

THE CARDINAL'S CHIRP



ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL
PO BOX 170
ALMA, NE 68920



VOL XL, ISSUE NO. 7

April, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT DAVIS

Class of 2021:

I want to congratulate the Class of 2021 on all of their accomplishments during their years here at Alma. One of the greatest joys of teaching and being part of a school is seeing students grow up and mature into young adults. I wish all of you the best of luck and know you will succeed with whatever you do in your lives.

New Elementary Teacher:

At the February 8th Board of Education meeting, the board approved splitting the 1st grade through 6th grade classes. This decision required hiring an additional elementary teacher. At the March 8th Board of Education meeting, the board approved the teaching contract for Ms. Aliesha Luke. Ms. Luke is a Yuma, Colorado native and is currently living in Cambridge. She is paraprofessional and substitute teacher at Cambridge Public Schools. Ms. Luke has four children, Amy (7th grade), Cameron (4th grade), Tenley (1st grade), and Ryker (Pre-school). The grades listed are the grades they are entering in the fall. Ms. Luke will be teaching 3rd grade. Her current plan is to move to the Alma area after school is out and have her children participate in the Alma softball and baseball programs. We are very excited to have Ms. Luke and her children become part of Alma Public Schools.

2021-2022 Elementary Teaching Assignments:

Kindergarten – Amanda Siebels

1st Grade – Jenna Christensen, Karen Olson

2nd Grade – Ashley Hays, Mary Jo Radil

3rd Grade – Katrina Blank, Aliesha Luke

4th Grade – Ben Ellis, Annette Lowe

5th Grade – ReDonna Russell, Marty Wolfe

6th Grade – Nora Christensen, Matthew Hageman

Nebraska Health Education Standards:

Recently, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) released the first draft of Nebraska Health Education Standards. This is the first time that NDE has created State Health Standards. The standards, as currently written, have created a lot of controversy with some of the contents included in the first draft. The Health Education Standards identify 8 content strands for skill development for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12: foundations of personal health; nutrition & physical activity promotion; substance abuse prevention; disease prevention; injury prevention & safety; social, emotional & mental health; human growth and development; and consumer & environmental health. The majority of the criticism centers on the Human Growth & Development Standard, and more specifically, Strand 7. The entire Health Education Standards can be found on NED website at

<https://www.education.ne.gov/healthed/health-education-standards-development/>. While the Alma Board of Education has not officially reviewed the document, as it is in the first draft, they are opposed to the Health Standards as currently written. It should also be noted, the Non-Core Standards and the contents and curriculum that are taught at the local level, are controlled by the local school districts and not the NDE. The Alma Board of Education does not have to approve the Health Standards as written by NDE. We will be required to have Health Standards and can approve all or part of the State Standards or create our own. I have voiced my objection to the Health Standards to Robin Stevens, the 7th District of the State Board of Education, which includes Alma. Mr. Stevens believes there will be several drafts before the State Board of Education votes on them in the Fall of 2021. I encourage you to read the standards and make your own opinion about the contents. Comments and/or input to NDE can be emailed to nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov.

All-Conference Teams Procedures:

I was recently asked about how the RPAC Conference determines the All-Conference teams. In athletics, the conference votes on All-Conference teams for volleyball and boys and girls basketball. The conference is divided into an East and West division and each division has 1st, 2nd and honorable mention teams. The teams in the East are Alma, Arapahoe, Bertrand, Cambridge, Southern Valley, Southwest, and Medicine Valley.

In Volleyball, each coach nominates appropriately qualified and deserving players from their team. Coaches select the Libero/Defensive player first and the top two are put on the 1st team and 2nd team, respectively. After the Libero/Defensive selection, each head coach votes for 12 players regardless of position played. Coaches cannot vote for their own players. Each player's points are totaled and the players are ranked from the highest to the lowest. The top 6 players are listed on the first team, the next 6 players make up the 2nd team and any remaining player receiving one or more votes will be designated as honorable mention. Overall, 84 votes are cast by the head coaches, not including the votes for the Libero/Defensive Specialist.

In both boys and girls basketball, a similar process is used. The head coach nominates any players that are appropriately qualified and deserving from their team. Each coach votes for 10 players regardless of position. Coaches cannot vote for their own players. The top 5 players in the East side are designated as 1st team, the next top 5 players are listed on 2nd team, and any player receiving a vote is designated as honorable mention. Overall, 70 votes are cast by the head coaches.

Football and Softball are voted on by the coaches in the District they compete in, and is similar to the conference procedures. The other sports, Cross Country, Wrestling, Track and Golf compete head-to-head to determine All-Conference teams.

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.

Alma Community Clean up Day

Alma Community Clean Up is on Saturday, April 17, 2021. The pick-up crews will make one pass per street beginning at 8:00 a.m. You must have your items out on the curb before 8:00 a.m. on April 17, 2021. The City of Alma and Alma Public Schools sponsor this event.

If residents of Alma need help getting an item to the curb, please call the school at 928-2131 and leave a message with the receptionist. City employees will pick up old appliances by the curb on April 17, 2021.

