

# PENDER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December/January 2019

## Thank you Pender PTO and Boosters



Thank you Pender PTO and Boosters for your generous donation of our new  
Pendragon Mascot. The students LOVE it!!

# Greetings from Jason Dolliver

## Superintendent



November 22, 2019

Dear Parents, Students, and District Stakeholders,

I find it hard to believe that Thanksgiving will have come and gone by the time anyone reads this Newsletter. That means the winter break and the end of the second quarter are right around the corner! In other words, time is rolling right along. In this newsletter article, I'd like to address two items.

First, I want to congratulate Pender students, teachers, staff members, board members, parents, family members, community members, and anyone who has a role in helping PPS be successful for being recognized as a 2019 ESEA National Distinguished School! This is a significant accomplishment and something of which we should all be very proud. PPS was named a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School in the fall of the 2017-18 school year. Being named a 2019 ESEA National Distinguished school is on the same level. I mention this so everyone understands the magnitude of the recognition. Simply stated, this recognition shows that PPS is an awesome school. That is the case because of everyone named in the first sentence of this paragraph.

In 2019, only 100 schools in the nation will be recognized as ESEA National Distinguished schools, and only 2 of those will be Nebraska schools. Pender is one of those schools! If you are wondering how or why Pender was selected for this recognition, the answer is fairly simple. Pender Elementary students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 performed at a very high level on NSCAS assessments the last three years. Schools are selected for one of three reasons: 1) exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years, 2) closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years, or 3) excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.). Pender was selected for exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years. That is the category for which I want the school that means the world to me to be known for!

I just want to say congratulations again to everyone who had a part in this recognition! It is deserved, it is something of which we should all be proud, it is something we should all celebrate, and it is something we should all use to help us be even better in the future!

I would also like to provide an update on the Pendragon Sports Complex. In case you don't remember, this is the potential new track, football field, and baseball/softball field that will hopefully be constructed north of David Nitzschke Memorial Baseball Field. Anyone who wants more information about the project should visit [www.penderschools.org](http://www.penderschools.org). The reason I mention this project is to speak a little about information that was recently mailed to all district patrons, alumni, and many others with a potential interest in the project. The information should have already arrived. If the information did not arrive via US Mail and you would like to receive the it, please let me know.



# Greetings from Jason Dolliver

## Superintendent



The information is intended to do a few things. First it is intended to be informational. The project is significant with a lot of components. Hopefully the information provided answers questions people may have. If not, be sure to contact me so I can answer any questions you may have. Second, it is intended to encourage donations. In the end, donations will determine the magnitude of the project. In order for the dream of the Pendragon Sports Complex to become a reality, donations are paramount. Each and every donation, small, large, and everything in between, is very important. The mailing will provide anyone wishing to donate with an avenue to do so. Finally, the mailing will hopefully generate a widespread interest in the project. If completed, the project will have a tremendously positive impact on the school and community for generations to come. To make it happen, it will take a significant effort from a significant number of people. The good news is, if any community is going to make it happen, that community is Pender! I look forward to progress and the eventual completion of this project. Together, we can make it happen!

As is always the case, anyone with questions, comments, or concerns are, as always, encouraged to contact me. I can be reached via phone at (402) 385 - 3244 ext. 2310, email at [jadolli1@penderschools.org](mailto:jadolli1@penderschools.org), or in person at the school.

See you all soon and GO PENDRAGONS!!!

Dr. Jason Dolliver, Superintendent

# Greetings from Eric Miller

## High School Principal



Happy Winter Pendragoons!

It is sportsmanship season here at Pender, actually, it is always sportsmanship season but this is a good time to reinforce and remind!!! I wrote about sportsmanship a couple years back and with our Student Council making a push for positive sportsmanship, I feel it is time for a reminder to all of us. The winter athletic season brings us all indoors and moves us closer to the action in the close confines of the school gym. As multiple research shows, the closer a fan is to the action, the more they feel more engaged in the contests. This means it is easier for us to see what is happening with our participants. Fans are quick to point out missed calls, “wrong” calls, and about anything else we feel is going against us, AND as we also know, “The refs never call that on our end of the court!”

