### JANUARY 2015

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# Iwin Cedars



# CommunitySchool

From the Desk of Mr. Roby

ongratulations to our TC drill team for bringing home a 5th place finish at the State Dance Competition last week. This group of girls has been working hard for several months-making sure their movements were together and their timing perfect. The team obviously nailed it at the right time because they looked awe-some and impressed the judges.



Come out soon to some home basketball games and maybe catch this group in action!

The tradition continues as we had several students ring bells in Knoxville for the Salvation Army last week. Thank you to all of the students who took the time for this very worthy cause.

Mr. Smith, once again, directed a fantastic Christmas music program on December 15th. Both the band and choir sounded great and put on an entertaining, toe-tapping show. Great job, Mr. Smith and the entire music department!

#### **District Wide Assessment Dates**

Week of January 19 FAST Early Literacy Assessment for grades K-6 Math cbm Assessment for grades K-6

Weeks of February 17 and February 23 Iowa Assessments for grades 3-11

Week of March 4 NAEP Assessment for 8th grade

Week of April 20 MAP for grades 3-11

Week of April 27 FAST Early Literacy Assessment for grades K-6 Math cbm Assessment for grades K-6

#### **Dollars for Scholars**

Twin Cedars students who wish to apply for a 2015 scholarship from Twin Cedars Dollars for Scholars can begin the application process at any time. Go to our Chapter's website atTwinCedars.DollarsForScholars.org, click on the Students & Parents tab. The ChapterNet Student Dashboard is your "one-stop shop" for everything related to our chapter's scholarships. Log in and create or update your profile, and you'll be able to apply for the scholarships you're eligible for with just a few clicks. And it's not just our chapter's scholarships -- you'll see opportunities from Scholarship America's partners across the nation. Twin Cedars Dollars for Scholars awards scholarship for the first year only of your post-secondary education. You may also use your Dashboard to apply for scholarships other than the Twin Cedars Dollars for Scholars scholarship at any time and for any and all years you attend an accredited post-secondary education institution. Applications for a Twin Cedars Dollars for Scholars scholarship must be submitted between the dates of December 1, 2014, and March 1, 2015. Applications cannot be submitted after the deadline of March 1, 2015. Contact Ms. Van De Kieft at school or Barb Nichols at TwinCedarsDFS@hotmail.com if you have questions or comments.

#### **Dyslexia**

In the last year, there has been a lot of talk about dyslexia in the news. What is dyslexia? You may think you know what it is, but do you really? Dyslexia is when people read things backwards, right? No. Not necessarily. Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability. People with dyslexia experience difficulties in reading, particularly, but also in other language skills like spelling, writing, and speaking.

People with dyslexia have a brain that develops and learns differently. Being dyslexic has absolutely nothing to do with intelligence... quite the opposite, actually. Dyslexic people tend to be more gifted in areas that do not require strong language skills such as: athletics, music, mechanics, art, computer science, design, drama, electronics, and sales, to name a few. Some famous people with dyslexia are: Woody Harrelson, Steven Spielberg, Tommy Hilfiger, Tim Tebow, JFK, Nolan Ryan, Magic Johnson, and Channing Tatum.

Current studies show that 15-20% of the population has a reading disability. Of those, 85% are dyslexic. Dyslexia does run in families, so a dyslexic parent is very likely to have a dyslexic child. Dyslexia is a life-long condition. With the right help, people with dyslexia can learn to read and write well.

Before there was much known about dyslexia, people were not identified as having the reading disability and had to struggle through school. Some people finished, some did not. For many, there is still a desire to learn to read. If you, or a person you know, have struggled with reading throughout your life and would like to know if it is dyslexia and would like to learn to read, we will be offering an adult literacy program at Twin Cedars.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM, PLEASE CALL 641-944-5245 EXT. 239.

THERE WILL BE AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING IN THE ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY ROOM ON WEDNES-DAY, JANUARY 14, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

#### Dear Parents,

The Iowa Department of Education and the University of Iowa need your help to make school breakfast at Iowa schools the best it can be!

Below is a link to an online survey that will ask you some questions about your child's breakfast habits and preferences. The purpose of the survey is to better understand what parents like you think about the school breakfast program. Your input will be used to help the Iowa Department of Education understand why breakfast participation is so low in Iowa schools and how schools can better meet you and your child's needs at breakfast!