The workers of City Clean Up will NOT pick up the following items: paint, concrete, batteries, remodeling castoff materials, tires, full rolls of carpet, yard waste, and shingles.

Anyone who wants to help out with Community Clean Up is welcome and the help would be much appreciated.

2020-2021 Alma Honor Roll Quarter 3

*Denotes High Honor Roll

<u>7th Grade</u>	
Tucker Bishop	Q3*
Ian Dunne	Q3*
Kalen Lukas	Q3*
Issiah Neal	Q3*
Nolan Pfeil	Q3*
Jordin Randleman	Q3
Jaylen Schmitt	Q3
Parker Seyler	Q3*
Alee Shicksnider	Q3*

<u>8th Grade</u>	
Ean Bach	Q3
Ethan Bach	Q3
Tucker Brandyberry	Q3
Jeremy Felix	Q3
Harper Fennel	Q3*
Bladyn Herrick	Q3
Abbigail Park	Q3*
Drew Schofield	Q3*
Zalie White	Q3
Miley Whitney	Q3*

<u>9th Grade</u>	
Alden Bewley	Q3
Karsten Bradley	Q3*
Anton Cook	Q3*
Elizabeth Dubbs	Q3*
Gavin Dunne	Q3
Kallie Hammond	Q3
Jersey Lewis	Q3
Alek Molzahn	Q3
Jakin Neal	Q3
Brett Pfeil	Q3*
Addison Pool	Q3
Dominick Schmitt	Q3
Riley Scott	Q3*
Addison Siebels	Q3*
Griffin Stemper	Q3*
Samantha Stone	Q3
Madison Zade	Q3*

<u>10th Grade</u>	
Linden Bishop	Q3*
Carter Brandyberry	Q3*
Lili Brown	Q3*
Ryan Brugh	Q3
Jaden Colburn	Q3
Daniel Cook	Q3
Natasha Hock	Q3
Ryan Kemmende	Q3
Steven Mapes	Q3
Addison Neal	Q3*
Swara Patel	Q3*
Kathryn Prickett	Q3*
Dehany Seyler	Q3*
Torrance Tischner	Q3*

<u>11th Grade</u>	
Kaylee Baker	Q3
James Dubbs	Q3
Elliott Fletcher	Q3
Abigail Fox	Q3*
Cyrus Jordan	Q3
Madison Korman	Q3
Grant McQuay	Q3*
Jessica Pfeil	Q3*
Kendall Stemper	Q3*
Jason Stenka	Q3
Carlee Stuhmer	Q3*
Gage Thulin	Q3
Alexis Wolfe	Q3*
Madison Wolfe	Q3

<u>12th Grade</u>	
Tessa Bach	Q3
Karri Christensen	Q3*
Austin Christian	Q3*
Colton Dahlgren	Q3*
Maddie Ebike	Q3
Tyler McConnell	Q3
Andrew Russell	Q3
Tegan White	Q3
Haylee Wang	Q3*



Third Grade Advice for the Upcoming Class
By: Mrs. Blank's 3rd grade

We have had a great year so far and I am sad that it is coming to an end. It was an eventful year and I am very proud of the hard work and accomplishments that my class has achieved this year. The students and I began reflecting on our year so far. As we were discussing they decided to give some advice to the upcoming 3rd grade class about the different thing they can look forward to next year.

"If you answer questions in class you get tickets, which can earn you prizes at the end of the week." – Gabby Rupp

"In Mrs. Blank's third grade you get to do a lot of fun things. You get to have a Christmas party, it is really fun. You also get to do a spider week and learn about different spiders." – Juno Tischner

"You will love third grade, it is awesome. I really like learning about science, because it is interesting. I love it all." – Kash Faimon

"Get ready for math. It's fun, but challenging." – Truman Fennel

"You get to take the NSCAS test." – Hudson Schmidt

"You will learn a lot and do fun activities." – Sophia Dunse

"In Mrs. Blank's class the best thing is spider week, you learn about different spiders." – Breely McCarley

"Third grade is the best because we do fun activities." – Anna-Rose Hamm

"You can look forward to learning multiplication and division." – Hoyt Miller

"I think you will love it, you get to play games and watch AR movies if you make your AR goal." – Jayten Shriver

"In 3rd grade you get to learn cursive. I like it a lot and I hope you do, too." – Reyce Melton

"You get to have AR movies with popcorn if you make your AR goal. And you get to create books on book creator." – Jaelyn Bradley

"You can estimate items each week and if you get the answer correct you get a prize." – Beckham Lukas

"Book Creator is a blast! Have fun." – Dakota Evans

Speech 2021

Speech team qualifies two for state tournament

With COVID causing the cancellation of the district and state tournament last school year, we ended our speech season early. The team was performing well and we were hopeful and looking forward to the state tournament.

