

February-March 2022

From the Principal

K-4 Connection

Partners in Education



Swather Families:

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thank you parents for taking time to visit with your child's teacher at Parent Teacher Conferences. Communication between home and school is key to improving academic achievement, as well as supporting and motivating each student in the classroom. Families can support these efforts at home by establishing homework routines, dedicating a reading time each evening, along with practicing basic math facts. We applaud your efforts and know it takes both school and home to make the biggest impact on student learning. Thank you for your support!

Kansas State Assessments:

Third and Fourth Grade students will be taking the Kansas State Assessments this spring. These assessments are designed to measure student proficiency against the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards. Assessments start **March 29** and run through **April 14**. Students will be tested in areas of English Language Arts and Math. These assessments allow teachers, parents, and students to see what skills have been mastered throughout the year. We ask for parent support in helping your child get plenty of sleep, eat a good breakfast, and encourage them to give their best effort. These assessments will occur during the morning hours, so as you schedule appointments please keep this in mind. If you have further questions, please check with your child's teacher.

Testing Dates:

4th grade: ELA - March 29 & 30, Math - April 11 & 12

3rd Grade: ELA - March 31 & April 1, Math - April 13 & 14

School Safety

There are a few reminders to help make our school safe for all students. If your child has to cross Amos Street at the front of the school, an adult **must** assist them in crossing the street. The alley to the west of the school is reserved for **buses only** throughout the school day. It is not to be used as a drop off or pick up point for students. Another reminder for everyone's safety, please **do not** use the mailbox parking between the front exit and the alley as a drop off zone. If you visit the playground after school hours, please be sure the gate is **always closed** when you leave and you take all of your belongings. A trash can has been conveniently placed near the playground for any trash. Student safety is our priority, please follow these procedures in order to help keep everyone safe and our playground clean.

Drop Off/Pick Up

Please help the drop off/ pick up line move efficiently by not leaving your vehicle unattended. If you need to leave your car, you will need to park in a parking stall. There is lots of room for you to park at the front of the building and in the east lot.

S.W.A.G. - Swather Walkers Achieving Greatness

The S.W.A.G. season has begun and the miles are adding up. We are so appreciative of the financial support from the H.E.I.P. organization for supporting this all school program. This is another alternative for students to do during recess time. Please visit with your child to determine their walking/running goal and support eating healthy meals, stretching, and drinking plenty of water. We encourage students to get a balance of running and play time in at recess times.

Thank you for your continued support. It is a privilege to work with your child(ren). If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at alisa.krehbiel@usd460.org or your child's teacher.

Hesston Elementary School

300 E Amos Hesston, KS 67062

620-327-7102

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Dear 2nd Grade Families,

We are excited to announce the 1st Annual Plants and Pollinators Party! Students are as busy as bees researching and collecting information about pollinators of plants to study in the days and weeks ahead.

The Plant and Pollinator Party will be taking the place of our Famous Americans project. While it is a much loved project, unfortunately, Famous Americans is no longer in 2nd Grade State Social Studies Standards, and hasn't been for several years. However, the topic of Ecosystems is in our State Science Standards, and this new project is already growing on us!

We recognize that it may disappoint your child not to dress up as a Famous American: Rest assured that this new project has been designed specifically to meet the same Reading, Writing, Research, Speaking and Listening Standards (and the Arts, as well)! Most importantly, learning will still be fun! You're sure to be proud of your little pollinator!

As always, we appreciate your support!
Mrs. Jaso, Mrs. Heinrichs and Miss Baer, and Mrs. Frick



Art—Shea Neufeld

I hope Art continues to be a highlight for your child each week. Art should be fun, hands-on, messy, exciting, and many other potentially new and sometimes out of the ordinary experiences. Thank you for allowing me to invest in your child each week. Who knows, one of them may be the next Jackson Pollock or Pablo Picasso.

Artists at HES - displayed artwork throughout the hallways (this changes often, check my twitter account); currently there are cardinals in wintertime, a recreation of Piet Mondrian artwork, symmetrical mittens, and "Love Monster."

