

# PENDER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October—November 2018

## HOME COMING



Introducing your 2018 Homecoming Queen Kaylin Sandall and  
Homecoming King Eric Schopke

Queen Attendants left to right: Kelcie Bartlett, Sadie Lamplot & Michaela Wegner  
King Attendants left to right are: Gabe Perez, Sam Mailloux and Christopher Rutar

# Greetings from Jason Dolliver Superintendent



September 24, 2018

Dear Parents, Students, and District Stakeholders,

At the time of this writing, Pender Public Schools is in the 6<sup>th</sup> week of the 2018-19 school year. That means the first quarter is about 55% completed, and about 14% of the school year is finished. In other words, we are chugging right along, and as usual, time is going too fast! That said, the year is off to a great start, and there is a lot of promise for the months ahead.

In this newsletter article, I want to inform district patrons about two items. First, I want to address the NSCAS results from the Spring of 2018. NSCAS stands for Nebraska Student Centered Accountability System. NSCAS is the new name for NeSA, which most people are familiar with because it is the name for the tests students take in the spring in the areas of English Language Arts, Math, and Science. In the past, we have had NeSA celebrations in the spring shortly after students take the assessments. One of the things that changed along with the name is the timeline for getting results. PPS was not able to have a pep rally to celebrate the successes of our students in the Spring of 2018 because the results were not immediately available like they were in the past. In fact, we are still waiting for the results. That is exactly what I want parents and students to know. The results were supposed to have been shared with schools at the end of August, but they were not. We are not sure when the results will be made available, but we hope it is very soon. I know some students (and their parents) are anxiously awaiting the results, so I wanted to make people aware of the situation. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to share the results with students and their parents, and we hope to do so very soon.

Second, I wanted to write a little bit about PPS's 2018-19 budget. Don't stop reading now, it is good information, and I will do my best to keep it simple. For the last several years, PPS has been putting money in what is called the Special Building Fund (SBF). It is one of the 11 funds schools have available to conduct business. Most people are familiar with the General Fund, and some are familiar with the Bond Fund and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF). These are three of the other funds schools have available. The other 7 may or may not be of interest, but they are not part of the topic of conversation for this information.

The SBF can be used in a plethora of ways, but mainly for projects directly related to improving the building itself or building something new. One way in which the SBF can also be used to is pay for debt associated with past construction projects. The 18-19 budget was constructed in a way that leveraged the District's strategy of building a healthy balance in the SBF and saving money.

In 2012, the school borrowed about \$1.6 million dollars to complete some very necessary building projects. Among them were to install a new heating and air conditioning system, to replace the windows in the 3 story portion of the building, and complete a few other projects. The District has been making payments on the borrowed money since that time. PPS was slated to pay \$632,558.75 in principal and interest payments over the course of the 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 school years to finish paying off this borrowed money.

# Greetings from Jason Dolliver Superintendent



To make the payment for the 2018-19 school year, the District would have needed to levy \$0.0304 which equates to \$184,848.48 into the QCPUF. Levies would have been needed in 2019-20 and 2020-21 as well. The levied money would have been used to make the remaining principal and interest payments (\$632,558.75) throughout the next three years.

When we learned it was an option to use the SBF to pay QCPUF bonds, it was discovered that the District could save \$19,144.58 AND reduce the amount of money requested from taxpayers by \$184,848.48. Yes, you are reading that correctly, we were able save money and reduce property taxes for PPS tax payers. In the end, the District's levy was set at \$0.8038 which generates \$4,814,541.37. Had the District decided not to pay the QCPUF bonds in full in 2018-19, the levy would have been set at \$0.8342 which is a tax request of \$4,999.389.85. The \$4,814,541.37 tax request for 2018-19 is lower than the 2017-18 tax request of \$4,971,101.98, and it is lower than the 2016-17 tax request of \$4,941,591.87 as well.

Clearly it was advantageous to go down this path, so the Board of Education decided to do exactly that. Funds from the QCPUF and SBF were used to pay the money owed in full. This transaction will be finalized on October 15, which is extremely exciting for someone like me. Hopefully those still reading this article appreciate and share in that excitement. This situation was a win for PPS and its patrons, and I wanted to share that information.

