FEBRUARY 2015
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Iwin Cedars



CommunitySchol e W S t

From the Desk of Mr. Roby

Twin Cedars continues to receive honors from our fantastic ride last summer - the baseball championship. This time it is Head Coach Matt Miller who received an award. Last weekend he was honored as the 1A Baseball Coach's Association "Coach of the Year". I've always said Coach Miller does a very good job with our players "on



the field", but he does an even better job with the players "off the field." He is constantly teaching kids to do the right thing and is a great role model for his team. I assure you there is no one more deserving of this award than Coach Miller. Congratulations Coach Miller!

EPIC

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our food drive this year. Together, with Red Rock Community Action, we were able to collect enough for 72 food baskets for the elderly of Marion County. Congratulations to Mrs. Roozeboom's class for bringing in the most food items in the elementary. The have earned a frozen yogurt party for all their generosity. Also, congratulations to Mrs. Johnson's seminar for bringing in the most food in the high school. They have earned a pizza party. Again, thanks to all who contributed!

Mrs. Moore and High School EPIC

NAEP 2015 PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION LETTER

Grades 8: Mathematics, reading, and science assessments Twin Cedars Community School

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Where are pleased to notify you that Twin Cedars High School has been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subject areas. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from state assessments because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

In our school, the NAEP assessment will be given on March 4, 2015. The eight grade class has been selected to take a mathematics, reading, or science assessment. In addition to answering questions in one of these subjects, students will be asked questions about themselves and their educational experiences, such as the amount of reading they do and the types of classes they take. These questions provide contextual information for the assessment, as well as information that may be related to students' learning. If you would like to view sample subject area and contextual questions, please visit http://nationsreportcard.gov/parents.asp.

It will take about 90 minutes for most students to participate in the assessment. The results are completely confidential (in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347), and the information provided will be used for statistical purposes only. Your child's grades will not be affected. Your child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question. While NAEP is voluntary, we depend on student participation to provide an accurate measure of student achievement that will inform improvements in education. Your child will represent many other students, so participation is very important. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by February 2, 2015.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP. We do ask, however, that you encourage your child to do their best and get plenty of rest the night before the assessment. A brochure that explains what participation in NAEP means for you and your child is available at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012 469.pdf. Should you have questions, or if you would like a copy of the brochure, please contact me at 641-944-5245 or at kroby@twincedarscsd.org

We are excited that our school will be participating in NAEP and pleased that your child has been selected. We know that Twin Cedars students will help us show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely, Kim Roby Curriculum Director

SAVE THE DATE: The Music Boosters will be having their annual Carnival on March, 21st 2015.

FFA

The FFA chapter has been very busy with events. In November we went to the Kalona Horse Sale on November 3rd, November 19th we had Tip Night at Pizza Ranch, November 25th we had the Thanksgiving Dinner, and on November 26th we had the Elementary Rodeo with the 3rd graders.



At the Elementary Rodeo we taught the 3rd graders how to do a variety of events. They barrel raced and ran poles using stick horses. They learned how to rope and practiced roping on roping dummies. We played pin the tail on the donkey and they got to brand large paper cattle with FFA and COW brands with paint. We also had our very own rodeo clowns Tyler Blaudow and Bryan DeWit. We thanked them all by making them gift bags full of candy! We enjoy doing this every year with the third graders. We had over a dozen kids from our FFA Chapter help with each station and take pictures for our scrapbook.

On November 25th we had our Thanksgiving Dinner. This is an annual event that has been a tradition for over 10 years and any FFA member that wants to participate must bring an item. We had so much food we all could have ate for a week! A big thank you to Jerry Goemaat who used his volunteer day at Vermeer to cook us our turkeys. We had 3 varieties to chose from this year; a smoked turkey, a deep-fat fried turkey and of course a traditional turkey a long with a large spiral ham from Mrs. Johnson. Thank you to everyone who helped us have a very good Thanksgiving Dinner.



On November 19th we had our Tip Night at Pizza Ranch in Pella, where the officers raised almost 300 dollars in less than 3 hours! A very big thank you to everyone who helped us raise that money for our chapter. We plan on doing this again soon! We work for just a few hours so come support us!



With December being such a short month, we weren't able to do a lot of events. We had our Secret Santa for our officer team. Instead of doing a big Christmas Dinner we just did a Snack Day. We had two large tables completely full of yummy desserts and snacks with hot coca and hot apple cider to wash it down. It was a very exciting day! Thank you to all the Officers and their parents for making and bringing the snacks!

