

The Central Valley Chronicle

March 2021

From the Desk of Mr. Todd Beck



With the start of spring comes, once again, the window for the Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS). These assessments are used by the state to measure the effectiveness of our public schools. For the Central Valley Public Schools, it gives us more data to measure the effectiveness of our instruction, the preparation of our students, and the comparison of our students with the rest of the students in Nebraska. It is just one measure of these studies. However, it gives us all; parents, teachers, students, and the Nebraska Department of Education; information to help give Nebraska's young people a quality education. With that being said, I want our students to perform their very best on these assessments. Here are some ways that parents can help their child perform up to their potential:

- ◆ Ask your child when he or she will be taking the NSCAS Assessments. The window opens for the NSCAS ELA, Math and Science assessments from March 16 to April 24. Grades 3 through 8 will take the math and ELA test. The science test will be taken by grades 5 through 8. Teachers will start scheduling these, or at least have an idea of when they plan to administer these assessments, soon.
- ◆ All Sophomores have taken the Pre-ACT and Juniors will take the ACT Test on March 23.
- ◆ Provide the importance of these assessments by talking to your child about them. Make sure that your child gets to bed on time and plenty of sleep the night before the assessment. Also, your child should eat a healthy breakfast before going to school on the day of the assessments.
- ◆ Finally, assure your child that it is not just about the scores they receive, but also the skills that they have developed throughout the school year. Skills that, hopefully, will be developed through their years in school and which will help them make their dreams become a reality. Our students do not obtain their skills for their careers in college or post-secondary training alone. The fundamental knowledge they acquire all the way through school helps create the foundation for them to be able to build skills after high school.
- ◆ **Make school a priority for your child.**

Inside this issue:

Notes from Mrs. Shafer.....Page 2
Kids Heart
Challenge.....Page 3
Central Valley
FFA.....Pages 4/5
Spelling Bee.....Page 6
Science Students Design
Roller Coasters....Pages 6/7
State Wrestling.....Page 8
Blood Drive.....Page 9
Speech.....Page 10

Other inserts included in the hard copy newsletter are the menus and activity calendars. Menus and calendars may also be found on the CV Home page (www.centralvps.org).

Please be sure to check the calendars online as changes



Principal's Desk
Central Valley Elementary
Mrs. Connie Shafer

Spring is just around the corner. Sunshine and warmer days will be welcome. The students and staff will be glad to get outside and enjoy some sunshine!!

Congratulations to the Greeley County Spelling Bee contestants! Contestants from the elementary were **Sixth graders, Brooklyn Perrott and Luke Shoemaker and Fifth graders Avery Johnson and Maggie Kriewald.** Congratulations goes out to Brooklyn Perrott for placing second in the oral competition of the Greeley County Spelling Bee and to Morgan Johnson in 8th grade from Central Valley who received 3rd place! The winner of the oral competition this year was Jacob Smith, a 6th grader from Spalding Academy. We are very proud of all of our contestants that competed at the Greeley County Spelling Bee.

Kindergarten transition days will be held at elementary on **March 19 (Day One)** and **March 26th (Day Two)** from 1:00-3:00. If you are new to our school and would like a look at our facility, we will give parents a walk through of our school at 3:00 on both days. Masks are required. In Nebraska, the only requirement for kindergarten entrance is age-eligibility: your child turns five on or before July 31 of the incoming school year. https://www.education.ne.gov/oec/pdfs/Ready_or_Success_Booklet.pdf.

- ◆ **Preschool Round Up in Scotia** will be held **March 19** from 9:00-10:00 AM.
- ◆ **Preschool Round Up for Greeley** students will be held **March 17** at the Greeley site from 10:30-11:30 AM.
- ◆ **Preschool Round Up for Wolbach** students will be held **March 17** at the Wolbach site from 8:30-9:30 AM.

If you know of a family/families that have a 3 or 4 year olds that may have just moved into the district or is interested in attending that did not receive this information, please spread the news or have them give us a call at 308-245-3201. We accept 3 and 4 year olds. Your child must turn three on or before July 31 of the incoming school year. Students should accompany the parents during registration, unless your three year old has already attended school this year then they will not need to come for this meeting.

Third quarter comes to an end on March 17. Soon after, we will be gearing up to take our NSCAS, (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment tests), and our final MAP tests. Teachers have been preparing students all year for the educational growth we hope to see in the testing results. These scores become part of each child's BOE (Body of Evidence) to guide instructional decisions to best meet the needs of each child. These scores (along with other assessment data) are also used to analyze school wide programming and instructional practices. As we continue to work together, we are excited to see the continued educational growth of our students.

As Spring is approaching, beautiful weather comes. Please continue to have your child(ren) dress for changing conditions. It is important for children to have an opportunity to get some needed fresh air each day. There are many activities and events scheduled for the last quarter so please take time to frequently visit the Central Valley website and activity calendar as well as read newsletters and information that come home weekly in your students Friday/Monday folders to stay informed. Thank you for being a partner in your child's education.

Continued from Mrs. Connie Shafer

Reminders:

- ◆ **March 3**
Teacher Inservice in Greeley
Elementary dismisses at 1:30
- ◆ **March 5**
No School - Girls State Basketball
- ◆ **March 8**
School board meeting @ 7:00 in Greeley
- ◆ **March 12**
No School - Boys State Basketball
- ◆ **March 17**
Preschool Roundup in Wolbach
8:30-9:30am
- ◆ **March 17**
Preschool Roundup in Greeley
10:30-11:30am
- ◆ **March 19**
Preschool Roundup in Scotia
9:00-10:00
- ◆ **March 19**
Kindergarten Transition Day One
1:00-3:00pm
- ◆ **March 26**
Kindergarten Transition Day Two
1:00-3:30.

