THE CARDINAL'S CHIRP

ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL
PO BOX 170
ALMA, NE 68920

VOL XL, ISSUE NO. 5 February, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT DAVIS

February 2021 Newsletter

School Board Reorganize for 2021

At the January Board of Education Meeting, the Board reelected Allen Brugh as president and Nick Simonson was reelected as vice-president. New board member Samantha Stuhmer was elected as treasurer and Dianna Melton reappointed as recording secretary. Board members were appointed to the following committees - Negotiations: Brett Hammond, Nick Simonson, Randy Heckenlively; Curriculum, Americanism and Staff Relations: Nick Simonson, Kate Hopkins, Samantha Stuhmer; Transportation and Facilities: Allen Brugh, Brett Hammond, Randy Heckenlivley; and the Humpert Scholarship Advisory Committee Representative: Kate Hopkins.

Parent Teacher Conference on Thursday, February 11th

Parent Teacher Conference will be held on Thursday, February 11th from 2:30 to 7:30. School will be dismissed at 1:00 on that day and buses will run accordingly. Elementary teachers will schedule conferences with the parents and will be meeting in their classrooms. Secondary teachers will be located in the multipurpose gym. I would like to encourage all parents to take this opportunity to meet with your child's/children's teacher to discuss how they are doing in school.

2021-22 School Calendar Approved:

The school calendar for the 2021-22 school year was approved at the January Board meeting. The calendar will be similar to past calendars. As required by board policy, 178 student's days have been scheduled with the first day of school being on Thursday, August 12th with a 2:00 dismissal and the last day of school scheduled for Wednesday, May 18h. The full calendar is included with this newsletter.

School year update

After almost 3 quarters of school it's hard to believe that we have had very little interruptions from COVID 19 issues. I want to commend the students, staff, and teachers for their patience in dealing with the many restrictions and issues that they have dealt with during the school year. The daily temperature checks and the wearing of masks have become the norm, most of the daily routine of our students have not changed. We have tried to make the year as normal as possible and so far, we have been pretty successful.

If you have any specific questions that you would like answered in regards to school related issues, please contact me by calling the school at 308-928-2131 or send your question by email to jon.davis@almacardinals.org.

Important Dates

Thursday February 11th - 1:00 PM Dismissal
Parent-Teacher conferences 2:30-7:30 PM

Thursday February 18th- 2:00 PM Dismissal
Friday February 19th - No School
Winter Break

Title 1 News - Mrs. Ehrke

Greetings from the Title 1 Room!

It is hard to believe that over half of the school year is over and that we are well into the 2nd semester! It has truly been a joy getting to know the students and work with them everyday! Following are some "fast facts" to remind everyone as to what the Title 1 program actually is.

Title 1 is a federally-funded program, which provides services to meet the educational needs of children who are capable of achieving at grade level, but for a variety of reasons are not. The goal of the Federal Government in establishing the program was to have all children function at the average level in the areas of Math and Reading.

Title 1 law requires that selection of Title 1 students be based on objective, uniformly applied criteria given to all students at each grade level. Alma Public Schools assesses each student in Kindergarten through 6th grade. The criteria includes a combination of: MAPS testing, NSCAS scores, Aimsweb testing, and teacher recommendation.

Goals of Title 1 are to help children: 1) Succeed in the regular classroom; 2) Attain grade level proficiency in Math and Reading; 3) Improve achievement in basic and more advanced skills. These goals are accomplished by supplementing, not supplanting, the instruction that occurs in the regular classroom.

Supports occur in a setting outside the regular classroom in a small group. Academic Progress Monitoring occurs throughout the entire school year. This data is periodically reviewed by the classroom teacher and the MTSS team, to allow movement within the groups to meet the student's current needs.

I hope this article has helped to answer any questions you may have had regarding the Title 1 program. It has been and will continue to be a privilege to serve the children of the Alma School District in this way.

Margaret Ehrke Title 1 Teacher

Counselor's Corner

Counseling News
By: Mrs. Biskup

Spring semester is always a busy time for the students and myself. First off this second semester will start with retesting our NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests. These tests are integral to track our progress from first semester and helps us understand what skills are still needing to be built before our state testing later this spring. The teachers utilize this data not only to place students into small groups in the elementary but also guide advising and class placements in the high school. In short, these tests are an important piece of your child's education and we always hope that students "do their best on the test."

Speaking of class placements, registration is just around the corner for next year! The 8th graders and their parents will meet with me via zoom this year for planning for high school. It's important to each student to choose not only classes that interest them, but also classes that help them achieve their goals both in high school and beyond. While many students in eighth grade may not know their future careers, it's important to plan for the highest education possible so they are ready to achieve any goals they set for themselves in the future.

