

# WILDCAT PRIDE

## Elementary Newsletter-February



Holy Snow Days Batman!! I hope you have all weathered the winter storms. Last Saturday's storm was no doubt a big one and caused everyone some headaches. Spring is on the horizon though and warmer days are surly to come. Sometime this spring, we will be evaluating our students and begin the process of determining class lists for next year. Since our district has grown, we have moved to two classroom sections of each grade level. I wanted to use this month's newsletter to fill you in on a little bit of what this process looks like and how these decisions are made. There are a wide range of factors that go into this process and I will not cover them all here, but will give you a general idea. Some of the factors taken into consideration for classroom placement include, but are not limited to:

- \*Boy to girl ratio
- \*Amount of special education students and their level of need in a grade level
- \*Attempt to create a balance in a classroom of high performing students, average performing students and students who may tend to struggle based on our student testing data, grades, teacher input and student behavioral needs
- \*Student behavior issues and determining which teacher may work best with that student and their needs
- \*Separating students who tend to not get along and maybe need a year away from one another
- \*Attempt to match student personalities with teacher personalities
- \*Attempt to match student needs with teacher strengths
- \*If beneficial, place students with a teacher their older sibling had since families are already familiar with what to generally expect from that teacher

Much of this information is gathered and input into a rating scale for each student. We use the rating scale and current teacher input along with factors that cannot be rated and begin placing students in a classroom. Once we complete an initial placement of all students we count up the points in each classroom to see if there is a disparity. For example, in second grade if Mrs. Sukstorf's class had a class list with students comprising of 50 points and Mrs. Pittack's class list has just 25 points, we have one class with a much higher need and not a very equitable split. In this scenario, Mrs. Sukstorf's class may have ended up with the majority of high need students and we would want to reevaluate this list and see which students need to be shuffled around to attain a more equal point split. A fairly close point split once calculated would indicate that we have a good mix of students based on the factors listed above. Even with an equal point split, we still reevaluate the list and see if there are any other factors to consider. We have this list before the year is over, but it will not be made official until August by the Open House. New students may be added and some students may move, or withdraw over the summer and in turn change the list established from the spring. We also may have families that move, or may leave and not inform us and upon school starting and last-minute adjustments may need to be made there as well, however that is generally unlikely. Parents often want to request a certain teacher for a variety of reasons. This request is taken into consideration and may be granted if possible, but in all cases is outweighed by the need of the group as opposed to the want of a few. I hope this helps to give you an idea of how this process generally works. Our goal is to create classrooms to optimize the learning atmosphere to make the most kids successful. Until next month, take care and GO WILDCATS! -Mr. Hansen

## REMINDERS

\*Our open house is being done differently this year. March 5<sup>th</sup> is for **NEW STUDENTS and NEW FAMILIES** coming, or thinking about coming to our school for the 2019-2020 school year. At this time, staff members can give them tours and answer their questions.

\* **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Family Fun Night** for our **Current Students** from 5-7 p.m. More information about the event will come out as it approaches and activities are finalized.

\*Staff vs. Senior Basketball Game has been rescheduled to Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

\*With the missed snow days teachers will be needing to make up contract days, but at this point the instructional minutes for students should **not** be impacted. Days off on the district calendar and last day of school should be unchanged for students. There is no school for students on March 15 and 29. There is a 1:30 early out April 18 and No School April 19 and 22 for spring break. The last day of school is also a 1:30 dismissal on May 22.

## Other Information

\*Parent Teacher Conferences coming up on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>  
\*Report Cards are going out quarterly this year.

They were first given out at conferences and will be mailed out at the end of the year.

\*ALL LOST AND FOUND items will be donated after P/T Conferences. There are a large number of hats/gloves and sweatshirts from the winter. If you need to come look through it, please do.

\*Spring State Testing is coming up in April for grades 3-6. Look for these dates coming home from your child's teacher and be sure to have your child in attendance on those days.

\*We will again be offering summer school and the After-School Program for a portion of the summer. That information should be out by mid-April.

\*Muffins with Mom took place last week and we served over 350 students and their mom or special guest. Thanks for the support moms!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*Our February Wildcat PRIDE recognition be Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30a.m. in the high school gym. If your child is selected a teacher may contact you and invite you to attend. These are recorded and can also be seen on YouTube.

\*March 4-8 is Read Across America Week/Dr. Seuss' Birthday. PK-6th may take part in the following dress up days: **Mon:** Cat in the Hat Day-Wear a crazy or favorite hat. **Tues:** The Lorax-Wear a mustache. **Wed:** Wacky Wednesday-Dress in a wacky outfit. **Th:** Fox in Socks-Wear crazy socks. **Fri:** Oh, the Places You'll Go, Dress like what you want to be when you grow up.

\*Senior vs Staff Basketball Game is Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the gym.

\*Please add and follow us on FACEBOOK

\*Please visit the school website for athletic dates and times.

**February PRIDE Award Winners Were:** **Kindergarten:** Mya Hamilton, Mya Sweeney **First Grade:** Ben Gates, Kharleigh Brown **Second Grade:** Ruth Hanzel, Hailey Newcomer **Third Grade:** Raygan Stuart, Devan Maynard **Fourth Grade:** Kourtney Christensen **Fifth Grade:** Peyton Vie, Margaret Jacoby **Sixth Grade:** Alaina Libra, Graham Huffman

\*These students were nominated by a teacher in the building for exhibiting **Wildcat PRIDE** throughout the month. Congratulations to these students for being leaders in our building and exemplifying what it means to be a Cedar Bluffs WILDCAT!

# GO WILDCATS!