Recreating artwork by Piet Mondrian, Jackson Pollock, Wayne Thiebaud. Artist studies always seem to be enjoyable. I try to teach two new artists each year.

Teaching 4th graders how to draw facial parts for their self-portrait.

Working on how to draw something that looks 3-dimensional.

Opportunity to create a clay project.

Reading "If I Ran the Zoo" and "The Cat in the Hat" By Dr. Seuss while recreating a Tizzled Topped Tufted Mazurka and The Cat in the Hat. Directed-drawings are always fun! I love to see the twist each kid puts on his/hers artwork.

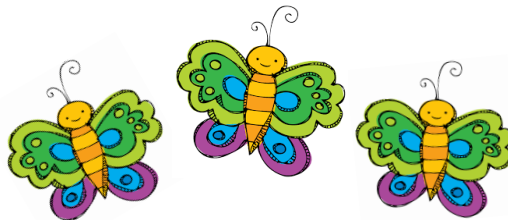
Kindergartners are currently learning about symmetry. Ask them to tell you how they create something that is symmetrical.

Nurse—Tammi Krehbiel

March is National Nutrition Awareness Month with a special emphasis on National School Breakfast Week March 7-11. Breakfast is a very important meal, yet it is one that is often skipped. I want to encourage each of you to start the day out right and make sure both you and your child get a good breakfast every morning! Breakfast provides you with the energy you need to do your best. Research has shown that eating a healthy, well-balanced breakfast helps children:

- Perform better at school
- Do better on tests (this is especially important as we are doing state assessments now)
- Have more energy for active play
- Need less visits to the school nurse with morning headaches and tummy aches
- Avoid overeating by the time snack or lunch time comes around
- Have fewer problems controlling their weight
- Less likely to develop chronic health conditions as adults and learn healthy habits for life

Breakfast does not have to be a huge meal. Cold cereal with fruit, half of a whole wheat bagel with peanut butter, whole wheat toast with jelly, yogurt with granola, a fruit smoothie, or even a granola bar with whole grains and low in sugar will help your child get a kick start every morning. Make breakfast a part of your morning routine!! As spring starts to arrive, seasonal allergies will be kicking in and we will probably be seeing more stuffy noses, coughs and sore throats. This added to the current covid/flu/cold season can make it tricky to decide whether or not to keep your child at home. If your child is not feeling well or has a fever, please do not send him/her to school. A child should be fever free **without** Tylenol or ibuprofen for 24 hours before returning to school. Talk with your child about covering that cough, sneezing into their sleeve, and washing his/her hands often. (This includes whenever they blow their nose.) We want everyone healthy and in school!!



Counselor—Mrs. Dawn Lafferty

February is Kindness month here at Hesston Elementary. It has been so rewarding to see staff and students working on their kindness muscles this month! Remember, one time random acts of kindness are a **great** thing to do. Targeted kindness is another way to strengthen relationships as well! Here are a few ideas for making kindness the focus everyday:

1. SAY something kind to someone
2. DO something kind for someone
3. SAY something kind ABOUT someone...TO someone else! (Kindness Grows Kindness!)

Kindness doesn't have to cost a thing. Saying hello and smiling at someone is easy and free! With our Purposeful People resource, each classroom has been learning about kindness every day this month! This year, we declared the last week of February as Kindness Spirit Week. Each student and staff member wrote down a random act of kindness they have done this month on a colorful heart to create a rainbow of kindness in our front entryway. We wrapped up our kindness theme this month by doing some fun dress up days to celebrate kindness. Be sure to check out our School Story to see the pictures! You can also hear our 4th grade leaders talk about kindness on the HES Character Crew Podcast. You can find the link on our school website. Kindness isn't something that we should just do during the month of February or during our Kindness Week. Here are a few questions you can use to talk about Kindness any day of the year!