Instilling Pride; Inspiring Others!!



Hello Families!

Central Valley Elementary school is proud to partner with the American Heart Association again this year! We're excited to continue JUMPING ROPE to help those with special hearts.

Over the next few weeks, our students will be having fun learning about their heart with the Heart Heroes while raising money to help fund lifesaving research. Our school goal is to raise \$1,500.00, and in addition to helping the American Heart Association, our school can earn

free PE equipment. Students can earn their own Heart Hero Characters this year by using the mobile app (download the KIDS HEART CHALLENGE app) or by visiting heart.org/kidsheartchallenge to sign up and raise money online!

We'll be kicking off Kids Heart Challenge on March 15, 2021 with a special presentation from the American Heart Association during their PE classes that day and will be handing out the materials for the fundraising event. Our KIDS HEART CHALLENGE activity will be on March 15-19 during regularly PE times. All donations are due on March 26, 2021 and we will be doing Exercise week during PE classes starting next week. Thank you for helping a great cause!

If you would have any questions please feel free to contact me through my email, josh.nuss@centralvps.org.

Thank You,
Mr. Nuss



Virtual Statewide Spanish Competition

By Laurie Alexander

Central Valley has been invited to participate in a statewide virtual foreign language competition hosted by Columbus High School. Students who participate will be those currently enrolled in Spanish III and IV.

The students can choose from competitive events including Poetry, Music, Drama, Art, and Folk Dance all relating to, or presented in Spanish. They will prepare their events and submit them through video to the judges. Students will have the opportunity to earn medals, ribbons and certificates for their projects.

An awards ceremony will be held via Zoom on May 3rd, 2021.



Central Valley FFA Wins Big at Districts!

Central Valley competed in the District 8 Career Development Events held Monday, February 22, in Shelton. FFA members competed against several hundred students from 16 area schools.

District Champions!!!

The Veterinary Science team earned bragging rights as District Champions. Team members include Larista Barner, Demi Daniels, Carly Johnson, and Lexi Schaffert. This is the third year in a row that Central Valley has brought home the hardware for Vet Science District Champions.

District Runner-up in Livestock Management

Placing just a few points behind the first-place team, Team #1 consisted of Cohen Grossart, Carly Johnson, Tamryn Klein, Tanner Landers, and Madison Young. We will get them at State FFA!!!

Livestock Management Team #2 members were Kendra Cargill, Ty Landers, Dierks Nekoliczak, Piper Shepard, Treyven Straka. They took 5th place in the 12 team field. This is a great placing for a young team in a tough contest.

Agronomy team 4th Place with two members in the top ten!! Gabe Jacobsen - 7th high individual Zach Stobbe - 8th high individual with Terran Shepard and Kean Benson completing the team.

Two teams competed virtually for District FFA CDE's. Farm and Agribusiness Management, and Environmental and Natural Resources.

Earning 4th Place in the competitive career event of Farm and Agribusiness Management were Ty Nekoliczak placing 12th high individual, Morgan Behnk, Jackson McIntyre, and Lexi Schaffert. All team members are senior students in Mrs. Dugan's Ag. Business/Economics class. Great job!

Central Valley entered the Environmental and Natural Resources contest with Tanner Landers, Bo Pokorny, McKade Pribnow, and Tanner Sliva. Tanner Sliva placed highest among our members. 18 teams competed in this popular contest.

Central Valley has had a great showing so far at District Career Development Events. In early March, Livestock Judging and Welding competitions will be held. Results will be posted then.



Front row l-r: Ty Landers, Zack Stobbe, Dierks Nekoliczak, Demi Daniels, Lexi Schaffert, Kendra Cargill, Piper Shepard, Carly Johnson, Tamryn Klein

Back row l-r: Gage Jacobsen, Terran Shepard, Tanner Landers, Kean Benson, Cohen Grossart, Treyven Straka, Madison Young, Larista Barner

FFA Week

February 22 thru February 26 was National FFA Week! We kicked off the week by having Official FFA Dress Day on Monday. Also on Monday, members competed in Career Development Events in Shelton.

On Tuesday, we had the annual barnyard in Scotia at the elementary school. We had many animals. Demi Daniels brought her horse Jet, Lexi Schaffert brought her dog Helen, and Larista Barner brought her cat Cinnamon. Tanner Landers brought the ag. class bunny, Bonnie, and Kendra Cargill brought her chicken Chika. Cohen Grossart was supervising the sheep and her lambs which Mike Goldfish brought to share at the barnyard. Cordel Wangner brought his four piglets, and Carly Johnson brought her two show calves Archie and Beckie. Tamryn Klein took care of the goat named Chubbs brought by Janet Moraczewski. Kean Benson brought his tractor to the barnyard as well! We appreciated Bob Thompson bringing the panels for the piglets and sheep!

The officer team traveled back over to the elementary school on Wednesday. We hosted the Barnyard Olympics with the 4th and 5th graders. We then went to visit the 6th graders and presented the FFA orientation.

On Thursday, everyone in the high school was allowed to skip out of the last 15 minutes of eighth period! We held a Milkshake Mustache Contest! We dove deeper into the agricultural side of FFA and decided to highlight the dairy industry this year. We presented facts such as the average dairy cow produces over 8 gallons of milk per day. We had one student representative from each class compete. The seventh grade had Ky Cargill, eighth grade had Boston Wood, freshmen had Dierks Nekoliczak, sophomores had Zandar Wolf, juniors had Casey Landers, seniors had Morgan Behnk, and the staff representative was Nolan Krazter.