The information contained in this newsletter article might be a little confusing. My job requires me to work with this type of information frequently, so I don't always know what is and what isn't common knowledge. I did my best to be concise yet provide the details necessary to explain the situation. Anyone reading this article that would like clarification or has any questions about something contained in it is encouraged to contact me. I am also always open to thoughts, ideas, questions, etc. about anything that has to do with Pender Public Schools. I love hearing from district patrons and welcome conversations that are of interest to anyone reading this article. I can be reached by phone by calling (402) 385-3244 ext. 2310, email at [jadolli1@penderschools.org](mailto:jadolli1@penderschools.org), or in person at the school.

It's a Great Day to be a Pendragon!!

Jason Dolliver, Superintendent



# Greetings from Eric Miller

## High School Principal



Hello Pendragons!

Once again, the school year is off to a quick start and August and September have flown by in the blink of an eye! October and November prove to be very busy months for the secondary students as you can see on the calendar.

One event that we need to remind everyone of is Parent/Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Students will dismiss at 2:30 on that day and the Conferences will begin at 3:00. As always, we encourage every parent to attend and to meet with all of your child's teachers. Please bring your kids along so parents, teachers, and students can all have productive conversations together. Conferences last until 9:00 that evening so there is plenty of time to sit and get all the information you need. If you can't make it that night, please feel free to call or email any of your child's teachers for any questions you may have.

I want to let everyone know that I will not be at Parent/Teacher Conferences this year. I will be attending National FFA in Indianapolis, IN to watch our Senior Parli-Pro team compete in the national competition. This is an opportunity that these young ladies earned last spring by winning the competition at State FFA. They have worked hard since that time and we know they will represent Pender and the state of Nebraska well at Nationals. If anyone would need to see me at Parent/Teacher conferences, I will have a sheet for anyone to leave their phone number and I will call them when I return.

As we enter October many of our fall sports seasons begin to wrap up as well. Cross Country and Softball will compete in districts and hopefully state in the first couple weeks of the month. Please check out the calendar for scheduled dates! Volleyball and Football will play into late October and early November, so we still have some dates that you can catch our Pendragons in action.

Band and Choir has a busy couple months ahead of them. Battle of the Bands is ALWAYS a great time and will take place on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> in Bancroft! The Pender Pep Band rocks the gym on this night and always has a big following. If you want to see some of the surrounding areas Pep Bands go toe-to-toe, then this is the night to do it! On Tuesday, November 13, the school's fall concert will take place. Please come and watch the Band and Choir put on a performance for everyone at 7:00 pm. One-Act Play production will begin at the secondary level with dates for productions in late November! The community production for our One-Act group will be Sunday, November 18 at 7:00 pm.

As always, the kids love to see the community come and support them in all that they do. Please stop by the school and show our kids that it is always A Great Day to be a Pendragon!

Eric Miller

Secondary Principal

# Greetings from Kelly Ballinger

## Elementary Principal



October 2018

Hello Pendragon Families!

Happy Fall! The weather is cooling off and our hectic summer schedules are slowing a bit. Things are in full swing here in the elementary school! The students have completed Aims Web Plus testing, MAP testing, and Guided Reading benchmarking. We are off to an AWESOME start!

Homecoming was a GREAT success! Glow Big Red!! Thank you so much for encouraging your students to participate!! The teachers and students were great sports through it all. Being able to participate in pep rallies and dress up days with the high school students is such a neat experience and one of the awesome benefits of PK-12 rural school

Another benefit of PK-12 rural schools is community/family volunteerism and school involvement. We want you in our building! We want you to see first hand the amazing things that happen here everyday! You can volunteer to come in and read, eat breakfast or lunch with us (Hot Lunch Week is Oct. 15-19), help with special projects or visit your child's classroom. You can be involved in whatever capacity you are comfortable with. Just give me a call ~ we would love to have you with us!!