Seniors are to the point of seeing all that planning and hard work pay off for them with graduation just around the corner! Senior parents, NOW is the time to dig out the old photo albums and get your child's pictures to Mrs. Biskup for graduation preparation. A google drive has been opened with folders making it easy for you and your senior to submit photos for graduation as soon as possible! Many seniors are preparing for college by applying for scholarships and putting final plans in place to enter the next phase of life. Even though this is a challenging and busy time, it's also very exciting! Learning of college acceptance, getting recognized through scholarship offers and seeing the future unfold is the best part of senior year!

Alma FFA- Mr. Robison

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As we are wrapping up January and entering February this is a very busy time of year for FFA students. It has been an unusual year with FFA activities with many events being canceled, postponed, or altered due to Covid-19. Fortunately, we were able to have our district land judging contest in October in an alternate form and were able to take 1st place as a team. The team consisted of Kaylee Baker, Delaney Seyler, Abigail Fox, and Nakayla Fox and participated at the state contest ending up in the top 20. We typically would have had livestock judging and national convention at the end of October and beginning of November, however nationals was virtual and livestock judging will be held at the end of February. The chapter officers have been busy trying to be creative with ways to have meetings and keep members engaged with a few social nights/meetings. Currently students are working on their speeches, parliamentary procedure, demonstration and job interview skills for the upcoming leadership development contest. Many students started preparing for this contest back in December and have put a lot of work into these. Going forward in next few weeks, FFA members will be busy applying for proficiency awards, state degrees, livestock judging and spring career development events. Even though state convention is virtual this year, we will still be competing in state contest in some form. In the beginning of March we will be getting spring plants for the greenhouse for the plant sale in April, this is always a fun time planting plugs and seeds. We also look forward to selling these to all our great customers we have gained over the years. Thanks for continued support of the FFA program and you can stay up to date following the Alma FFA Facebook page.

Alma Art News - Mrs. Ritter

Art Students Place in RPAC Competition

Mid-January always brings a lot of anticipation in the art room. The high school students work during the fall semester with one goal in mind. That goal is to create art worthy of placing in the RPAC competition. Art students participating in the competition were Riley Scott, James Dubbs, Abigail Fox, Cody Wells, Jillian Holmberg, Jaden Colburn, Lillian Marshall, Madison Korman, Jonah Felix , Owen Anderson and Zach Halbert. Jonah Felix was awarded the All -School Medal for his acrylic painting entitled Soft Spoken Girl. Madison Korman received both 1st and 2nd honorable mention. Her watercolor painting, Impatient, received 1st honorable mention and Alex, a pencil drawing received 2nd honorable mention. Owen Anderson's white pencil drawing was awarded 3rd honorable mention. The winning pieces are traveling around the RPAC schools. The show is scheduled to be at the Alma School February 3-10 and will be displayed in the school common area.

Mrs. Hays - 2nd Grade News

On January 22nd we celebrated being 100 days smarter! We did many activities that involved the number 100. The second graders started their day by making their 100th day breakfast. The students colored crowns to wear around all day. They wrote a little story about what their 100th birthday would be like and who they would invite. Then they shared it with their classmates. One of the favorite activities we did was read 100 books to the third grade class. Thank you to the third graders for all your help! The students ended their day by putting 100-piece puzzles together! It was a fun day of learning and we can't wait to learn more as the year goes on!

With Valentine's Day coming up I wanted the second graders to think about things that make their heart full. Here each student told me a few things that makes their heart full!

Jackson Bradley: family and new house
Lily Casper: going to school, the community, and coloring
Gia Gearhart: when people help others out and when people stop bullies
Connor Haussermann: Godzilla vs Dinosaur and going swimming
Mark Mahalek: Adventure Agents and clean water to drink
Rivers May: watching YouTube, playing video games, and eating food
Maxwell Mintzmyer: family and pets
Jace Pfeil: dogs, cat, fish, goats, God and Jesus
Harper Schnuerle: eating ice cream, going to the zoo and seeing the lions, and playing in the snow
Asher Shada: family and studying anything and everything
Tucker Simonson: life and family

PE Ideas with Mrs. Schuller

SNOW DAY FUN! (Mrs. Schuller)

With winter finally among us and even a couple snow days under our belt, let us not forget how beautiful winter weather can really be. Yes, I understand, snow packed road conditions are not fun, shoveling sidewalks takes time and energy and the postponement of activities can definitely be a headache, but think of all the positives. Family time together outside, whether it be sledding, four wheeling through the highest drifts, building forts or my favorite, a snowball fight with siblings. Some inside activities might include Monopoly, Play Station, Wii, speed stacking, baking, or just reading time with family members make great memories to treasure.