To the students, let’s remember that as a player what you say to the official has no impact on the game. If anything, displaying negative sportsmanship or reacting negatively to an official only hurts the entire team. In the end, players have control over their actions and reactions. Let’s help to teach our kids the correct way to do this. Winning is a great feeling and losing shouldn’t be. However, it is important to know how to do both with dignity.

Coaching is much the same way, as an administrator and as a parent I expect our coaches to model good character for our students to follow. Coaches know they can’t control what the officials see or call, and throwing a fit never helps in a situation. Asking questions, drawing attention to situations, and make suggestions in a respectful way is what good coaches do. Our coaches will take care of our athletes and model appropriate behaviors along the way.

When it comes to officials, please remember, that it’s every official’s goal to call a perfect game or match. However, officials are human, there is no replay at the JH or HS level and mistakes will happen. Fans need to expect this coming into games. At times mistakes happen at the most inopportune time, but it still doesn’t give fans the right to go nuts. Officials are hard to find so don’t run anymore out of the game!

As an Administrator, I have been in the middle of a number of post-game screaming matches involving parents. Some of these towards each other, towards referees, at the coaches, or parents from other teams. I have had to ask parents to stop yelling during games and I have had to ask parents to leave the gym, I have even had to “suspend” parents from student activities. All fans need to remember that paying admission to the game does not give you the right to speak your mind! This is not a “Freedom of Speech” violation, please don’t use that as an excuse. Remember, as a spectator, it is your job to cheer for your team, not against the other team, there is a difference in the two. Hosting events in our facilities is a way to show school and community pride. At PPS we like to show off our facilities and bring people into our school as much as possible. In this setting, the school and the community as a whole is depicted by how we represent ourselves as fans. The school gym is the most visited place by people from other communities and the impression you leave with guests will be how others view your community as a whole.

# Greetings from Eric Miller

## High School Principal



To help with the experience here are some tips for the gym:

1. Do not mutter nasty criticisms about players...yours or anyone else's.
2. Do not goad the officials or opposing players in order to distract or interfere with the game.
  - Some people have developed low-volume harassment into an art form.
3. Do not argue with or respond to the negative comments of other poorly behaving fans.
4. Don't make loud or profane comments about either team's coaches, players, or fans.
  - This includes officials!
5. Do not scold or yell at your child...or any child...about poor play, during or after a game.
6. Do not try to communicate with the coach during a game.
  - Yep, this happens!
7. Do not yell instructions or try to communicate with your child during the game.
8. Do not become a boorish "rules expert."
  - Whether or not you have some knowledge of the rules, refrain from loudly correcting questionable calls.
9. Keep your perspective in check.
  - The goals you may have for a team are not always the reality of the situation.

As always, I know that most people will represent our community and school in a positive way. Please help the school in teaching our next generation about sportsmanship by your own actions.

Thank you,  
Eric Miller; 7-12 Principal

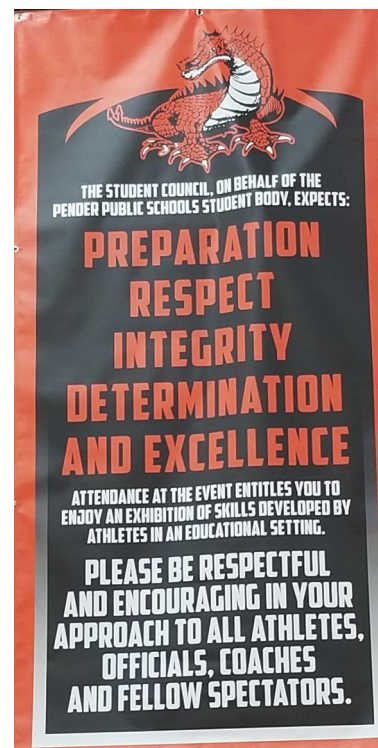
### Spectator Code of Conduct

The Student Council, on behalf of the Pender Public Schools student body, expects;

**Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence.**

Attendance at this event entitles you to enjoy a exhibition of skills developed by athletes in an educational setting.

Please be respectful and encouraging in your approach to ALL athletes, officials, coaches and fellow spectators.



# Greetings from Kelly Ballinger

## Elementary Principal



December 2019

Hello Pendragon Families!

The holidays are quickly approaching, and I can't help but be so thankful for the amazing students, parents, staff and community that we are surrounded by here at PPS. We have had the opportunity to put some wonderful programs in place in the last few years to support our students and families. These programs need our continued support. As our minds turn to the season of giving, please consider these opportunities to impact the lives of local children.