This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please click the link below to give your input:

https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\_doOCIRjrS UETC3r

Thanks in advance for your time!

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Natoshia M. Askelson, MPH, PhD (natoshia-askelson@uiowa.edu; 319-335-6867)

#### **BLURB:**

Parents! We want your thoughts on the most important meal of the day—that's right, breakfast! Help us improve school breakfast at Twin Cedars by taking a few minutes to fill out this short online survey from the Iowa Department of Education at: https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\_doOCIRjrSUET C3r

#### **Twin Cedars Community School Newsletter**

#### Brian VanderSluis, Superintendent

t is that time of year that I would like to review with you the district's summer school and retention policy. As we will soon be beginning the 2nd semester now is the time that we need to make sure we give students every opportunity to improve their grades. This will also give parents an opportunity to talk to their children and their children's teachers to take care of any low grades before we get near the end of the school year. Code No. 605.3 of the Twin Cedars Community Board of Education Policies states:

Summer school will be required for students in 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades if they are failing two core classes, which consist of math, science, social studies, and language arts, in the second semester, or are failing one core class and score below 25% in one different core area of the ITBS assessment in math, reading, and science.

No student in grades 5-8 who has received failing grades in at least two core subject areas shall be promoted to the next grade level unless the student has done satisfactory remedial work during summer school.

Summer school for 2015 will be July 6-31. As stated above students who are required to attend summer school must successfully complete summer school or be retained. If you have not had an opportunity to speak to your child's teacher about their grades and what they need to do to avoid summer school please call 944-5241 and we will be sure that the teacher you need to speak with will get a hold of you.

I know many of you make summer plans early. Hopefully this information is beneficial to you and your child.

#### **Athletic Booster Minutes**

December 3, 2014 6:00 p.m.

Present: Matt Miller, Brandy Dunkin, Deb Haselhuhn, Kim Roby, Trish McCarty, Brad Hammann and Dave McCombs

Treasurer's Report \$17402.46. We still have a credit with Pepsi.

Freezer is moved.

Trish told us that the Coaches vs Cancer T-shirts design is made. Prices were discussed. Ramaeker's would like orders due the last week of January. This will give us a couple of weeks before the game.

Meal time for Coaches vs Cancer start @ 5:00 Student Council will try to work the meal Maybe check with NHS

A representative from American Cancer Society was here to talk about Coaches vs Cancer. Different fundraising ideas were discussed, such as:

Shirts Meal Chuck A Duck 64 Seconds Collection Silent Auction

The representative was going to get back to us about donation amounts, as we have had donors ask about limits for tax deductible and limits for matching donors.

Dave has asked if we will donate \$500 for bats. Kim made a motion to support and Deb seconded. Motion carried.

Trish made a motion to adjourn, and Brad seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 6:40.

# Minutes of Meeting Twin Cedars Board of Directors December 9, 2014 5:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Twin Cedars Board of Directors was held on the above date.

Vice President Kelly Carlson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Directors Steve Gilkerson, Steve Hoehns, and Tom Morgan were in attendance. President Moore was absent. Dave Roby and Kim Roby were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Director Gilkerson and supported by Director Hoehns to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Director Hoehns and supported by Director Gilkerson to approve the November 10, 2014, regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

#### **Twin Cedars Community School Newsletter**

A motion was made by Director Moore and supported by Director Hoehns to approve the bills as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Communications

There was no communication this month through board members or through the mail. There were no citizens in attendance.

#### **Administration Reports**

Mrs. Roby handed out a calendar for next school year. It is very similar to this year's calendar, with a couple of small adjustments. The first couple of days are scheduled as early out days and there are a couple of Fridays off in the spring to make a couple of 3-day weekends.

Mr. Roby attended the Drill Team performance up in Des Moines. It went very well, with the Twin Cedars team placing very well in one of the categories. The Senior Citizen meal was once again a success. Lunch was served to 80+ citizens and 20+ meals were carried out. The Christmas Concert will be Monday, December 15 with K-6 at 6:00 and 7-12th at 7:30pm. We will be sending groups of kids out to ring bells for the Salvation Army again this year. The basketball teams and the Drill Team will be ringing the bells on December 11th.

