Graders receive a percentage grade.

I have 2 rules in Physical Education:

1. Try Your Guts Out
2. Have Big Time Manners

Please encourage your child to do their best in everything they do!

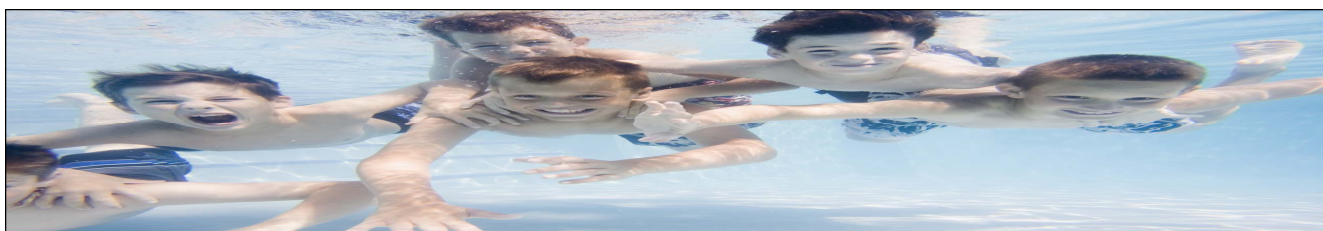
Website

Be sure and check the school's website for up-to-date happenings and photos from PE classes. Look under Physical Ed. on the left hand side. Remember that there are also fitness calendars available there. It's a great way to keep your kids moving after school.

Tennis shoes in PE

Please make sure your child wears tennis shoes on PE days:

Time	White Days	Red Days
8:25 - 9:10	5 th grade	6 th grade
12:25 - 12:55	Kindergarten	
1:00 - 1:30	1 st grade	1:00 - 1:45 3 rd grade
1:45 - 2:15	2 nd grade	2:20 - 3:05 4 th grade



Nurse Judy



Your child wakes up with an eye that is "stuck shut" with crusty matter. What should you do? Call Nurse Judy on her new direct phone line 487-SICK (7425)

Your child has a fever? Your not sure if you should send them to school? What should you do? Call Nurse Judy 487-SICK(7425)

You are wondering about the new Gardisil vaccine, what should you do? Call Nurse Judy 487-SICK (4725)

In an effort to keep everyone at school healthy, parents now can consult with Nurse Judy about health related issues. Feel free to call anytime !

Nurse Judy has a NEW telephone number
487-SICK (7425)

Math Mania

MATH MANIA

Attitude Counts

How do you feel about math? Your feelings will have an impact on how your children think about math and themselves as mathematicians.

Do you think *everyone* can learn math?

Do you think of math as useful in everyday life?

Do you believe that most jobs today require math skills?

If you answer "yes" to most of these questions, then you are encouraging your child to think mathematically. **Positive** attitudes about math are important for your child's success.

Problem of the Day (Finish the sequence)

144, 121, 100, _____, _____, _____

2, 5, 11, 23, _____, _____, _____

1, 1, 2, 3, 5, _____, _____, _____

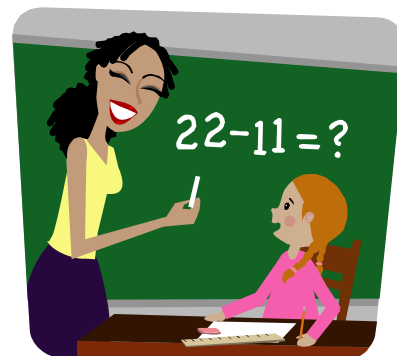
A couple of web sites:

<http://www.math.com/parents.html>

for Alg I students:

<http://www.algebra1.com>

answers (81, 64, 49) (47, 95, 191) (8, 13, 21



School Hot Lunch Program

Breakfast is served at 7:45 AM each morning, with hot meals being served 3 times a week. Breakfast is a great way to get the mind ready for learning. Both breakfasts and lunches qualify for free and reduced price meals. Grades 5 through 12 get 3 choices for lunches, a Main Entrée meal, Alternative meal, Salad Bar. If you are in 2nd Grade through 4th Grade you still get to choose the Main Entrée or salad with the tray. Parents can join their students for lunch, but please call the school and inform them so that enough food can be prepared.

The Hemingford School District will continue to provide great start breakfasts and hot nutritious lunches to students through the National School Lunch Program the school district requires meals to be paid for in advance. Breakfast prices for meals are \$1.05 for grades K-12, and \$1.30 for adults. Lunch prices for meals are \$1.45 for grades K-6, \$1.75 for grades 7-12, \$2.55 for adults and \$.25 for afternoon milk.

Applications for free and reduced price meals will be sent home with students on the first day of school. You must file for free or reduced meals each year. Students who were on free and reduced lunches last year have until September 14th to reapply and can still receive free or reduced meals un-til September 14th. New applications should be returned as soon as possible as the free or reduced meals begin the day you submit it. However applications may be submitted anytime during the school year if your income changes.

Parents will have until September 14th to put money into their family account. If you wish to have your children in separate accounts, you must inform Sandy before school begins. Parents may establish accounts before school begins by contacting Sandy Haas in the Administration office.

Attention: Remember the changes to our Hot Lunch program this year. All accounts need to have a positive balance before your child can eat the first day of school. Also, there will be no extras after \$10.00 owed and no tray will be served if your account is a negative \$20.00 or more.