Alma has so much to offer during the summer. The lake is beautiful and provides great times jet skiing and pontooning. The winter can also be amazing, with time to build snowmen and still walk the walking trail without slipping on the ice of course.

Make memories on these snow days we have been given. Enjoy family time. Stay fit and active and keep your mind sharp. Be proactive, not every year do we get snow days so soak it in and enjoy. Two or three snow days beats two or three months of having to stay home because of the pandemic.

HY-VEE SQUAT CHALLENGE (Mrs. Schuller)

Mrs. Schuller's physical education classes, 2nd through 5th, will be doing a Hy-Vee Squat Challenge the last week in February. Results on how we do will come out in March or April. Your son or daughter might come home with some sore quads the first couple days but it will get better. ;)

Also, we have been speed stacking in class lately and the kids really enjoy it. If you interested in learning more about it or purchasing speed stacking cups for your son or daughter here is a website that might help, www.speedstacks.com, great for hand-eye coordination.

Alma Cardinals Wrestling 20/21

Mr. Ellis

The wrestling season is quickly coming to an end. It has been challenging year for everyone. I would like to introduce the wrestlers on this year's squad:

106 Carter Brandyberry (Sophomore) Current Record: 23-8 / 6 medals
126 James Dubbs (Junior) Current Record: 17-13 / 3 medals
132 Gavin Dunse (Freshmen) Current Record: 8-25 / 1 medal
145 River Eddy (Freshmen) Current Record: 1-2. River was injured at the first meet.
152 Ayden Molzahn (Junior) Current Record: 26-2 / 5 medals
160 Alek Molzahn (Freshmen) Current Record: 22-11 / 7 medals
182 Jason Stenka (Junior) Current Record: 12-19 / 2 medals
220 Andrew Graff (Junior) Current Record: 25-14 / 6 medals
Mgr. Tucker Brandyberry

At this time, we only have one regular season tournament left, Red Cloud/Blue Hill Invitational on January 30th. Then it's off to District competition. This year the NSAA included a subdistrict to help reduce numbers of wrestlers and spectators at the actual district tournament. We are in the D-1 district this year and will compete at High Plains on February 6th for sub-district competition. The following Saturday, February 13th, we will compete in the District Tournament at Weeping Water. Class D State Wrestling dates are set for Wednesday, February 17 and Thursday, February 18 in Omaha. This change was made to also reduce the number of wrestlers and fans present at any one time at the tournament.

I would like to thank the wrestlers for coming up to practice and improving each day this season. Also the parents for their support, whether watching and cheering on the wrestlers in person, or in some cases, virtually. I also need to thank Coach Hernandez and Coach Eddy for their time and dedication to making our team better each week. Mr. Felix has helped me through some track wrestling issues and I appreciate his help. I'm looking forward to seeing our kids on the District medal stand and competing in the State Wrestling Tournament in Omaha.

Alma Honor Roll
Quarter 2 / Semester 1

***Denotes High Honor Roll**

7th Grade

Tucker Biskup	Q2*S1*
Elizabeth Cole	Q2/S1
Ian Dunse	S1*
Josa Dunse	S1
Mason Gesick	Q2/S1
Kalea Lukas	Q2*S1*
Ryan Maly	S1
Isaiah Neal	Q2*S1*
Kaylan Ogier	Q2/S1
Nolan Pfeil	Q2*S1*
Jordin Randleman	Q2
Parker Seyler	Q2*S1*
Jaylea Schmidt	Q2/S1
Alle Shicksnider	Q2*S1*
William VanBoening	S1

8th Grade

Ethan Bach	Q2/S1*
Tucker Brandyberry	Q2/S1
Davis Clark	Q2/S1
Jamin Crawford	S1
Jeremy Felix	Q2/S1
Harper Fennel	Q2*S1*
Matthew Mintzmyer	S1
Abbigail Park	Q2/S1*
Drew Schofield	Q2*S1*
Jaxon Tischner	Q2/S1
Zalie White	Q2/S1
Miley Whitney	Q2*S1*