Mr. VanderSluis talked about the Assessor Conference Board appointment. He mentioned that some of the Moulton-Udell board members will be at Friday night's basketball game. School will be dismissed at 12:30 on December 23rd for Christmas Break and classes will resume on January 6th. The next 3 board meetings will be held on Tuesdays, January 13, February 10 and March 10 at 5:00pm.

#### **New Business**

The calendar for next year was discussed briefly. Mr. VanderSluis asked the board to review it and bring and questions and/or concerns to the next meeting. Mr. VanderSluis told the board that one of our special ed vans hit a deer. Right now a car is being used to transport the student and we can get by with this for a while if necessary. He researched what it would cost to replace this van with a 2015 Suburban 2WD or 4WD. Karl Chevrolet has the bids for these this year and quotes of \$38,139.50 for a 2WD and \$35,920.50 for a 4WD is what was received. A discussion was held about whether it made sense to replace the van with the Suburban. Mr. VanderSluis will do some more research and get back to the board.

#### **Action Items**

A motion was made by Director Hoehns and supported by Director Gilkerson to hire Brittanee Grove as Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball coach for 2014-15 @ \$2,268 step base. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Announcements

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2015, at 5:00 PM.

#### Adjourn

A motion was made by Director Gilkerson and supported by Director Hoehns to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Yearbook

Please support the following sponsors who donated \$100 or more to the 2013-2014 yearbook!

Bluff Creek Archery, LLC Thomas Hi-Way 5, Inc. Wilson's Corner L&C Photos Lambirth Ent. Dealer Jim & Charlie's Affiliated Foods #327 Mick Furniture & Appliance, Inc. Wallace Tire Motor Inn Auto Group Ulrich Ford-Lincoln **Quality Home Care Professionals** State Bank of Bussey Studio 92 Photography Kevin J. Wadle, CPA, PC R.E. Allen Trucking Raceway Tire & Exhaust

If you would like to donate to the 2014-2015 yearbook, please contact Julie Courtney or Jodi Swayne. The packages are as follows:

#### **Any Amount:**

Name of Business listed in the yearbook

#### White Package: \$75

Name of business listed in the yearbook and on the yearbook webpage.

#### Blue Package: \$100

Name of business listed in the yearbook, on the yearbook webpage and in the school newsletter.

#### Saber Package: \$125

Name of business listed in the yearbook, on the yearbook webpage, in the school newsletter, and on a professionally designed banner displayed in the gym for students, parents, and community viewing.

Thank you for your support!



#### STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BRAD A. BUCK, DIRECTOR

December 9, 2014

Dear Iowa parents,

Reading is essential to your children's success in school and in life. In Iowa, we are working to make sure all children read well by the end of third grade, which is the pivotal time when students go from learning to read to reading to learn.

Research shows that children's third-grade reading skills can predict their future success, and proficient readers are more likely to graduate from high school and earn a good living. However, nearly 1 in 4 Iowa third graders did not meet reading expectations last year, according to state test results. We must help our students improve their reading skills.

That's why identifying struggling students starting in kindergarten and providing intensive intervention form the centerpiece of a 2012 state law to improve literacy. Iowa's new early warning system for literacy is helping schools across the state screen students, monitor their progress, and provide reading interventions in preschool through third grade.

Making sure parents or guardians are notified when their children need help and providing resources that families can use at home also are part of Iowa's 2012 law. I want to be sure you are aware of a state website where you can find those resources: <a href="https://iowacore.gov/parents-community">https://iowacore.gov/parents-community</a>

This website includes a link to great materials provided by the Iowa Reading Research Center that will help you understand and work with your child on specific literacy skills. You can easily find activities based on your child's grade level or reading skill on the center's Family Resources page:

http://www.iowareadingresearch.org/literacy-resources/teacher-family-resources/

It is critical for us to work together early – especially in kindergarten, first and second grades – to make sure students develop the skills they need to succeed in reading. Starting in May 2017, children who are identified as substantially deficient in reading by the end of third grade must attend a summer reading program, or they will be retained in third grade unless they qualify for an exception. Prevention, not retention, is what everyone wants.

Giving Iowa students a world-class education is critical in today's knowledge-based economy, but that's not possible unless they can read. I look forward to working with you

Grimes State Office Building - 400 E 14th St - Des Moines IA 50319-0146

PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988

www.educateiowa.gov

Championing Excellence for all Iowa Students through Leadership and Service

on this historic effort to help Iowa children read by the end of third grade. Thank you for helping us to meet this goal.