Morgan Behnk was our winner of the contest and he won a free FFA t-shirt!

Michelle Obermeier was kind enough to donate cupcakes for our staff to thank them for all they do. To end the week, we had Hat day and drive your tractor to school day! We had four students bring their tractor to school, Terran Shepard, Zach Stobbe, Zandar Wolf, and Gale Treat.

Throughout the week the annual FFA Cornhole tournament was held during the first and second lunches. Natalie Poss and Dierks Nekoliczak won the first lunch tournament representing grades 7, 8, and 9. Morgan Behnk and Ty Nekoliczak won the second lunch tournament representing grades 10,11, and 12. Natalie and Dierks earned championship honors beating Ty and Kyle Oakley for bragging rights.

Central Valley FFA would like to thank everyone for participating and making this such a memorable week!



Greeley County



On February 18, sixteen students from Central Valley and Spalding Academy competed in the Greeley County Spelling Bee held at Spalding Academy. Each school sent two students from 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades to participate.

The spelling began at 1:00pm with students writing out 100 words. The six students with the highest score then went on to the oral round of the spelling bee. Central Valley had four spellers advance to the oral rounds: Brooklyn Perrott, Morgan Johnson, Hugh Thompson and Taylor McIntyre.

After seven rounds of oral spelling, Jacob Smith of Spalding Academy became the 2021 Greeley County Spelling Bee Champion. Brooklyn Perrott was this year's Runner-Up and Morgan Johnson came home in 3rd Place. Jacob Smith will now advance to the Omaha World Herald-Midwest Spelling Bee on March 13 in Omaha.

Central Valley Students participating in this year's Spelling Bee were:

Fifth Grade

Avery Johnson
Maggie Kriewald

Sixth Grade

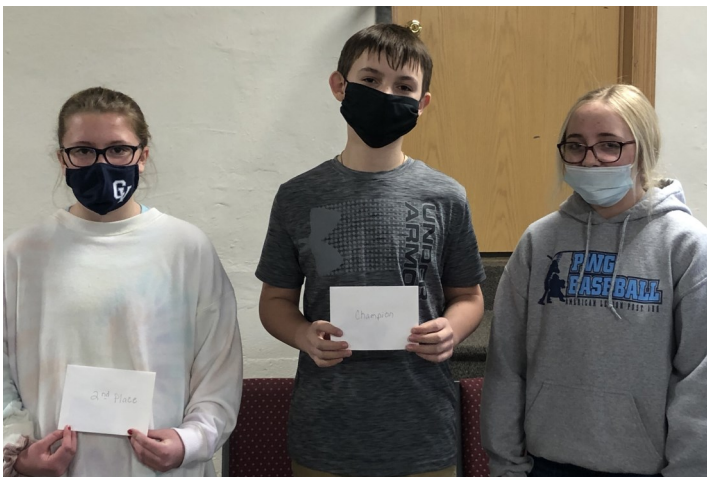
Brooklyn Perrott
Lucas Shoemaker

Seventh Grade

Taylor McIntyre
Hugh Thompson

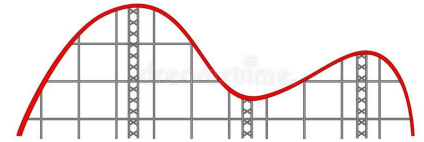
Eighth Grade

Emma Corman
Morgan Johnson



Brooklyn Perrott, Jacob Smith, Morgan Johnson

SCIENCE STUDENTS DESIGN AND BUILD



"ROLLER COASTERS" TO STUDY ENERGY

written by MaryAnn McQuillan

For the past few weeks, Mrs. Lueck's 9th grade physical science students have been learning about energy and its transformations. Their knowledge was put to use this week when they were tasked with designing and building a roller coaster system and then using their designs to calculate how energy is transferred. Six teams in all were provided the tools they needed and, after planning their systems, they set to work.

"It wasn't easy," Mrs. Lueck said about the challenge. "The requirements were each system needed to have a one meter drop as well as one loop, and two hills. The materials students were provided included four pieces of foam pipe insulation, toothpicks, tape, and a marble to serve as the cart." Each of the six roller coasters which were constructed along and around counters, sinks, and various walls in her classroom ran about four feet in length. The challenge was to create a system that allowed the marble (cart) to make a series of successful runs along its entire track.

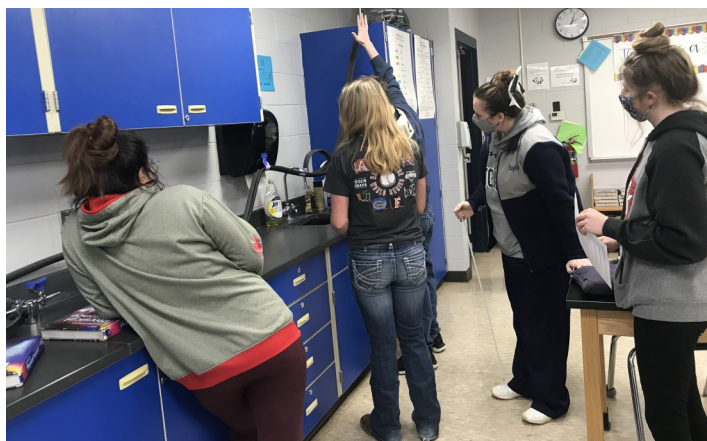
Mrs. Lueck said after drawing up their initial designs on paper, a process the students considered quite easy, they discovered how much more difficult it was to produce a roller coaster system that actually worked. If the height was wrong or the drop too sheer or the loop or hills not properly placed, the cart would either stall out or fly off the track. It took patience, careful thought, and in some cases, several needed adjustments before the carts could make a complete run. "When they encountered design problems, the students had to collaborate together to try and solve the problem, a practice that is essential in the real world," she said.