With the end of the first quarter of school rapidly approaching, your thoughts may be turning to your child's report card. Remember that Pender Elementary has a Standards-Based Grading & Reporting (SBGR) system. The primary goal of SBGR is to better communicate specifically and clearly what each student knows and is able to do according to state/district content standards. SBGR removes extraneous factors (group work, effort, attitude, attendance) and solely focuses on proficiency. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Additional information will be available with your child's first report card.

We are still looking for volunteers to share their skills and talents with our students that attend our Beyond the Bell After-School Program. Additional mentors are also being sought for the Pender Teammates Chapter. Donations for the Backpack Food Program continue to be accepted as well. I hope you consider spending some time with us! Please contact the school if you are interested in any of these opportunities or you have any questions

We have a lot of exciting things happening at Pender Elementary School! If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call or stop in and visit. As always, it's a GREAT day to be a Pendragon! ☺

Kelly Ballinger  
PK-6 Principal  
Special Services Director

# Counselor's Corner

## With Thad Nixon



### It's FAFSA time!

Seniors...beginning October 1, you and your parents can complete the 2019-20 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is the application for state, federal, and college-based financial aid.

Follow these tips to prepare:

**Create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID** for you and one for a parent at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov). You and a parent will each need an FSA ID to access and sign the FAFSA.

**Attend an EducationQuest Financial Aid Program** to learn how the FAFSA and financial aid can help you pay for college. Our Financial Aid program will take place October 1, 2018 at 6:00p.m. in the school cafeteria.

**Review the FAFSA Checklist** at [EducationQuest.org](https://EducationQuest.org) for items you'll need to complete the FAFSA.

**See FAFSA Tools** at [EducationQuest.org](https://EducationQuest.org) for helpful resources.

For free one-on-one help, call EducationQuest to make an appointment: Omaha – 888.357.6300, Lincoln – 800.303.3745, Kearney – 800.666.3721, and Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654.

### Are you ready to Apply2College?

This fall, over 200 Nebraska high schools are holding *Apply2College* events during the school day to help seniors complete college applications. Pender High School will take part in this event on Tuesday, October 2. Senior students will sign up for a designated period prior to the day in order to accommodate all 24 students.

### Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- **Don't pay for scholarship services!** Free resources include *ScholarshipQuest* at [EducationQuest.org](https://EducationQuest.org), your school counselor's office, and EducationQuest offices in Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney.
- **Focus on college-based and local scholarships.** You're more likely to earn them over large national awards.
- **Continually update your activities, honors, and volunteer or paid jobs** using the *Activities Resume* at [EducationQuest.org](https://EducationQuest.org).
- **Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.
- **Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Give them advance notice, a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.
- **Ask at least two people** to proofread your application.

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### October "To Do" List

#### Juniors and Seniors:

Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program in your area.

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college.

#### Seniors:

Create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent. You'll need them for the FAFSA.

Complete the FAFSA on or after October 1.

Complete college applications.

Register by September 28 for the October 27 ACT.

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# You're Invited

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pender Public Schools Lunch with Law Enforcement

Monday , October 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2018

Please join us for lunch to kick off "School Safety Week"

We would like to show our gratitude to our law enforcement officers.



Please make plans to join us during one of the times listed below:

10:50-11:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Lunch
11:15-11:45	Kdg-1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Lunch
11:47-12:14	Junior High Lunch
12:10-12:32	4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch
12:37-1:00	High School Lunch

Enter through door #4 by the flag pole

Questions: Call 402.385.3244

## Just a little reminder

Cold and flu season is already here. Please remember:



- 1) Call the office and let us know if your child will not be attending school due to illness.
- 2) If your child is running a temperature of 100 or higher they must be fever free (without medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.
- 3) If your child has been vomiting , they must be free of that for 24 hours.

# HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



# VETERANS DAY

You are cordially invited to Pender Public Schools  
for our Veteran's Day Program.

Monday, November 12th

2:00 pm

# Prom Fundraisers

The junior class once again will be selling magazines. If you would like to renew your subscriptions or purchase new magazines, now is the time to do it. Not only do you get a great selection to choose from but there are many great sale prices and as a bonus it helps raise money for the big event of the year...the Jr-Sr Class Prom. Please contact any junior class member, the school office or you can go to: <http://bit.ly/penderhsjr>

Or scan the QR code →



## Soup Supper

Mark your calendars!