Respectfully,

Brad Buck, Ph.D.

Director, Iowa Department of Education

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# TWIN CEDARS 2015 COACHES VS. CANCER T-SHIRTS - \$12 EACH ALL ORDERS & MONEY MUST BE TURNED IN BY JANUARY 23

\*Shirts are black with white and hot pink lettering

NAME:	Phone #	
Y SMALL:	XL:	
Y MEDIUM:	2XL:	
Y LARGE:	3XL:	
SMALL:	4XL:	
MEDIUM:		
LARGE:		
	TOTAL AMOUNT:	

The Game will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10 @ 6:00 p.m. There will be a free will offering meal served from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. A Silent Auction will also be held that evening and bidding will close at the end of halftime of the boys game.

PLEASE TURN IN TO GLENDA AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OR Mrs. McCARTY -1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE IN THE ELEMENTARY!

### Spare Change Drive for Zayleigh Kaye Sparks

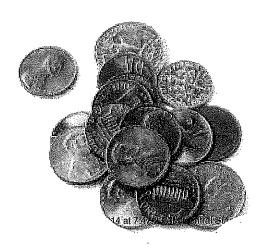
Christmas and the upcoming New Year reminds us of all the blessings we have been given over the past year. Our Twin Cedars family has an opportunity this holiday season to help a family in our district.

Terry and Stephanie Sparks moved into our district this year. They have three children attending our school...Emilie and Jamisen Sparks and Samantha Breckenridge. On November 6 of this year, their older brother and his wife welcomed their second child, Baby Zay, into the world. Zayleigh Kaye Sparks was born with a mass on her neck called an Immature Teratoma, which is a type of ovarian cancer. When Zayleigh was born, the mass was larger than her head weighing just over two pounds and involved her neck, throat, thyroid, jaw and a portion of her face. Doctors were able to remove all of the mass on the outside, but because of where it is located in her neck, they were unable to remove all of it from the inside. Her mom and dad have not yet been able to hold their baby girl, but she is doing well and is stable in the NICU in lowa City.

You may have heard about their story which was featured on WHOtv13 a few weeks ago or seen the collection containers around Knoxville. The family also has a community page on Facebook called Pray for Zay.

I am writing this letter because I have seen the generosity of our school community, and alongside you, I would like to help this family. I have set up spare change collection cans at the elementary and high school. We will plan to take donations through January.

The family truly appreciates your help and prayers.



Please contact me with questions. Thank You! Mrs. Cox (tcox@twincedarscsd.org) Jamisen's 2nd grade teacher

## January Breakfast Menu ~ 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	All breakfast served with fruit or orange juice and choice of milk. Menu subject to change		Happy New Year!!  No School	2 No School
5 No School	Bacon, egg, & cheese biscuit Fruit	French toast sticks w/syrup Fruit	Egg & cheese omelet Fruit	Donut Fruit
Pancakes w/syrup Fruit	13 Cereal & toast Oj	14 Egg patty & toast Fruit	15 Breakfast pizza Fruit	16 Cinnamon roll Fruit
19 Poptarts Oj	Bacon, egg, & cheese biscuit Fruit	French toast sticks w/syrup Fruit	Egg & cheese omelet Fruit	Donut Fruit
Pancakes w/syrup Fruit	Cereal & toast Oj	Egg patty & toast Fruit	29 Breakfast pizza Fruit	30 Cinnamon roll Fruit