Before Christmas 5 of the FFA students went around Knoxville to the nursing homes to deliver cookies and cards to everyone there. A HUGE thank you to everyone that contributed in the cookie donation in such a short notice.

We all had a very wonderful Holiday season and now ready to be back at it full swing. We have many events scheduled for the upcoming events. In January we will be hosting a blood drive at the school on the 27th of January from 9:00 am-1:00pm. We will be attending the capital for FFA Legislature Day in which we meet with our legislators and watch the Governor sign the FFA Week proclomation. We also plan on competing at the Iowa Pork Congress where we have two teams competing at swine judging and will attend the Farm Show in Ottumwa on the 30th.

We also had 3 of our FFA members; Tyler Blaudow, Trenton Bacus and Spencer McCarty submit a video for the 5th Annual "Fuel the Future" video contest. They hope to place in the top 3rd. This is the 3rd year in a row the Twin Cedars FFA members have competed in this contest. Good Luck to these boys!

Upcoming Events also include; Ag Day at the city in Vermeer, Iowa Beef Expo, Sub-District FFA Contest, National FFA Week, District Contest, State Convention, State Science Fair and banquet on our agenda.

If you would like to be notified on any FFA events please text; @95b0e5 to 620-884-1138, you can also follow us on twitter at #twincedarsffa or join us on Facebook on Twin Cedars FFA or https://www.facebook.com/groups/209894115728203/

Respectfully yours,

Kylee VanWyhe Twin Cedars FFA, Reporter 2014-2015

Minutes of Meeting

Twin Cedars Board of Directors January 13, 2015 5:00 PM

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

President Brian Moore called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Directors Steve Gilkerson, Steve Hoehns, and Kelly Carlson were in attendance. Director Morgan was absent. Superintendent Brian VanderSluis and Principal Dave Roby were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Director Hoehns and supported by Director Carlson to appoint Superintendent VanderSluis as secretary pro teme and to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

February 2015

A motion was made by Director Carlson and supported by Director Gilkerson to approve the December 9, 2014, regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

A motion was made by Director Hoehns and supported by Director Carlson 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. Mark Bacus presented a plan for refinishing the gym floor next summer. He will work with Athletic Director Matt Miller and Principal Dave Roby on final details before the work is to begin. This was last done 10 years ago.

Administration Reports

Mr. Roby talked about a communication he received from the Salvation Army in Knoxville and their appreciation of the Twin Cedars students and staff who volunteered to "ring bells" at Christmas. This was done at Wal-Mart, Fareway, and HyVee. Twin Cedars students and staff volunteered nearly 25 hours to this cause. Mr. Roby also reported on an upcoming school law conference where topics will include the FMLA, Special Education Law, evolving issues with technology such as Yik Yak, Snap Chat, and Instagram. This meeting will be held on February 10th in Des Moines.

Mr. VanderSluis reported that the district has 12.75 hours of school to make up so far. Schools in Iowa need to attend a minimum of 1,080 hours. Twin Cedars scheduled 1,159.5 hours of school for the 2014-15 school year. The board will continue to monitor the number of hours missed for the next two months and further discuss the situation at that time. Mr. VanderSluis also reported that the insurance renewal rate from Blue Cross would not be released until March 1st for Twin Cedars.

The remainder of Mr. VanderSluis report centered around the FY 16 Budget planning season. Declining enrollment continues to be budget reality at Twin Cedars. The "Budget Enrollment" number falls from 374 in October of 2013 to 359 in October of 2014 a decrease of 15 students. Also for the second consecutive year Twin Cedars has more open enrollment "out" students (47) than open enroll 'in" students (37). District valuation increased \$1,427,193 million dollars to \$106,987,396. This is good news, but not as good as last year when it had increased 2.7 million, and the year before that 6.2 million.

District "Unspent Balance" has dropped significantly. The district needs to continue to monitor those areas that we have a measure of control that will positively impact our spending authority. Chief among these areas will be decreasing spending. Significant cuts were made this year and careful monitoring over expenditures will have to continue. The combination of a significant decrease in revenues, largely due to the change in open enrollment, with the increase in expenditures has greatly eroded the district's solvency ratio. In FY07 the district had a solvency ratio of 28% and for FY14 the district has a solvency ratio of less than 1%.

Action Items

A motion was made by Director Gilkerson and supported by Director Hoehns to hire Karen Pohl as a high school science teacher for second semester of the 2014-15 school year @ \$15,000 BA Step 2. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Director Hoehns and supported by Director Gilkerson to hire Michelle Fay as an associate/substitute teacher for second semester of the 2014-15 school year @ \$9.41 per hour/or \$95 per day depending on the assignment for the day. The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Director Gilkerson and supported by Director Carlson to continue the sharing agreement with Moulton-Udell for superintendent and curriculum director services for the 2015-2016 school year. The motion carried unanimously

Announcements

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 5:00 PM.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Director Carlson and supported by Director Gilkerson to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 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!