P.E. News



PE/Weight Training Happenings

Welcome back students and greetings to all the parents. It's exciting to get another year started, but it sure gets hectic at the beginning of the school year. We are busy conducting tests the first couple weeks of school as we seek to determine each student's fitness level coming off the summer months.

Physical Education students in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades will be tested in the mile run, 40 yard dash, 20 yard dash, shuttle run, push ups, sit ups, sit and reach, and vertical jump. Weight training classes will test out in bench and squat maxes, 80% bench max reps, mile run, 40 yard dash, 20 yard dash, sit and reach, sit ups, and vertical jump.

After we establish our baseline Fitness Index we will begin our regular curriculum for each level of class. I am pleased that we've changed our 7th and 8th grade PE classes from one semester sections to split classes which will meet for the full year. I believe that will lead to better retention for these students and also allow us to expand our offerings. If you have any questions, please give me a call at the school (487-3328) and I'll be happy to answer them as best I can. Thank you and best of luck to all students as they begin the 2008-09 school year.

News from Title 1 Reading-Mrs. Engelhaupt

Title 1 Reading classes started August 25, 2008. A parent information meeting for students in Title 1 Reading will be held Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 2:30 in the Curriculum Room. Please watch your mailbox for your invitation to this meeting.



Mr. Olson, Speech-Language Pathologist

Enclosed in your newsletter packet you will find a pamphlet for Developmental Milestones— Ages Birth to 5 years. If you have any concerns about a child's speech or language development please contact.

Michael Olson
Speech-Language Pathologist
Hemingford Schools
487-3330



Picture Day!!

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

**Elementary students grades Preschool – 6th grade

**Early preschool students are welcome at 8:00 sharp as to keep the schedule moving accordingly. Will be available both days until 8:30.

**Also scheduled on this day will be Junior High Volleyball, and all High School Volleyball

Thursday, September 11, 2008

**Early preschool students are welcome at 8:00 sharp as to keep the schedule moving accordingly. Will be available both days until 8:30.

**7th grade – 11th grade individual and group pictures

**Also scheduled on this day will be Cross Country, Junior High Football, and all High School Football

Please have picture packets ready with a check included in each packet. If there are siblings that will be sharing payment, please make note on the packet!! Packets will be distributed to classroom teachers, class sponsors, and coaches before picture day. Thank you and remember to wear your smile that day!



Neefe News

Fcs News: We have started the year off to a great start. I have three high school Foods classes this year, 8th grade Living arts and 8th grade Life skills.

- The Living arts class has started by learning some basic mending skills and has chosen to order sewing kits that they picked on their own.



- Foods II is working on developing their Foods career portfolios and exploring careers in the Food Service.

- Foods I. is focusing on learning the history behind our food and why we need food and will begin learning about Nutrition.

- Senior Foods I. has been learning about organization skills within the kitchen.

Life skills is working on developing their own "Power of One", a ECCLA project focused on teaching you how to develop and achieve your personal goals.

ECCLA News:

Mrs. Neefe and the ECCLA officer team encourage any 7-12 grader who is interested in building leadership skills, friendships, career and community involvement and much more to join ECCLA. Talk to Mrs. Neefe or any officer about this exciting opportunity!

The 2008-09 ECCLA Officer Team is:

President: Kelly Marie

V.P.: Alysha Kittlemann

Historian: Allison Ludlow

Secretary: Shauna Smith

Treasurer: Josie Fletcher

P.R. Rep.: Baily Wood

Big Brother/sister: Jessica VanCoppennolle and
Shaylea Hinojosa

District officers: Josie Fletcher and Katie Hughtart



Upcoming ECCLA events:

September 2: New/old member party at 6 pm

September 7-8: District officer Fall Leadership Conf. in Aurora

October 20-24: Magazine/gifts sales

Nov. 5: ECCLA districts at Gering



COMMUNICATION SOURCES

HEMINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EMPOWERING individuals to become RESOURCEFUL, RESPECTFUL, AND RESPONSIBLE... partners in education

Casper Ningen, Superintendent
Mrs. Peggy Thayer, High School Principal
Mr. Ron Foster, Elementary Principal
Mrs. Mandy Plog, Special Education Director

PO Box 217
911 Niobrara Avenue
Hemingford NE 69348

Phone: 308-487-3328 High School
Phone: 308-487-3330 Elementary
Phone: 308-487-Distance Learning
Fax: 308-487-5215

In an effort to maintain all possible communication links, Hemingford Public Schools will offer numerous ways for parents, students, community members and all other interested citizens to stay abreast of happenings at the schools. Some ways to communicate are: Hemingford Public Schools Website
<http://www.hemingfordschools.org>

Hemingford Ledger - Important information is posted in the Briefs. Sports info and other needed school info can be found here as well.

Monthly newsletter - Mailed to every patron in the district each month. Also can be found on the webpage.
Notices sent home with students
Information sent home with reports cards.

Phone calls to students' homes when necessary.
K-12 Planet for attendance, grades and other notes to students and parents found on the Hemingford Schools webpage.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Superintendent of schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. The Superintendent's will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The **information is broadcast regularly by radio stations, (KCOW AM 1400, KQ 106 & 97.5 FM, KMOR 92.9 FM), our web site (www.hemingfordschools.org), and Mobius web site (www.bbc.net).**



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

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