## January Lunch Menu ~ 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	All meals served with choice of milk. Menu subject to change.		1 Happy New Year!! No School	2 No School
5 No School	6 Chicken patty sand Fresh carrots w/dressing Fresh apples Steamed green beans Pears (9-12)	7 Beefburger Steamed broccoli w/cheese Power jell-o Baked beans Pineapple	8 Chicken strip wrap Fresh green peppers & cauliflower w/dressing Cheese, lettuce Peaches Fruit (9-12)	9 Spaghetti w/meat sauce Lettuce salad Steamed green beans Breadstick Mixed fruit Fruit (9-12)
12 Mascot bread w/marinera Steamed corn Mandarin oranges Lettuce salad Fruit salad	Chicken alfredo Hot roll Steamed mixed veggies Fresh cantaloupe Strawberries	14 Turkey slice Baked beans Fruit crisp Fresh carrots w/ranch Mixed fruit	15 Sloppy joes Steamed broccoli w/cheese Tator tots Pineapple Petite banana	16 Chili Cinnamon roll Fresh cauliflower w/dressing Cheese Peaches Fruit (9-12)
19 Crispito Coleslaw Brown rice & string cheese Fresh apples & mixed fruit, Fresh red peppers & pb bar	20 Hot beef sand Mashed potatoes Bread slice Fresh carrots w/dressing Mixed fruit Steamed peas Lettuce salad	21 Cheeseburger-in- a-blanket Fresh broccoli w/dressing Pork & beans Peaches	22 Chicken & noodles Mashed potatoes Hot roll w/jelly'Steamed green beans Fresh oranges Fruit(9-12)	23 Pizza Steamed corn Fresh spinach salad Cottage chese Pears Fruit (9-12) Ice cream
26 Corn dog Fresh broccoli w/dressing Peaches Pears Steamed mixed veggies	Popcorn chicken Mandarin oranges Brown rice pilaf Fresh cauliflower w/dressing Mixed fruit	28 Chicken & bean enchilada bake Refried beans Fresh apples Tomatoes Peaches Lettuce salad	29 Hamburger Cheese (9-12) Fries Fresh cucumbers w/dressing Pineapple & mandarin oranges Fresh watermelon Tomato	30 Bean & cheese burrito Fresh green peppers Fresh cantaloupe Pears Fresh kale salad

## January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
= 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Breal		31	New Year's Day	2	3
= 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	NO SCHOOL - In-Service  6:00 PM JV G/B BB vs Pleas- antville	■ 6:00 PM V G/B BB @ ICA	7 = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal = 6:00 PM Athletic Boosters = 7:00 PM PTO	8  4:00 PM JH B BB @ Lynnville-Sully 4:00 PM JH G BB vs Lyn- nville-Sully 6:00 PM JV B BB vs Melcher-Dallas	9 = 6:00 PM V G/B BB vs Diag- onal	10
= 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	12  5:00 PM JV G BB @ Eddyville  6:00 PM V G/B BB @ Ed- dyville	13  4:15 PM JV B BB @ Knoxville 6:00 PM V G/B BB @ Melcher-Dallas 7:00 PM DFS	14 = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	15  = 4:00 PM JH G/B BB @ Osky Christian  = 6:00 PM JV G/B BB @ Sey- mour	16  4:30 PM JV B BB @ Orient- Macksburg 6:00 PM V G/B BB @ Orient-Macksburg	= 4:00 PM JV G/B BB vs Moravia
= 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  4:00 PM JH G BB vs North Mahaska  4:00 PM JH B BB @ North Mahaska  6:00 PM JV G/B BB vs Sey- mour	■ 4:00 PM JH G/B BB @ Moul- ton-Udell ■ 6:00 PM V G/B BB vs Moravia	■ 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	■ 6:00 PM JV G/B BB vs Moulton Udell	mon-Trail	Oistrict Largeech Contest  V G/B BB (BGC Tourney
25 = 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	BGC Tourney  = 4:00 PM JH G/B BB vs Melcher-Dallas	■ 9:00 AM Blood Drive	= 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	BGC Tourney Bandfest  = 4:00 PM JH G/B BB vs Moulton-Udell	30	= 8:00 AM Saturday School

Central Time Time Zone Page 1/2

## February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
■ 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	Groundhog Day	■ 4:30 PM JV B BB vs Grand- view Christian ■ 6:00 PM V G/B BB vs Grandview Christian	= 2:15 PM Early Dismissal = 6:00 PM Athletic Boosters = 7:00 PM PTO	5		State Largepeech Contest  1:00 PM V G/B BB vs SEW
■ 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	9	■ 6:00 PM V G/B BB vs Melcher-Dallas ■ 7:00 PM DFS	= 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	Singfest Lincoln's Birthday	13	Valentine's Day
= 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	NO SCHOOL - In-Service  BGC Speech @ TC  Washington's Birthday	17	18 = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal			All-state Fespeech Events
22:00 PM Community Open Gym	23	24	25 = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	26	27	District IE Speech Contest  8:00 AM Saturday School

Central Time Time Zone Page 2/2