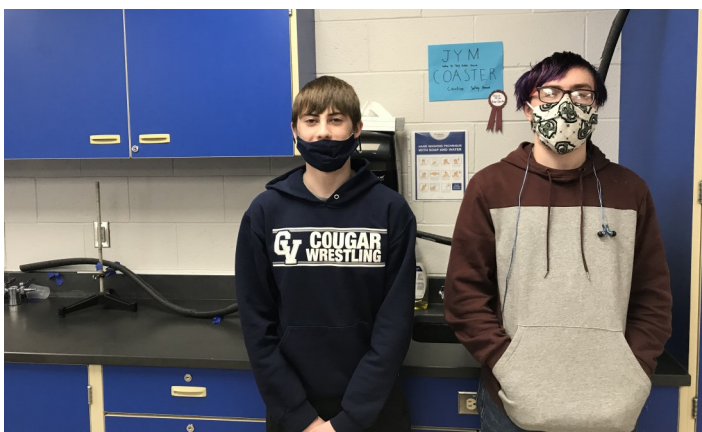
Continued from "Roller Coasters"

Once their systems were completed, the students gathered data and then utilized the formulas they were taught to calculate potential and kinetic energy, velocity, and acceleration at various points in their track. Although they especially liked the engineering and design part of the project, Mrs. Lueck noted applying the correct equations in order to understand energy transformations was an essential part of each team's grade. At the conclusion of the project, she asked her honors Chemistry students to judge the various roller coasters, and prizes were awarded for the most creative design and the most consistently successful ride.

Mrs. Lueck said creating a roller coaster system has always been a fun, popular activity with her physical science students. And even though they might not consider the project in its entirety "*Worlds of Fun*," she said it is fun to see their sense of accomplishment when their co-active work ends in success.



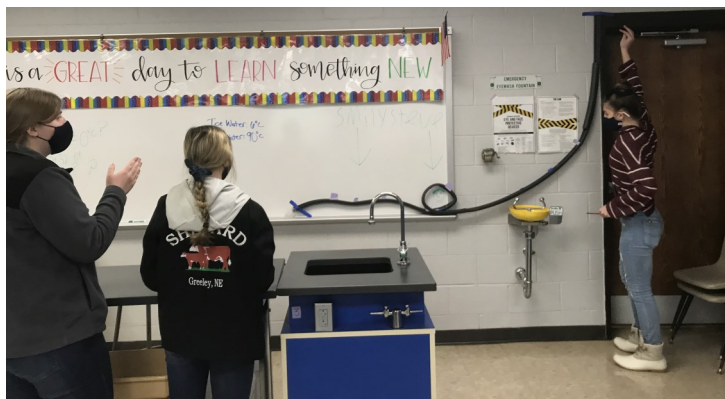
Honors Chemistry students judging the roller coasters.



Dierks Nekoliczak and Dylan Rogers, the winners!!



Dierks Nekoliczak designing and building a roller coaster track.



Cayton Butcher, Piper Shepard and Alexis Johnson testing the tracks.

NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

On Tuesday February 23rd, SGT Schoenhofer from the Nebraska National Guard came to Greeley to do an activity with the students during their strength & conditioning class. He brought an inflatable version of the board game Hungry, Hungry Hippos.

During the game, the students would put on a vest that had a bungee cord hooked to it and have to run blindfolded out to the center and bring back dodgeballs to put in their basket. The students would race to see who could collect the most dodgeballs in their basket. It was something new and exciting for the kids to do during class and they all had a blast doing it.





Kane Greek jumping in the inflatable Hungry Hippo

Think outside the book

The world is full of things to read. Share some with your youngster each day, and watch him become a well-rounded reader. Here are a few suggestions:



- ◆ Turn your refrigerator door into a reading center. Encourage everyone to post reviews of books, movies, restaurants, and gadgets. You could also hang up comics or fortune cookie slips.
- ◆ Email each other. You might send schedule reminders, news about your day, poems, or inspirational quotes.
- ◆ Share cards and letters that come in the mail. Use takeout menus and catalogs for reading practice, too—ask your child to find coupons or to tell you about foods or products that interest him.



2021 State Wrestling

Central Valley Wrestler Dierks Nekoliczak competed at the 2020-21 NSAA Wrestling Competition held at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha from Feb. 17-18.