The first opportunity I would like to mention is our TeamMates program. Tom and Nancy Osborne founded the TeamMates Mentoring Program in 1991 in an effort to provide support and encouragement to school aged youth. The goal of the program is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. To reach this goal, youth meet one hour per week at school with a caring adult who serves as a mentor. Mentors are volunteers from the community who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the life of a young person. Mentors give youth a sense of hope, purpose and vision. You can contact Andrea Hansen or myself if you are interested in becoming a mentor. We currently have several students waiting to be matched with mentors ~ please consider donating one hour a week to this worthy cause.

The second opportunity is our Backpack Food Program. Pender Public Schools partners with the Pender Ministerial Association to help meet the need for nutritious meals and snacks for children over weekends and extended breaks, free of charge to parents. Any child enrolled in Pender Public Schools is able to receive these weekly bags of food. The Ministerial Association is committed to purchasing the necessary food items for our food bags. If you would like to contribute to the Backpack Food Program, our current needs are for cash donations to be put toward the purchase of food items. Any donations can be made to the Pender Ministerial Association in care of Pastor Dan Springer.

One last opportunity for giving is by being an academic tutor. We have elementary students in need of individual interventions for reading and math. If you are interested in helping out in this manner, give us a call. We will provide you with training and all the materials you need. We are also willing and able to work around your schedule. Please consider being a tutor!

As you can see there are numerous opportunities for sharing your time, talent, and treasures with our students. Additional needs include our PTO, Beyond the Bell after-school program, and volunteers to listen to our students read. If you would like to discuss which possibility is the right fit for you, please don't hesitate to contact the school. You never fully know the long-lasting, life-changing, impacts you can have by building up, strengthening and supporting children. Thank you very much for your consideration!

Happy Holidays!

Kelly Ballinger  
Elementary Principal/Special Education Director  
Pender Public Schools



# Counselor's Corner

## With Thad Nixon



Greetings! As things are starting to wind down here for the first semester, we will soon kick it into overdrive to get our current seniors lined up for their plans after high school. The senior class is realizing that deadlines are for real and the push for scholarship money is now on. I will be hosting two more Scholarship Work Nights in December and January that should assist our students in having everything completed before the final scholarship push begins. Once again, I would like to point out that my website was developed for students and parents to utilize as a resource for many things including completion of the FAFSA. The website can be found through the Pender School's website. Like always, it's a great day to be a Pendragon.

Some things to complete to stay on task:

### **What to expect after you submit your FAFSA**

The FAFSA opened October 1, so many of you have already completed and submitted your form. Here's what happens next:

**Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR).** You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.

**Make sure you applied for admission to colleges you listed on your FAFSA.** Colleges that receive your FAFSA results typically won't send you a financial aid package until you've applied and have been accepted to the school.

**Watch for verification requests.** The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office.

**Watch for financial aid award notifications.** The colleges you were accepted to – and listed on your FAFSA – will send you financial aid award notifications detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

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### **Winning the scholarship game**

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

**Don't ever pay for scholarship searches!** Use *free* resources such as *ScholarshipQuest* at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships, or free national sites like Cappex, GoodCall, and Chegg.

**Visit Mr. Nixon** often for information about local scholarships.

**Focus on local and college-specific scholarships** because you're more likely to earn them.

**Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exam(s) 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. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.

**Tailor your essay to the scholarship.** Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

## **Notes from the Nurse's Office**

### **Health Screenings**

Health Screenings have begun this year in the nurse's office. Yearly, I see all the students between October-March checking on their growth, oral health, and vision. The kids always enjoy visiting the nurse's office on days when they're feeling good! I enjoy getting to know the students better and answer any health questions they might have.

### **Health Collaborations**

Pender Public Schools, in cooperation with the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department, Pender Community Hospital, Providence Community Hospital, several area schools and University of Nebraska at Kearney are working together to develop a community-wide wellness plan to assess and address childhood obesity. Non-identifying data (ages, heights, weights) are shared within our collaboration to help develop and implement resources in the future for health care needs related to childhood obesity and other chronic childhood ailments. A BMI (body mass index) report card, developed by UNK, will be made available at the end of the school year and it may make its way into your homes towards the beginning of summer. Knowing that this information can be very sensitive, this won't be sent home with students, but rather mailed to parents. If you have any questions/concerns or wish to have your child excluded from project please contact Leslie Timm in the nurse's office at 385-3244 ext 2171.