November 29th

Jr. Class Soup Supper

Held during Girls/Boys Basketball Game vs. Wakefield

Free Will Donation





# Parent-Teacher Conferences



Wednesday, October 24th

Preschool-No School

Kdg-12th Grade Dismiss at 2:30 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

# Scholastic Book Fair



October 24th

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

During Parent-Teacher Conferences

In Elementary Library



# IMPORTANT Upcoming EVENTS

October 1	Financial Aid Night	6:00 p.m.
October 2	Picture Retakes	8:00 a.m.
October 15	FAFSA Work night	6:30 p.m.
October 19	End of 1st Quarter	
October 24	No School for Preschool	P-T Conferences 3-9 p.m.
October 26	No School	
November 5	Scholarship Work Night	6:30 p.m.
November 9	Battle of the Bands	7:00 p.m.
November 12	Veterans Day Program	2:00 p.m.
November 12	FFA Fall Banquet	7:00 p.m.
November 13	Fall Secondary Concert	7:00 p.m.
November 21	1:00 Dismissal	
November 22	No School	Thanksgiving Break
November 23	No School	Thanksgiving Break

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
PreK	\$1.70	\$2.10
K-6	\$1.70	\$2.35
7-12	\$1.70	\$2.60
Adults	\$2.20	\$3.60

Extra Milk or Juice - \$.45

Extra Breakfast Main (main, yogurt or poptart) - \$.75

Extra Breakfast Side (cereal) - \$.50

Extra Lunch Main (main or PB&J) - \$1.25

Extra Lunch Side (does not include vegetables, fruits, or salad bar) - \$.75

#### **Breakfast Offered Daily**

Includes: main or poptart or yogurt, cereal, toast and 2 drinks

#### **Lunch Offered Daily**

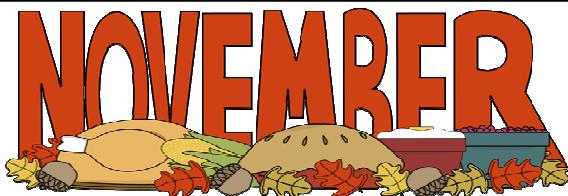
Includes: main, fruit, vegetable, salad bar, 1 drink



<b>1</b>  Omelet Saucy Sub Corn Mandarin Oranges Brownie	<b>2</b>  French Toast Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato Broccoli Peaches	<b>3</b>  Coffee Cake Chicken Noodles Peas Applesauce Bun	<b>4</b>  Breakfast Stick Tavern Tater Tots Green Beans Pineapple	<b>5</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Mini Corn Dogs Mac & Cheese California Blend Fruit Cocktail
<b>8</b>  <b>Scrambled Eggs</b> Chicken Patty French Fries Corn Casserole Pears	<b>9</b>  <b>Breakfast Pizza</b> Spaghetti Lettuce Salad Mandarin Oranges Breadstick	<b>10</b>  <b>Pancakes/Sausage</b> Turkey Club Chips Corn Peaches	<b>11</b>  <b>Muffin</b> Taco Boat Spanish Rice Applesauce Pudding Cup	<b>12</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Chicken Strips Cheesy Hash Browns Broccoli
<b>15</b>  <b>Breakfast Burrito</b> Pizza Green Beans Fruit Cocktail Rice Crispy Bar	<b>16</b>  <b>Donut</b> Cheeseburger Curly Q's California Blend Pears	<b>17</b>  <b>Dutch Waffle</b> Goulash Peas Mandarin Oranges Bun	<b>18</b>  <b>Breakfast Bites</b> Taco Spanish Rice Pineapple Ice Cream	<b>19</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Hot Ham & Cheese Tater Tots Green Bean Cass. Applesauce
<b>22</b>  <b>Breakfast Sandwich</b> Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Peaches Garlic Bread	<b>23</b>  <b>Pancakes &amp; Sausage</b> BBQ Rib French Fries Corn Fruit Cocktail	<b>24</b>  <b>Scrambled Eggs</b> Hot Dog Bar Chips Baked Beans Pears	<b>25</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Saucy Sub Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Cookie	<b>26</b>  
<b>29</b>  <b>French Toast</b> Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato Green Beans Peaches	<b>30</b>  <b>Coffee Cake</b> Tavern Curly Q's California Blend Applesauce	<b>31</b>  <b>Breakfast Stick</b> BBQ Meatballs Cheesy Potatoes Peas Pineapple		