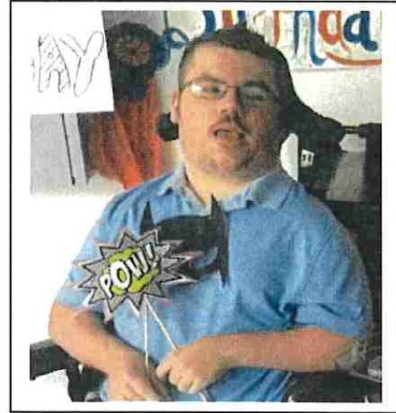
Dierks Nekoliczak—106 lb. 6th Place Medalist

Tournament results:

- ◆ Round 1
Pinned by Hayden Neema of Superior in 0:49
- ◆ 1st Consolation Round
Pins Trent Rushman of Leyton in 3:36
- ◆ 2nd Consolation Round
Defeats Nolan Osborn of Twin Loup 1-0
- ◆ 3rd Consolation Round
Defeats Jeffrey Forsen of Mullen 9-4
- ◆ Consolation Semi-Final
Pinned by Reece Kocian of East Butler in 2:08
- ◆ 5th/6th Place Medal
Defeated by Sebastian Saucedo of Shelton 6-4



Donate Blood In Memory of **Nick Dvorak**



Nick Dvorak was a friend to everyone he met. He was born with Cerebral Palsy, a genetic disorder, even having seizures wouldn't keep Nick from giving back. He was an unselfish individual who became an organ and tissue donor. Nick's parents are asking the community to follow Nick's lead and help save someone's life. Donate blood at a drive held in Nick's memory,

Blood Drive **Central Valley Public Schools**

Central Valley Auditorium
Sponsored by Chapter FCCLA

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For an appointment, please contact Cayton 308-223-0792

Bring Donor Card or Photo ID

Note: Eat breakfast/lunch and drink plenty of water prior to donating blood.

Your donation is essential. Please schedule an appointment today.
Walk in appointments will not be available.



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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SPEECH Karen Reynolds and Mary Ann McQuillan, Coaches

After a number of cancellations due to snow storms, ice storms, and internet problems negating a planned virtual Meet, this year's Speech team finally got an opportunity to showcase its talents at the Goldenrod Conference. Twelve students made up five entries, and four of those entries took home medals.

Earning fourth place with his humorous prose, "Mancation," was senior Gabe Davis. Gabe is extraordinarily talented. His ability to memorize a script and portray its characters with stunning clarity, is incredible.

Junior Airalee Evans received a fourth place medal for her serious prose entitled "Normalcy." Airalee's tension-laced performance grabs you and keeps you on the edge of your seat until its dramatic ending.

Airalee and senior Lexi Schaffert also medaled with their hilarious duet entitled "Ten Steps to Humiliation," an intelligent, fast-paced script that dazzled the audience and judges alike and earned them a fourth place finish. These two girls paired together are a force of nature; assured, confident, and ridiculously talented.

Finally, five students, seniors Ashlyn Wright and Cayton Butcher, juniors Neleigh Poss and Dilynn Wood, and freshman Natalie Poss slayed the competition with their over-the-top performance of a script entitled "The Cause." The uproarious OID earned the girls a coveted and well-deserved second place medal. Special accolades go to Natalie who stepped in and delivered when one of our regulars, senior Audrey Wood, was unable to be present at the Meet.

Although the boys' OID which is performed by sophomores Zander Wolf, Kean Benson, Cohen Grossart and Tanner Landers didn't make finals, their wacky performance of the comedy script "Escanaba in da Moonlight," placed them within a

single point of receiving a sixth place medal.

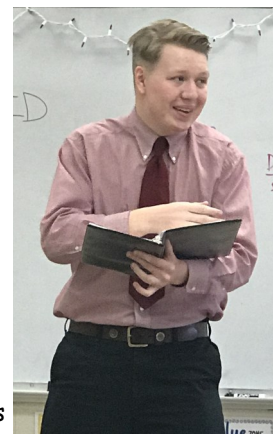
The Speech Team will present their Home Show Tuesday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library at Central Valley High School in Greeley. We hope you will join us for 70 minutes of laughs and good drama.

On March 9, our students will compete at D1-2 Districts at Bancroft-Rosalie for a spot at State. Central Valley will square off against Bancroft-Rosalie, High Plains Community, Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Mead, Omaha Christian Academy, Osceola, and Shelton.

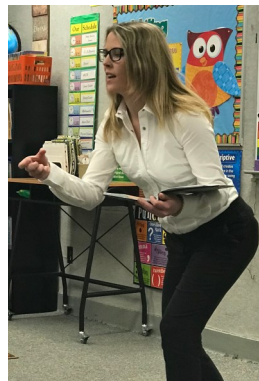
Working with these fun, enormously talented students is so rewarding. We love their energy and imaginative minds, and we're looking forward to a strong finish as we cap off this Speech year!



Lexi Schaffert, Airalee Evans, Gabriel Davis, Ashlyn Wright




Gabriel Davis



Airalee Evans



Tanner Landers, Zandar Wolf, Cohen Grossart, Casey Landers




Ashlyn Wright
Natalie Poss
Neleigh Poss
Cayton Butcher



Michelle Wood,
School Nurse

The State of Nebraska requires the following for the children entering into preschool and kindergarten:

PRESCHOOL

*Copy of Birth Certificate with seal

*Up-to-date Immunization Record

REQUIRED VACCINES:

*4 doses of **DTaP, DTP, or DT** vaccine

*3 doses of **Polio** vaccine

*3 doses of **Hib** vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age

*3 doses of pediatric **Hepatitis B** vaccine

*1 dose of **MMR or MMRV** given on or after 12 months of age

*1 dose of **Varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV** given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.

*4 doses of **Pneumococcal** or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age.

Kindergarten

*Physical Exam 6 months prior to entering school

*Vision Evaluation

*Up-to -date Immunization Record

*Copy of Birth Certificate with the seal



REQUIRED VACCINES

*3 doses of **DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td** vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday.

*3 doses of **Polio** Vaccine

*3 doses of **Pediatric Hepatitis B** vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 year of age.

*2 doses of **MMR or MMRV** vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month.