### **Vision Expense Resources**

If vision concerns arise and taking your student to a vision specialist is difficult for financial reasons, there are a few options we here at school may help with. One resource we have available to us is a program called Sight for Students. To use this resource, the student must be 19 or younger, have a family income at or under 200% of Federal Poverty Level guidelines and have not used a VSP program in the last 12 months. Please contact Mrs. Timm for a coupon which covers a comprehensive eye exam and eyeglasses if needed.

### **Pink Eye**

The thought of head lice usually makes everyone get itchy. Pink eye does the same thing to those of us who work with lots of kids! It may seem minor to a lot of families, but it is considered a highly contagious and infectious disease by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. We've developed a little guideline to help us in determining whether to call parents and request that the student be medically evaluated. Our three questions before calling home:

Is the white of the eye red throughout? (Not just in one spot like what you'd see from an injury...)

Is their drainage or evidence (crusty eyelashes) around their eye?

Is it itchy or burning? Do we see the student rubbing?

We realize there are lots of things that can make eyes red, but hopefully by addressing these three things together, we can recommend medical referral better. If we send your student home with suspected pink eye, they can return when the eye is of normal appearance or with documentation from your physician that they are no longer infectious.

As always, if you have any health questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at school or reach me by email. Address is [Letimm1@penderpublicschools.com](mailto:Letimm1@penderpublicschools.com) I'm usually here Mondays and Thursdays, but some weeks will vary.



# **Soup Supper**

**Come support the  
Junior Class!**

**Friday, December 6th**

**During the home basketball games**

**Pender vs. Tekamah-Herman**

**From: 5:00 until**

**food is gone**

**Where: Pender Schools**

**Serving: chili, chicken noodle soup, & dessert**

**free will donation**

# 2019 Close Up Raffle

**1st Prize: Yard Nativity Scene Approx. 5' x 2' with stakes**

Donated by Main Street Custom Metal



**2nd Prize: Thirty-One Medium Size Utility Tote, Plush Throw, Hide & Peek Pouch**

Donated by Shellie Nelson, Thirty-One Consultant



1 ticket= \$5                      5 tickets= \$20

Drawing to be held during the  
December 12 Varsity Basketball  
game vs Lutheran High Northeast  
(need not be present to win,  
delivery will be arranged)

Close Up Students: Dawson Anderson, Mesa Kelly, Jess Krueger, Zoey Lehmkuhl, Jaxon Maise, Carson Miller, Londyn Nelson, Ashley Ostrand, Skyler Prokop, Calie Rabbass, Mercede Roberts, Lucas Timm





What a perfect way to start Thanksgiving week! Our students and staff knocked it out of the park! Over 1300 food/household items and \$1500 donated to our local food pantry! Special thanks to our JH STEM/Music Appreciation classes as well as Brandi Kolbeck, Katie Meier and Scott Pfeiffer for collecting, counting and transporting! #PRIDEwithaPurpose



	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
PreK	\$1.80	\$2.20
K-6	\$1.80	\$2.45
7-12	\$1.80	\$2.70
Adults	\$2.30	\$3.75
Extra Milk or Juice - \$.45		
Extra Breakfast Main (main, yogurt or poptart) - \$.80		
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



# December Lunch

<b>2</b> <b>Breakfast Sand.</b> BBQ Rib Chsy Hashbrown Broccoli Fruit Cocktail	<b>3</b> <b>Dutch Waffle</b> Mini Corn Dog French Fries Corn Pears	<b>4</b> <b>Breakfast Burrito</b> Chicken/ Noodles Peas Mandarin Oranges Bun	<b>5</b> <b>Pancakes/Sausage</b> Cheeseburger Tater Tots Green Beans Peaches	<b>6</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Grilled Cheese Mac Salad California Blend Applesauce
<b>9</b> <b>Breakfast Stick</b> Taco Boat Spanish Rice Pineapple Ice Cream	<b>10</b> <b>Donut</b> Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Fruit Cocktail Breadstick	<b>11</b> <b>Breakfast Bites</b> Goulash Corn Pears Bun	<b>12</b> <b>French Toast</b> Chicken Fried St. Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	<b>13</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Pizza California Blend Peaches
<b>16</b> <b>Long John</b> Hot Ham/Cheese Tri Tater Peas Applesauce	<b>17</b> <b>Coffee Cake</b> Chicken Patty French Fries Broccoli Pineapple	<b>18</b> <b>Omelet</b> Hot Dog Bar Chips Baked Beans Fruit Cocktail	<b>19</b> <b>Breakfast Pizza</b> Grilled Cheese Mac Salad Corn Pears	<b>20</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Sub Hoagie Chips Green Beans Mandarin Oranges
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>WINTER BREAK</b>				
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>WINTER BREAK</b>				