Final Thoughts.....

Brian VanderSluis, Superintendent

It is that time of year that I would like to review with you the district's summer school and retention policy. As we have started 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 30% in one different core area of the IOWA Assessments 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 will be July 6-31. As stated above students who are <u>required</u> to attend summer school must successfully complete summer school <u>or be retained</u>. 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.

February Lunch Menu ~ 2015

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February Breakfast Menu ~ 2015

MONDAY	MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY				
2	3	4	5	6	
Poptarts Oj	Sausage, egg, & cheese biscuit Fruit	French toast sticks w/syrup Fruit	French toast sticks w/syrup Fruit	Donut Fruit	
9	10	11	12	13	
Pancakes w/syrup Fruit	Cereal & toast Oj	Egg patty & toast Fruit	Breakfast pizza Fruit	Cinnamon roll Fruit	
16	17	18	19	20	
No School	Sausage, egg, & cheese biscuit Fruit	French toast sticks w/syrup Fruit	French toast sticks w/syrup Fruit	Donut Fruit	
23	24	25	26	27	
Pancakes w/syrup Fruit	Cereal & toast Oj	Egg patty & toast Fruit	Breakfast pizza Fruit	Cinnamon roll Fruit	
			All breakfast served with fruit or orange juice and choice of milk. Menu subject to change	E	

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Groundhog Day = 4:00 PM JH G/B vs Eddyville	3 4:30 PM JV B BB vs Grand- view Christian 6:00 PM V G/B BB vs Grandview Christian	4 = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal = 6:00 PM Athletic Boosters = 7:00 PM PTO	5	6 American Heart Wear Red Day	7 State Largepeech Contest = 1:00 PM V G/B BB vs SEW
2:00 PM Community Open Gym	9	10 6:00 PM V G/B BB vs Melcher-Dallas 7:00 PM DFS	11 = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	12 Singfest Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	16 NO SCHOOL - In-Service BGC Speech @ TC Washington's Birthday	17	18 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	19	20	21 All-state Fespeech Events
22 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	23	24	25 = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	26	27	28 District IE Speech Contest = 8:00 AM Saturday School

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2:00 PM Community Open Gym	2	3 ICDA MS Honor Choir	4 = 8:15 AM Sr. Meeting Jostens = 8:45 AM Jr. Officers = 2:15 PM Early Dismissal = 6:00 PM Athletic Boosters = 7:00 PM PTO	5 8:15 AM Senior Meeting w/ Jostens 8:45 AM Junior Oficer Mtg w/Jostens	6 Saber Dance	7
8	-	10 = 7:00 PM DFS	11 2:15 PM Early Dismissal	12	13	
Daylight Saving Time Begins	End of 3rd Quarter BG Band Festival		2.13 PM Early Dismissai			State IE Speech Contest
2:00 PM Community Open Gym						
15 = 2:00 PM Community Open Gym	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18 = 12:30 PM Early Dismissal = 1:30 PM -6:00 - Parent- Teacher Conferences	19	E 6:00 PM School Play	21 Music Carnival
22	23	24		26	27	28
2:00 PM Community Open Gym			Art/NHS Trip			8:00 AM Saturday School
			2:15 PM Early Dismissal			
29				2	3	4
 2:00 PM Community Open Gym 	All-State IE Speech Festival	 2:00 PM Early Dismissal 4:45 PM G TR @ Pella Christian 	NO SCHOOL – Easter Break April Fools Day 6:00 PM Athletic Boosters 7:00 PM PTO			

NHS, ART CLUB, AND SCIENCE CLUB

SOUP SUPPER

Free will donation!!!

February 3rd, 2015 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm (Before and during the Basketball Game)



All proceeds go to the clubs' trip to Kansas City

Parent tips for raising strong readers and writers

Growing readers!

Brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and LD OnLine

Getting the Most Out of Nonfiction Reading Time

Reading together remains one of the most important things adults can do with their young learner. Today, recommendations include reading information or nonfiction books with much more regularity. Nonfiction books present many opportunities to learn new concepts and vocabulary, as well as broaden a student's view of the world. Nonfiction books are written differently than picture books in that there are often more pictures, graphics, charts and photographs included within the pages. Parents can ease the transition into more nonfiction reading by encouraging your child to preview a book before reading and to be an active reader who asks lots of questions.