*2 doses of **Varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV** given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from the parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease they do not need any varicella shots.

Reading is worth the time



According to research, less than 20 percent of teens read for pleasure every day. But teens are spending an average of six hours a day online, texting, streaming videos and using social media.

To restore your teen's interest in reading, turn off electronic devices in your home for a half-hour every day. Use the time to read together and talk about what you read.



Central Valley will be hosting the Goldenrod Conference Music Contest on Wednesday, March 31. Spectators are welcome!!



Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

March 2021

Central Valley Elementary School

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring* (Kenard Pak)



Explore the magic of the changing seasons in this joyful story of a

boy and his dog who welcome the colors, animals, and flowers of spring. Your child can follow along as snowy winter nights transform into sunny spring days.

■ *Art Play! Activities for Preschoolers* (Meredith Magee Donnelly)

This book designed for little hands will inspire your youngster to make a magic wand, create a home for a stuffed animal, draw while dancing, and more. The easy-to-follow ideas use everyday supplies and focus on the process of making art.

■ *Mango, Abuela, and Me* (Meg Medina)



When Mia's Spanish-speaking *abuela* (grandmother) moves in with her family, the little girl isn't sure how they'll be able to communicate. Still, she's determined to learn Spanish and teach her *abuela* English. With the help of a parrot named Mango, Mia and her *abuela's* relationship flourishes. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *The Napping House* (Audrey Wood)

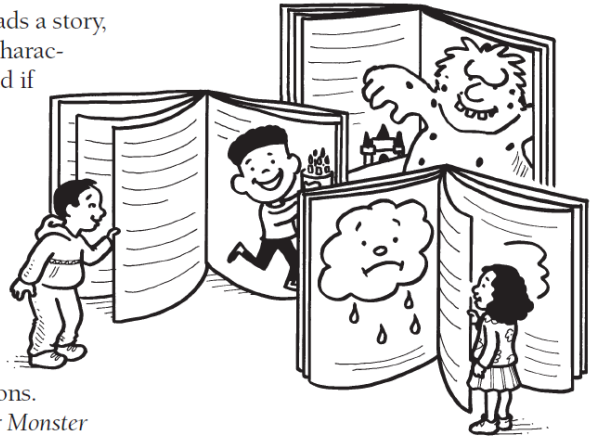
In the house where everyone naps, you would think everything was calm. And it is—until too many people and animals climb into the cozy bed. Your youngster will love discovering what



happens in this silly story when one too many creatures try to take a nap.

Boost empathy with books

When your youngster reads a story, he might feel happy if one character wins a soccer game or sad if another's best friend moves away. Books can help him understand others' feelings in real life, too. Try these ideas to boost his empathy—and his reading comprehension.



Explore feelings

Ask a librarian to help you find books about emotions. She might suggest *The Color Monster* (Anna Llenas) or *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* (Britney Winn Lee), for instance. Read the stories to your child, and let him look for words that describe characters' feelings (happy, sad, scared). Then, you can each share a time when you felt those emotions.

"Read" pictures

Have your youngster look at the pictures in books and try to figure out how characters are feeling. He might say a girl with her mouth open looks surprised or that a monster with a red face looks

mad. Together, read the page to find out why the character feels that way.

Handle tough times

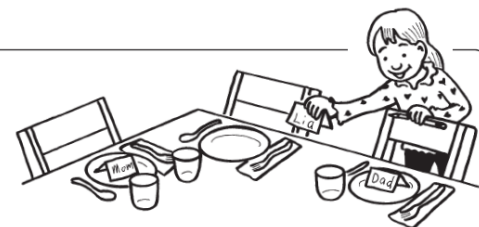
Seeing how characters deal with challenges, like being bullied or starting a new school, can help your child cope with his own struggles. As you read, encourage him to predict how a character might handle a difficult experience. What might your youngster do in the same situation? Read on to find out what happens.♥

Writing in the kitchen

Bring writing into the kitchen to show your child everyday ways she can practice:

- Let your youngster make place cards for each person at the table.
- Suggest that she write a menu for lunch options on a chalkboard or piece of paper.
- Ask her to help you make a grocery list. She might copy words from food packages to spell them.
- Have your child use mailing labels or write on freezer bags to identify leftovers. She can write what's inside and the date.

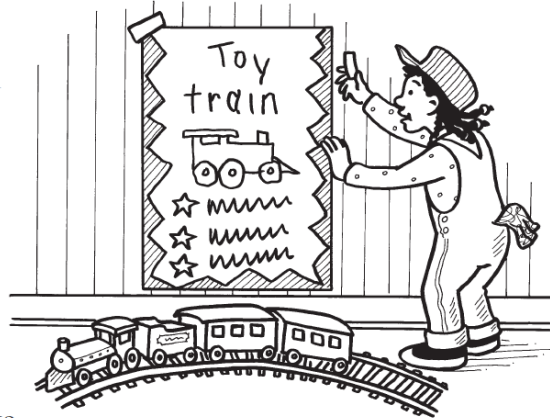
Idea: Keep slips of paper or a notepad in a kitchen drawer to encourage regular writing.♥



Persuade me!

Persuasive writing gives your child a chance to express her opinions—and to convince others that she has a good point. These activities will let her put her persuasive skills to work.

Advertisements. Suggest that your youngster draw a picture of a favorite product, such as a toy or her sneakers, and write an ad that would inspire others to buy it. For a train, she could write, “Trains are fun to play with. This train goes fast down the



hills. Kids will love it.” Let her read her ad to you. She could hang it up like a billboard—or make more ads and staple them together to create a catalog.