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
PreK	\$1.80	\$2.20
K-6	\$1.80	\$2.45
7-12	\$1.80	\$2.70
Adults	\$2.30	\$3.75
Extra Milk or Juice - \$.45		
Extra Breakfast Main (main, yogurt or poptart) - \$.80		
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 pop art or yogurt, cereal, toast and 2 drinks

**Lunch Offered Daily**

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



# January Lunch

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>WINTER BREAK</b>				
<b>6</b> <b>Breakfast Sand.</b> Crispito Spanish Rice Pineapple Pudding Cup	<b>7</b> <b>Dutch Waffle</b> Spaghetti Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail Bread stick	<b>8</b> <b>Breakfast Burrito</b> Hot Ham/Cheese Chips Broccoli Pears	<b>9</b> <b>Pancakes/Sausage</b> BBQ Rib Tri Tater Corn Mandarin Oranges	<b>10</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Mini Corn Dog Mac & Cheese California Blend Peaches
<b>13</b> <b>Breakfast Stick</b> Cheeseburger French Fries Green Bean Cass. Applesauce	<b>14</b> <b>Donut</b> Grilled Cheese Mac Salad Peas Pineapple	<b>15</b> <b>Breakfast Bites</b> Sub Hoagie Chips Corn Fruit Cocktail	<b>16</b> <b>French Toast</b> Taco Boat Spanish Rice Pears Brownie	<b>17</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Garlic Bread
<b>20</b> <b>Long John</b> Chicken Fried St Mashed Potatoes California Blend Peaches	<b>21</b> <b>Coffee Cake</b> Pizza Green Beans Applesauce Ice Cream	<b>22</b> <b>Omelet</b> Chili Cinnamon Roll Pineapple	<b>23</b> <b>Breakfast Pizza</b> Chicken Patty Tater Tots Peas Fruit Cocktail	<b>24</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Taco Spanish Rice Pears Pudding Cup
<b>27</b> <b>Breakfast Sand</b> Turkey Club Mac & Cheese Broccoli Mandarin Oranges	<b>28</b> <b>Dutch Waffle</b> Tavern French Fries Corn Casserole Peaches	<b>29</b> <b>Breakfast Burrito</b> Hot Dog Bar Chips Baked Beans Applesauce	<b>30</b> <b>Pancakes/Sausage</b> Saucy Sub California Blend Pineapple Cookie	<b>31</b> <b>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b> Chicken Strips Cheesy Potatoes Peas Fruit Cocktail

## How to Contact Us

**District Office**

402-385-3244

**On the Web at**

[www.penderschools.org](http://www.penderschools.org)

**On Facebook**

Pender Public Schools

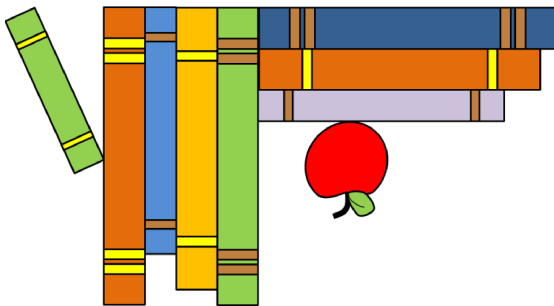
**On Twitter**

@pendragonupdate

Save your Cubby's receipts and turn them into the school office or place them in the school's box at Cubby's . Cubby's will donate 2% of the total receipts we collect back to the School. Money received will be used to purchase athletic uniforms.



Back To School



Pender, NE 68047

U. S. Postage Paid

Organization

Non Profit

Pender NE 68047

609 Whitney

Pender Public Schools