9th Grade

Melaini Bantam	Q2/S1
Karsten Bradley	Q2*S1*
Anton Cook	Q2*S1*
Elizabeth Dubbs	Q2*S1
Gavin Dunse	Q2/S1
Avery Hadley	Q2*S1*
Kallie Hammond	Q2/S1
Jersey Lewis	Q2/S1
Alek Molzahn	S1
Jakin Neal	Q2/S1
Brett Pfeil	Q2*S1*
Addison Pool	Q2/S1
Dominick Schmidt	Q2/S1
Riley Scott	Q2*S1
Addison Siebels	Q2/S1*
Griffin Stemper	Q2*S1*
Samantha Stone	S1
Madison Zade	Q2*S1*

10th Grade

Linden Biskup	Q2*S1*
Carter Brandyberry	Q2/S1*
Lili Brown	Q2*S1*
Ryan Brugh	Q2/S1
Daniel Cook	S1
Peyton Herrick	Q2/S1
Natasha Hock	S1
Ryan Kermmoade	S1
Steven Mapes	Q2/S1
Addison Neal	Q2*S1*
Swara Patel	Q2*S1*
Kathryn Prickett	Q2*S1*
Delaney Seyler	Q2*S1*
Torrance Tischner	Q2*S1*

11th Grade

Kaylee Baker	Q2/S1
Jonah Felix	Q2/S1
Abigail Fox	Q2/S1
Madison Korman	Q2/S1
Grant McQuay	Q2*S1*
Jessica Pfeil	Q2*S1*
Kendall Stemper	Q2*S1*
Jason Stenka	Q2/S1
Carlee Stuhmer	Q2*S1*
Gage Thulin	S1
Alexis Wolfe	Q2*S1*
Madison Wolfe	S1

12th Grade

Tessa Bach	Q2/S1
Karri Christensen	Q2*S1*
Austin Christian	Q2*S1*
Colton Dahlgren	Q2*S1*
Maddie Ehrke	Q2/S1
Zachary Halbert	Q2
Michelle Lujan Medrano	Q2/S1
Tyler McConnell	Q2/S1
Andrew Russell	Q2/S1
Teagan White	Q2*S1*
Haylee Wing	Q2*S1*

ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL 2021-2022 CALENDAR

Aug 10 –11 Teacher Workday
Aug 12 – 1st Day of School – 2:00 dismissal.
Aug 13 – 2:00 dismissal
Aug 16 – Regular dismissal

14/14

AUGUST 21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sep 6 – Labor Day
Sep 15– Late Start – 10:00
Sep 23 – 1:00 Dismissal PT Conf (2:30-7:30)

21/35

Oct 8 – End of Quarter 41 Days
Oct 11– Start of 2nd QTR
Oct 13 – Late Start - 10:00
Oct 21 – 2:00 Dismissal
Oct 22– No School Fall Break

20/55

OCTOBER 21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER 21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Nov 10– 10:00 AM Late Start
Nov 23 – Regular 3:32/3;39 Dismissal
Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Vacation
Nov 25 – Thanksgiving Vacation
Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Vacation

19/74

Dec 8– Late Start – 10:00
Dec 16-17 Semester Test
Dec 17 – 1st Sem. Ends 87 Days
End of 2nd Qtr. 46 Days
Dec 22-26 Moratorium
Dec 21-Jan 4 Christmas Vacation

13/87

DECEMBER 21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY 22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Jan 3 – Teacher Workday
Jan 4 – School Resumes
Start of 2nd Semester
Jan 12 – Late Start – 10:00

20/20/107

Feb 10– 1:00 Dismissal - PTC (2:30 to 7:30 PM)
Feb 11 – No School – Winter Break
Feb 17 – 2:00 Dismissal
Feb 18 –No School -Winter Break

18/38/125

FEBRUARY 22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

MARCH 22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

March 3 – 2:00 Dismissal
March 4 – No School -Spring Break
March 10–End 3rd Qtr. 45 days
March 10 - 2:00 Dismissal
March 11 – No School -Spring Break
March 14 – Start of 4th Qtr.
March 16 – Late Start – 10:00

21/59/146

April 14– 2:00 Dismissal
April 15 – Easter Vacation
April 18 – Easter Vacation

19/78/165

APRIL 22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May 5 –Track Invite – 1:00 Dismissal
May 6 – Seniors Last Day
May 7 – Graduation
May 18-19 Semester Test
May 19 – Last Day for students.
End of 4th Qtr. – 46 Days
End of Semester – 91 Days
End of School year – 178 Days
May 20– Teacher Workday
May 25– June 10 – HS-Summer school

13/91/178

May 25-June 10 – HS Summer School
June 7 – July 8 – Elementary Summer School

JUNE 22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY 202

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 7 – July 7 – Elementary Summer School