Family message board. Leave persuasive messages for each other on a whiteboard, a bulletin board, or a space on the refrigerator door. Encourage your child to write recommendations for things like family outings or meals. She should also list

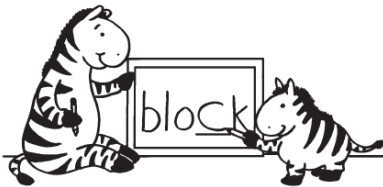
reasons in an effort to persuade you. *Example:* “Let’s hike on Saturday. It’s going to be sunny. Hiking is fun.” When possible, try her ideas!♥

Q&A

Spelling progress

Q My first grader sometimes leaves out letters in words when he writes. Is this something I should be concerned about?

A When children begin writing, they often write only the letters for the sounds they hear. So it’s common for them to leave out letters. If your son writes *blok* (*block*), he’s showing that he hears the *b*, *l*, *o*, and *k* sounds—and that he still needs to learn that *k* is spelled *ck* in some words.



As he learns new sounds and spelling patterns, he’ll spell more words correctly. Help him with this idea. Say he’s learning in school that *oa* sounds like *o*, and he writes *cot* (*coat*). Write the word, leaving a blank in place of the missing letter (*co_t*). Ask him to say the word aloud (*coat*), and see if he can fill in the blank (*a*). Now have him write a word with a missing letter for you to figure out!♥



Fun with Words

Roll-and-read suffixes

Rain, rained, raining ... your youngster can change a word by adding an ending like *-ed* or *-ing*. Play this game to help him explore suffixes.

Materials: poster board or construction paper, pencil, die, one game token per player

Help your child draw an S-shaped game-board path, label opposite ends “Start” and “Finish,” and add lines to make spaces. On each space, have him write a word that can use the suffix *-ed*, *-ing*, *-er*, or *-s*, such as *play*, *dance*, and *call*.

Put your tokens on “Start,” and take turns rolling a die and moving your token that number of spaces. Pick a suffix that makes sense and use the new word in a sentence. For *call*, your youngster might say, “I *called* Nana on the phone today.” Reach “Finish” first to win.♥



Parent to Parent

Film a book trailer

My daughter Liza loves to watch book trailers online. They’re like movie previews—but for books! So she decided to create one of her own.

She practiced reading the book title (*Knuffle Bunny*), the author’s name (Mo Willems), and the summary on the back. She also used sticky notes to bookmark her favorite pages so she could show them to her audience.

When Liza was ready, I recorded her giving an introduction and talking about the pages she had chosen. She wrapped up her trailer by leaving her audience with a question: “Will Trixie be reunited with Knuffle Bunny?”

My daughter has made several trailers since then, and she’s building her speaking skills and learning to talk about books. I help her email them to our relatives and friends so their children can watch—and hopefully find new books to read.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s reading, writing, and language skills.

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Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

March 2021

Central Valley Elementary School

Book Picks

■ *Paint the Wind* (Pam Muñoz Ryan)

When 11-year-old Maya's grandmother dies, the little girl goes to Wyoming to live with relatives she's never met. There she enjoys new freedom and the friendship of a wild mustang. After the mustang saves Maya's life, she must decide whether to keep the horse or set her free. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas* (Gwendolyn Hooks)

In this inspiring biography, readers will learn about African American surgical pioneer Vivien Thomas. Unable to go to medical school, he landed a job in a research lab at an all-white college. There, he helped to pave the way for children's open-heart surgery.

■ *Professor Astro Cat's Deep-Sea Voyage* (Dominic Walliman)

Follow along as Professor Astro Cat explores the deep sea. Blending fiction and non-fiction, this book includes facts about shipwrecks, coral reefs, sea creatures, and much more. Contains illustrated diagrams and maps plus a glossary with ocean terms. Part of the Professor Astro Cat series.



explores the deep sea. Blending fiction and non-fiction, this book

■ *The Hero Revealed* (William Boniface)

Meet Ordinary Boy. In his hometown of Superopolis, he's the only resident without superpowers. Then, he gets to help his favorite superhero and learns that even regular people can be heroes. This humorous book is the first in the Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Boy series.



Creative study guides

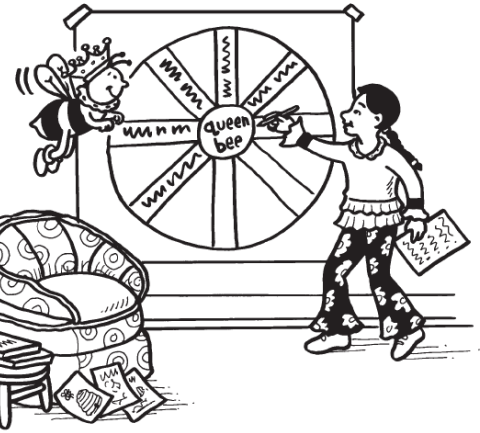
Reading for information is a skill every student needs. Suggest that your child create a study guide to use for her next test. In the process, she'll practice reading closely for key ideas and details. Here are formats she could try.

Details, details

For each section of a textbook chapter, have your child draw a wheel (a circle with spokes, coming out from its center in all directions). In the hub, she can write the topic (*queen bee*). On each spoke, she could write a detail about that topic (one queen bee per colony, lays up to 1,500 eggs per day).

Color-coding

Let your youngster choose a different-color pen or font for each kind of fact. For instance, if she's reading about the American Revolution, she could use blue to write notes about people (George Washington, Benjamin Franklin), red for dates (1775, 1783), and green for places (Bunker Hill, Yorktown).



