

# WILDCAT PRIDE

## May NEWSLETTER



Even though the current weather doesn't feel like it, summer is finally upon us!!! I will be going to Minnesota on a fishing trip next week and taking my family to Colorado in June. I hope your family has an opportunity to enjoy some time together with the extra time and warm weather summer provides. With my second year at Cedar Bluffs coming to a close I can't believe how fast the time has gone, how much I've learned and how much I've seen the kids learn and grow. I feel our staff and focus on increasing school and self PRIDE has made a big difference for our students, as well as changes we have implemented seeking continuous improvement. I've written in previous newsletters about all the changes we have made here over the last two years and at this point we are starting to see some benefits of those changes. One recent nice change has been the addition of bus monitors on our 70 passenger busses. Having this presence on these buses have made a big impact on minimizing issues on the bus. Next year, there will be a few more changes.

In the fall, our latest addition to the school will be open. The new space provides us two more classrooms and a fitness space adjacent to the gym and wellness center that will double as our new wrestling room. This winter we had over 30 kids in our youth wrestling program and we are excited to be able to offer a better space for these kids. One of our overall goals for the longevity of the school is to have two sections of each grade level and maintain class sizes of 30 or more. Our recent renovations and additions of building space and current staff is set up for just that. Next year, our current numbers for the elementary are as follows: PK-40 K-44 1st-37 2nd-30 3rd-36 4th-42 5th-22 and 6th-27 for a total of 277 students.

The district has a capacity limit set at a max of 44 students per grade level and we have met this with the incoming kindergarten class. As I have found out in this job, no matter how much you try and plan ahead and prepare, there is always an unforeseen reality which presents itself. The latest one is our very large incoming kindergarten class. I can always look ahead to the size of the incoming kindergarten class based on the students in our preschool and in January, I anticipated 32 students exiting preschool and entering our kindergarten. However, since then we have had 12 more students register who did not attend our preschool and pushed the number to 44. In looking at each grade level we have decided to have three sections of kindergarten next year and just one section of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

We felt our kindergartners would benefit from smaller class sizes and our class of 22 fifth graders, who have yet to be split into two sections, can continue as a single section grade level. The number of benefits of keeping kindergarten class sizes as small as possible are great and will help ensure our youngest students get the best foundation of basic skills as possible. To accommodate this change, Miss Smoot, who taught kindergarten last year and 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year, will make her return to kindergarten. Mrs. Thomas, currently 1 of 2 fifth grade teachers will move to 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Miss Lester, one of our current kindergarten teachers, is getting married this summer and will be moving to York. To replace her, we have hired Miss McKenzie Smeal. Mrs. Chvatal, who is currently of our kindergarten teachers will return next year. With this being the case in PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade, we will still have 16 teachers and 16 individual classrooms with an average of 17 students per classroom.

Other than that, there are not really any other big changes on the horizon at this point. We will be purchasing a new science curriculum this summer which will reflect the new state and national standards. In the last three year's we have updated our reading curriculum, math curriculum and now science. Next year,

we will be looking at and purchasing new social studies curriculums to keep up with and meet new state standards which are currently being developed. Other changes will include some additional staffing changes in the high school.

Mr. Kroupa has accepted the head girls' basketball coaching job at Omaha Central, Mr. Ernst is moving to Texas, Mr. Hare is moving to Chadron, Mrs. Gerken is moving to Florida and Mr. Cloyd and Miss Phillips will be leaving us as well for other opportunities. We will be moving Mr. Parker out of his career counselor role to full time PE and Mrs. Chrisman to career counselor from English. To replace these staff members, we have hired Thomas Brinkman to take over as head football coach and history, Liz Black to replace Mr. Ernst in Spanish, Brian Dunker to replace Mr. Hare, Jeremiah Johnson to replace Mrs. Chrisman, Dani Amen to replace Miss Phillips in science, Coby Amen to replace Mrs. Gerken in technology and STEM classes and Jeremy Larsen to replace Mr. Kroupa in PE. We wish these staff members well in their future endeavors and thank them for their time here.

I hope you all feel like this year went as well as I do and that your child had an overall good experience in their grade level. I look forward to next year and seeing the continued growth of all the kids and the continued improvement of our school. Have a safe, happy, and hopefully relaxing summer.  
Mr. Hansen

### **REMINDERS**

- \*Paperwork will be mailed to you sometime in Mid-July to be filled out and returned to the school before next year. Please be on the lookout for that packet around that time.
- \*Open House in August will be August 8<sup>th</sup> and are planning on it running from **5:00-7:00**. You will find out your child's teacher that night, turn in and update paperwork and hear plans and changes for the upcoming year. Please plan on attending. If you are unable to make it that night, please bring in the materials mailed to you sometime the first week of August. The first day of school will be Aug 14 and 1:30 early out.
- \***Incoming kindergarteners need to provide immunization records.**
- \*Report cards will be mailed out on May 29th.
- \*Summer school and the ASP will run M-Th during the month of June. There is no summer school or ASP the month of July. If you have any questions about the summer school schedule please contact the school.
- \***Please notify Miss Jordyn of any address and phone number changes.**
- \*Supply lists were posted on our Facebook page this week for you early planners. They will be posted again in mid-July and at Wal-Mart in Fremont when they start putting school supplies out.

### **May PRIDE Award Winners Were:**

**Kindergarten:** Piper Jonstone, JoeBob Windsor **First Grade:** Gemma Wesch, Zayne Johnson **Second Grade:** Amelia Knoell, Izabella Sulley **Third Grade:** Matthew Bell, Balin Hall **Fourth Grade:** Bella Patyk **Fifth Grade:** Galvin Green, Lila Bussey **Sixth Grade:** Emmy Shanahan, Brock Schwarz

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

# **GO WILDCATS!**