

# WILDCAT PRIDE

## April/May NEWSLETTER



Dear Families:

Hello Summer!! It has overall been a great year at Cedar Bluffs Elementary. The kids and staff have worked very hard, and I hope everyone has some time to slow down a little bit and enjoy your upcoming summer break. Every year for my last newsletter I usually write some in depth thank you to all who make the school year happen. That is our kids, parents, teachers, paras, bus drivers, custodians, lunch staff, secretaries, and all other support staff. I will keep this a bit shorter this year and just give one big THANK YOU to you all. Public schools are an essential part of our society and making school happen effectively each year is no small task and I hope we can continue all our services and programs for years to come. I hope you all feel this year was as good as I do, and I hope you all have a great summer!

### Spring Testing

Not only have students done well on daily learning and tests, but we also ended the year strong on all our district, state and national tests. If you see any of our teachers or paras give them a big pat on the back and tell them good job! They and the students did a fantastic job, and we have the numbers to prove it.

**\*NSCAS** (Nebraska State Assessments 3-5th Grade) We did very well on our summative state testing. The state has made quite a few changes for us to adapt to on the state tests. This has provided us with some challenges, but one good thing is that we are able to immediately see student results where it used to be weeks or months before we could see results.

Even though we can see immediate results, we are not allowed to share out specific numbers until the state finalizes all results. This will likely not be until August. What I can share at this time is that on **7 out of the 8 tests, our 3rd-5th Grades outsourced our regional average and on 6 out of 8 tests they outsourced the state average.** This is outstanding work!!!

Third and fourth graders are tested on Math and English/Language Arts and fifth graders are tested on Math, ELA and Science.

**\*Maps** (National Math K-2nd Grade) Our K-2 students also showed much growth and achieved good final scores for the year on our Maps Math Assessment. Kindergarten – 2nd Grade overall on average between the three grade levels scored in the **70th percentile**. This a nationally normed test and the percentile means our students scored higher than **70%** of all students who took the test in the entire country. The NWEA Maps Assessment is a widely used nationwide assessment and over 9 million students take Maps tests. Our highest scoring kindergarten student scored in the **96<sup>th</sup>** percentile, our highest first grade score was in the **97<sup>th</sup>** percentile and highest 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students was in the **98<sup>th</sup>** percentile. Outstanding job K-2 Teachers and students!

**\*Aims** (National Reading K-5) A few years ago, the state passed LB 1081. Part of that bill was to put measures in place to ensure that by the end of third grade 100 percent of kids met third grade reading benchmark scores. Getting all kids to meet benchmark is quite the lofty goal. When taking kids with special needs into consideration and specific learning disabilities, and overall, just kids' different rate of learning, 100 percent proficiency is a near impossibility. In most instances in regard to school success, reaching 80% mastery for a group is more typical since roughly 20% of all students have a disability or barrier of some sort. This year, our 3rd grade reached 78% mastery. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade reached 94% mastery.

**\*Math District Assessments:** (K-5) Six years ago, we created four math assessments at each grade level. These assessments represent the four essential skills our staff identified in their grade level that we wanted students to show mastery in by the end of the year. For example, 2nd grade students work to master geometric shapes, time/money, place value to the hundreds, and addition/subtraction through the hundreds. Overall, on our 24 different math common assessments students showed mastery over 94% of the time across all grade levels.

**\*Preschool-** GOLD (General Growth and Development Assessments) Preschool student achievement is overall measured by their growth in six different areas. These areas include social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy and mathematics. Since their scores are heavily based on their individual growth and development and not total their total achievement there are no general scores to highlight. Even so, it is important to recognize the importance of their hard work and teacher efforts as well. I hear parents say all the time that they don't know how our preschool teachers do it. It is no small task to work with that age of students. Great job to all in PK this year!

Until next year, take care and GO WILDCATS! Mr. Hansen

### Other Information

- \*For transportation issues contact Tom Brinkman
- \*For Kids First After School Program and Youth Sports, Contact Jeff Beckman
- \*Track and Filed Day May 17 PK-1 8:30-10:45. 2nd-5th Grade 12:15-3:00. City Park/Football Field
- \*Elementary Talent Show May 16, 12:00
- \*Friday, May 19 Wildcat PRIDE Assembly
- \*LAST DAY IS FRIDAY, MAY 19 WITH A 1:30 EARLY OUT. NO Kids First ASP.
- \*Summer School is June 5-28 8:00-12:00 p.m. This should be all set up all information, schedules, and transportations plans have been established. If you still have questions, please call the school office immediately.
- \*Open House in the fall will be August 7 and our first day is Wed. Aug 9 with a 1:30 out. No ASP.
- \*New Staff Next Year: Mark Henry, 5<sup>th</sup> (Mrs. Loch is getting married and moving to Grand Island) Maddie Ferringer, 3rd Grade (Mrs. Heisterkamp is moving to PK) & Miss Morgan in PK is moving to Logan View. Mr. Gerrish will be moving to the ESU as a coordinator and Alexeous Hoff will be his replacement.

Lastly, as a part of our school Health and Wellness Policy, here are some tips on being Salt Smart:

**USDA** Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Start simple**  
with MyPlate

**Be Salt Smart**

**Read the label**  
The **Nutrition Facts** label shows you how much sodium is in packaged foods. Choose **lower** sodium foods—especially if you have high blood pressure, diabetes, or kidney disease.

**Eat fruits and veggies**  
Enjoy a variety of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables—almost all of them are naturally low in sodium. Look for canned vegetables labeled “no added salt.”

**Look for cue words**  
Items that are “pickled,” “brined,” or “cured” tend to be high in sodium. Include these foods in your meals sparingly.

**Put together meals at home**  
Making your own meals gives you more control over the salt you eat. Taste your food before adding salt from the shaker.

**Go easy on the sauce**  
Be mindful of how much sauce, gravy, salsa, ketchup, soy sauce, marinade, or dressing you're using. The sodium from these can add up quickly.

**Spice it up**  
Flavor your foods with fresh or dried herbs and spices instead of salt. Pick spice blends that do not list salt or sodium on the ingredients list.

**DGA** Dietary Guidelines for Americans  
Go to [myplate.gov](https://myplate.gov) for more information. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**The benefits of healthy eating**  
add up over time, bite by bite.

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