Color-coding will help her remember the information.

Q&A

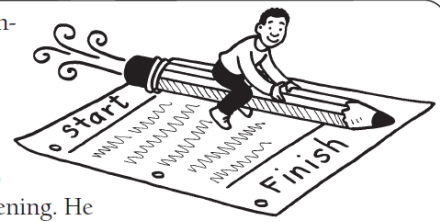
Ask your youngster to pretend she's an expert on a topic she's studying and that a news reporter has interviewed her. She can write an "interview transcript" and use it as a study guide. First, she should rewrite each topic as a question. For instance, "The Importance of Protein" might become "Why is protein important?" Then as she reads, she can fill in the answers to create her transcript. ■

Strong starts, fine finishes

It takes practice to write effective beginnings and endings for essays or reports. Share these tips with your youngster.

● **Introduction:** The opening sentence welcomes the audience and hints at what's to come. Encourage your child to experiment to find the most inviting opening. He might pose a question ("When was the first robot built?") or present a fact ("The earliest known robot had wings").

● **Conclusion:** The last sentence offers a snapshot of the ideas presented. Have your youngster reread his paper and ask, "What do I want readers to remember?" Then, he can write a line with that in mind. ("Robots may seem like new technology, but history shows they've been around for a long time.") ■



Combine books with crafts

Crafty activities can encourage your child to think more deeply about books—and make reading more enjoyable. Spark his imagination with projects like these.

Design graffiti boards. Have your youngster decorate poster boards with drawings and words related to a book. For example, if he's reading a mystery, he could draw a part of the setting, write clues from the story in a giant question mark, and fill the margins of the poster with his favorite quotes from the book. He'll



have to read carefully to pay attention to what's important.

Build models.

Let your child use household materials to make 3-D creations that match a book. If he's reading about roller coasters, he might engineer one with cardboard tubes and straws. Or for a tale

about forest animals, he could sculpt creatures out of clay. Have him dig for details in the text and examine the illustrations so he can make accurate models. ■

Parent & Parent Be a better speller

My son Elliott has been struggling with spelling, so I shared rules I used at his age, like “i before e, except after c.” But he said he'd learned that many words don't follow those rules. So I asked his teacher for better ways to help him at home.

The teacher suggested that Elliott keep a list of words he frequently misspells and post it over his desk. For example, she pointed out that he tends to put *-able* at the end of words that should have *-ible*. So Elliott made a list that included *collectible*, *edible*, *flexible*, and *visible*.

She also said that while rules can be useful, looking for exceptions might be a fun way to help Elliott remember difficult spellings. When he found *e* before *i* in a “neighborhood meeting” notice and on a “weigh produce here” sign in the store, he decided that words with *igh* have their own rule: *e* before *i* if it sounds like *a*. Now, he's looking for exceptions that don't include *eigh*. ■



Q&A Read and write about science

Q I think my daughter might want to be a scientist when she grows up!

How could we use her love of science to help her with reading and writing, too?

A It's great that your child enjoys science so much. Try getting books of science experiments for her from the library. She can read them and pick out experiments to do at home—following the instructions will give her good reading practice.

Your daughter may enjoy reading science fiction, too. Ask her to point out inventions or technology in the stories that are based on real science or that she thinks could be possible in her lifetime.

You might also suggest that your child start a science journal. She could record the results of her experiments or write about what she spots during walks, such as animal tracks in the mud or flowers sprouting from the ground. ■



Fun with Words Once upon a time

Give your youngster's speaking skills a boost with this family storytelling game.

1. Have each player write 10–20 random words (*feud*, *crucial*, *magical*) on separate slips of paper. Fold the slips in half, put them in a bag, and shake.

2. Let your child pull out a slip and begin telling a story that uses the word she drew. “Once upon a time, there was a *feud*

between two kings who just happened to be brothers.” Then, the next person draws a word and continues the story. “One king thought it was *crucial* to build a moat to keep his brother's knights from invading.” Continue taking turns picking slips and adding to the story.

3. The person who chooses the last word gets to wrap up the tale. ■



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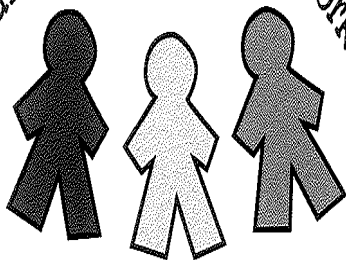
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IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY

To ask questions about your baby's development

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All children develop at different rates.
Listed below are some guides to see
how your child is developing.

0-1 YEARS

- ✓ Holds head up by four months
- ✓ Picks up objects by six months
- ✓ Responds to sounds by six months
- ✓ Makes some of the sounds made by others by nine months
- ✓ Uses furniture to pull self to standing position by 12 months

1-2 YEARS

- ✓ Holds out arms and legs while being dressed by 18 months
- ✓ Points to objects he/she wants by 18 months
- ✓ Walks without help by 18 months
- ✓ Says two words by 18 months
- ✓ Drinks from a cup by two years
- ✓ Shows one body part (eyes, nose) when asked by two years

2-3 YEARS

- ✓ Speaks in 2-3 word sentences by three years
- ✓ Walks up and down stairs without help by three years
- ✓ Plays with an adult by three years
- ✓ Undresses self by three years
- ✓ Asks some questions by three years
- ✓ Speaks so non-family members understand most words by three years

For your questions or concerns contact your
doctor, your local school district or call

**NEBRASKA CHILDFIND
1.888.806.6287**