Take a "Book Walk"

One great way to make predictions about an unfamiliar nonfiction text is to take a "walk" through the book before reading. By looking closely together at the front and back cover, the index, table of contents, the glossary, and the photographs or other images, readers can start to get a sense about the topic. This scanning and skimming helps set the expectation for the reading. Take the time to walk through the book before starting to read.

Encourage Questions

A second way to develop more understanding with nonfiction books is to encourage your child to be an active reader who asks lots of questions. Parents can model these behaviors by talking or thinking out loud as you turn the pages of the book. This is a helpful way for your child to see and hear what a successful reader does when faced with difficult or unfamiliar topics. For example, "When I looked at this photograph, I asked myself, "Where is Antarctica? Is that the same place as the South Pole?" Then talk together about how and what you would need to do to find the answer to the questions. This will reinforce that many questions can be answered by reading a text closely and by paying attention to captions and picture titles. Some children enjoy writing their questions on sticky notes and working to answer them during the reading.

Previewing a text and asking questions are two terrific ways to navigate nonfiction texts. Enjoy spending more time with some fascinating informational books!

Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado, and LD OnLine are national education services of WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in Washington, D.C.







0 ITEMS (\$0.00)



Homework Help

Math homework is due tomorrow—how can I help? English | Spanish | French (PDFs)

Tips for Parents: Homework Support

<u>Figure This!</u> Downloadable resources to help you help your child learn math.

<u>Illuminations</u>

Web Bytes: Selected resources from a monthly column in the NCTM News Bulletin.

Elementary and Middle School (K-8)

- <u>Arcademic Skill Builders</u>: Online educational games for learning basic math, language arts, vocabulary, and thinking skills. Math games include addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, and fraction and ratio games.
- <u>Gamequarium</u>: Interactive mathematics games, virtual manipulatives, online calculators, and graphing tools.
- <u>Harcourt Math Glossary</u>: Interactive math glossary for students in K-6 that provides a searchable database of math terms, accompanied by illustrations and animated examples.
- <u>Mathematics Benchmarks, Grades K–12</u>: Benchmarks for K-12, as well as models of secondary school courses, sample secondary school assessments, and tasks.
- <u>Math123xyz.com</u>: Interactive multimedia math resources, including math lessons, interactive tutorials, learning tools, enrichment, and extra practice. Basic Skills, Pre-Algebra, Geometry, Algebra, and Trigonometry.
- <u>Math Dictionary for Kids</u>: More than 600 interactive mathematical definitions for elementary school students.
- <u>Math Playground</u>: Play logic games, solve word problems, and watch math videos.
- <u>Mathwire.com</u>: Activities, worksheets, and creative ideas for teaching math that are classroomtested by teachers. Based on NCTM Standards.
- <u>Numbers Made Meaningful</u>: Teacher-tested math stories and games based on the story *Trouble with Zero*, for PreK through grade 1.
- <u>Rockin' the Standards</u>: A veteran elementary school teacher and his rock band have taken lyrics from common tunes and changed them to help kids remember the mathematics they've been taught in school.
- <u>Soft Schools</u>: Worksheets and games.
- <u>Superkids</u>: Online resource for teachers or parents to create math worksheets on topics including addition, exponents, and telling time.
- <u>Time Monsters</u>: Interactive online lessons and quizzes about time.

High School (9-12)

- <u>Algebra Boot Camp</u>: Downloadable resources, questions, and solutions on various algebra topics.
- <u>Algebra.Help</u>: Worksheets and lessons with step-by-step explanations, as well as calculators and other algebra resources.
- <u>High School Ace</u>: Math tutorials, games, and resources for high school teachers and students.
- <u>Math123xyz.com</u>: Interactive multimedia math resources, including math lessons, interactive tutorials, learning tools, enrichment, and extra practice. Basic Skills, Pre-Algebra, Geometry, Algebra, and Trigonometry.
- Mathwire.com Activities, worksheets, and creative ideas for teaching math that are classroom-

tested by teachers. Based on NCTM Standards.

- <u>Math Motivation</u>: Videos and lessons.
- <u>Mathematics Benchmarks, Grades K–12</u>: Benchmarks for K-12, as well as models of secondary school courses, sample secondary school assessments, and tasks.
- <u>Online Math Learning</u>: Lessons, worksheets, and videos for higher-level mathematics, including free SAT testing and GMAT preparation.
- Phat Math, Inc.: Online help with math homework, as well as math blogs and chat rooms.

Having trouble running our Java apps? Get help here.



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