- What does Kindness look like in our home? What does it look like in our neighborhood? What does kindness look like when we are doing activities outside of school, such as on our sports team or playing with our friends?
- Why is it important to show Kindness to people who aren't kind to you?
- What acts of Kindness have others shown you lately and how did you respond? How did it make you feel? (Purposeful People, 2021)

I am here to support teaching and learning at HES, and communication about student needs is my highest priority! You can reach me at 620-327-7102 ext. 4004 or at my email: dawn.lafferty@usd460.org.



Hesston Elementary Parents = H.E.I.P.

What a fun year it has been so far! We are so thankful to be able to hold some of our special events like we have in years past! Family Game Night and Donuts with Mom both had great turn outs.

A huge thank you to all who participated in our trash bag fundraiser. Pick up will be at the Bus Barn on Thursday, March 10th from 3-5pm. Please make arrangements to have your orders picked up during that time. The money raised with this fundraiser goes towards all the awesome events through the year (Family Game Night, Christmas Concert, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Mother/Son Night of Fun, Donuts with Mom/Dad, etc.), Christmas gifts to teachers and students, teacher supplies and so much more! Our spring events are approaching quickly! Mother/Son Night of Fun will be on Friday, March 4th and the Father/Daughter Dance is scheduled for Friday, April 1st. We look forward to seeing you there!

Just a reminder that our Pizza Hut Nights have changed. For those that don't know, on the following dates Pizza Hut will donate 20% of your order subtotal to the school. What an easy way to earn the school some money AND get out of cooking! To take advantage of this great opportunity just order ANYTIME on the following Sundays! * March 6th * April 10th * May 8th

We are very thankful to everyone who continues to support our students and staff. None of this would be possible without you! Thank you for helping to make our school so awesome!



Kindergarten Round-Up

Monday April 4, 2022

1:45pm-2:45pm at Hesston Elementary School

Any child who will be 5 years of age on or before August 31, 2022 is eligible to attend Kindergarten.

Parents and children are invited to attend.

Kindergarten round-up allows children an opportunity to meet the teachers and staff. Parents will receive some information about Kindergarten and Children will receive a goodie bag for summer fun and learning.

*Things to bring: Your Child's Birth Certificate, Immunization Records, and your child's Social Security Number.

If you have questions, please call the school at (620)327-7102.

S.W.A.G. IS BACK!

SWAG (Swather Walkers Achieving Greatness) has returned!

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in this walking/running program at recess-**it is completely optional**. Through the program students can earn rewards at certain mile markers and after they reach 50 miles they can earn a shirt!

Students have been trained in the program and it will last 8+ weeks. We have talked about staying hydrated and stretching as a part of their SWAG routine.

Iditarod Challenge Returns for 2022!

Students will work together as a class over a two-week period to earn mileage and race to the finish, much like the true Iditarod race. For each Iditarod stop they reach, they will earn a **SPECIAL IDITAROD** token! Again, this is a class challenge and they will be working together to achieve the goal. Meanwhile, students can keep working to earn their individual tokens.

DATES TO REMEMBER



March 4—Mother/Son Night of Fun

March 6—Pizza Hut Day

March 7— H.El.P Meeting and BOE Meeting 7pm

March 10— Trash Bag Pick-up 3-5 pm at Bus Barn

March 11— End of Third 9 Weeks

March 14-18— **NO SCHOOL**— Spring Break

March 21— BOE Meeting 7PM

April 1—Daddy/Daughter Dance

April 4—Kindergarten Round Up

April 10—Pizza Hut Day

April 11— HELP Meeting and BOE Meeting 7pm

April 14—Spring Parties in Classroom

April 15 and 18— **NO SCHOOL**

April 25—BOE Meeting 7pm

April 29—SWAG Fun Run

Meal Prices for March—18 Meals

HES meals can be found on USD 460's website under the Menu tab.

It is updated on a regular basis.

All Meals are no charge through the end of the 2021-2022 School Year!

Extra Milk—\$.75

ATTENTION LUNCH VISITORS!!

Our students love having guests in the lunchroom.

However, due to COVID restrictions we are not allowing guests at this time.