Many of the previous team members were present to come back this season stronger and more ready to speak than ever. Sadly, our season was still greatly affected not only by COVID but also by inclement weather. Students experienced a more “virtual” season in the beginning where all competitions were held via jit.si, a video conferencing website very similar to Zoom. Students met their judges and competitors in a video chat room and conducted the entire tournament in various classrooms within our school.

As the season progressed, we were able to compete in “in-person” tournaments. Although we were still spread out by team. The speakers were thrilled to see friends and peers they have met over the years via speech. As the tournaments continued, coaches were permitted to attend rounds with their speakers. The state tournament marked the first meet in which the speakers were allowed two spectators. Overall, despite the many challenges, the students put forth great effort and in return had a very successful season.

Team members consisted of: Karri Christensen, Haylee Wing, Jonah Felix, James Dubbs, Madison Wolfe, Linden Biskup, Lili Brown, Griffin Stemper, Avery Hadley, Karsten Bradley, and Delaney Seyler.

RPAC Results:

Team-- 3rd Place

Individual Placings:

Jonah Felix-- 1st in Humorous Prose

Karsten Bradley-- 1st in Persuasive Speaking

Linden Biskup and Haylee Wing-- 1st in Duet Acting

Haylee Wing-- 2nd in Poetry

Avery Hadley-- 3rd in Extemporaneous Speaking

James Dubbs & Madison Wolfe-- 3rd in Duet Acting

Linden Biskup-- 4th in Humorous Prose

James Dubbs-- 4th in Poetry

District Individual Results:

Karsten Bradley-- 6th Place in Persuasive Speaking

Haylee Wing-- 4th in Poetry

Jonah Felix-- 4th in Humorous Prose

**Haylee Wing & Linden Biskup-- 3rd in Duet

**Linden Biskup-- 2nd in Humorous Prose

**Denotes State Qualifying Event

Summer Learning

Mrs. Lucas

We are at the time of year when summer is on our minds! Summer is a great time to learn, just in a different way. Here are some things your children can do throughout the summer.

- Set a reading goal and stick to it! (i.e. 20 min a day or a certain amount of books)
- Ask them or take note of what they want to learn about. They can create a poster, a video, or just provide opportunities to learn more about that subject!
- Take them to a museum or another place they can learn something new.
- Set aside a small amount of time each day to keep on top of fact practice. There are plenty of online games that encourage fact practice. (Ask me or your child to show you!)
- Peak their curiosity by you learning alongside them. Show them learning happens no matter the age.

Learning can happen all the time in many different ways. Whatever you do, allow them to learn and grow their interests. Something you do this summer may give them a lifelong interest or even lead them to a career they love. Invest in your children and show them how much fun learning can be.

INSTRUCTIONAL VOLLEYBALL

The final dates for Instructional Volleyball are below, it has been a pleasure working with the younger girls on their fundamentals for the future, thank you for the opportunity.

4TH and 5TH GRADERS

Tuesday, April 6th - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Monday, April 19th - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

I took Monday, April 12th out for the 4th and 5th graders.

6TH, 7TH and 8TH GRADERS

Monday, April 12th - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 22nd - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

I took Tuesday, April 6th out for the 6th - 8th graders.

Thank you.

Mrs. Schuller

First Grade - Mrs. Olson

Hello Spring!! My first graders and myself are so happy to be learning and teaching in school!! It is so much more fun when we can be together! The first-grade students have been working so hard becoming terrific readers and clever mathematicians! They have grown so much in so many ways!

We have been busy preparing for our favorite Spring holiday—Easter! The Easter story starter we used is: If I met the Easter Bunny...

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would ask him if he had a brother or a sister. I would, also, ask him what his name is. He told me his name is Deric. (Just like me!) ---Deric Webster

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would say hi and run away. I would come back and ask him, "what is your name?" He told me that his name is Speedy. ---Becket Mroczek

If I met the Easter Bunny I would ask if I could play with her. She said her name is Koelzer. ---Hayden Koelzer

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would say how do you deliver all of those Easter eggs? I would ask him his name. He told me his name is Billy Bob Bunny! ---Kason Artz

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would ask her how do you carry all of those eggs and when people see you, are they scared of you? I, also, asked her what her name is and she said her name is Honey Bunny.

---Kelcee Simonson

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would ask him where he works and how he makes the Easter eggs. I would ask him to show me around.

---Sydney Siebels

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would want to help him. I would want to play with him, too!

---Brayden Koch

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would play with her and I will go help her hide the Easter eggs. I asked her, "Would you be my friend?"

---Kortlyn Gulizia

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would chase him. Then, I would ask him, "Do you want to be my friend?"---Liam Dubbs

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would ask him what his name is and I would play with him. He told me his name is Jerry. ---Jase Platt

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would help him deliver Easter eggs. I would ask him what his name is. He said his name is Hopper.---Cord Landen

If I met the Easter Bunny, I would help him. I would tell my mom and dad. I will make painted eggs with him.---Evangeline Christensen

If I met the Easter Bunny, I will go find all the Easter Bunny eggs. He told me his name is Thunder Bunny.---Oliver Schmidt

Happy Spring, everyone!
Mrs. Olson's First-Grade