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
PreK	\$1.70	\$2.10
K-6	\$1.70	\$2.35
7-12	\$1.70	\$2.60
Adults	\$2.20	\$3.60
Extra Milk or Juice -	\$ .45	
Extra Breakfast Main (main, yogurt or poptart -	\$ .75	
Extra Breakfast Side (cereal) -	\$ .50	
Extra Lunch Main (main or PB&J) -	\$ 1.25	
Extra Lunch Side (does not include vegetables, fruits, or salad bar) -	\$ .75	

<b>Breakfast Offered Daily</b>
Includes: main or poptart or yogurt, cereal, toast and 2 drinks
<b>Lunch Offered Daily</b>
Includes: main, fruit, vegetable, salad bar, 1 drink



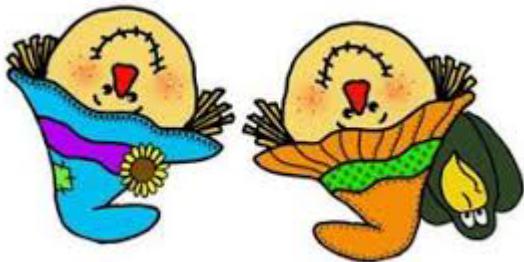
			<b>1</b>  Omelet Mini Corn Dogs Tater Tots Corn Casserole Fruit Cocktail	<b>2</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Chicken Patty Mac & Cheese Corn Pears
<b>5</b>  <b>Breakfast Pizza</b> Spaghetti Lettuce Salad Mandarin Oranges Breadsticks	<b>6</b>  <b>Pancakes &amp; Sausage</b> Taco Boat Spanish Rice Peaches Rice Crispy Bar	<b>7</b>  <b>Muffin</b> Chicken & Noodles Peas Applesauce Bun	<b>8</b>  <b>Breakfast Burrito</b> Pizza Broccoli Pineapple	<b>9</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Chicken Strips Mashed Potato Green Bean Cass. Fruit Cocktail
<b>12</b>  <b>Donut</b> Cheeseburger French Fries Corn Pears	<b>13</b>  <b>Dutch Waffle</b> Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Garlic Bread	<b>14</b>  <b>Breakfast Bites</b> Hot Dog Bar Baked Beans Peaches	<b>15</b>  <b>French Toast</b> Turkey Dinner	<b>16</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Hot Ham & Cheese Curly Q's California Blend Applesauce
<b>19</b>  <b>Breakfast Sandwich</b> Taco Spanish Rice Pineapple Brownie	<b>20</b>  <b>Coffee Cake</b> BBQ Rib Potato Wedges Peas Fruit Cocktail	<b>21</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Goulash Corn Pears Bun	<b>22</b>  	<b>23</b>  
<b>26</b>  <b>Pancakes &amp; Sausage</b> Saucy Sub Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Pudding Cup	<b>27</b>  <b>Scrambled Eggs</b> Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato Green Beans Peaches	<b>28</b>  <b>Breakfast Pizza</b> BBQ Meatballs California Blend Applesauce	<b>29</b>  <b>Muffin</b> Mini Corn Dog Tater Tots Peas Pineapple	<b>30</b>  <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Chicken Patty Mac & Cheese Corn Fruit Cocktail

## How to Contact Us

**School Office**  
402-385-3244  
**On the Web at**  
[www.penderschools.org](http://www.penderschools.org)  
**On Facebook**  
Pender Public Schools  
**On Twitter**  
@pendragonupdate



**Save your Cubby's receipts and turn them into the school office.  
Cubby's will donate 2% of the total receipts we collect back to  
Pender Public School.**



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