

# WILDCAT PRIDE

## November NEWSLETTER



Welcome to December!! It's hard to believe the school year is nearly half over. For this month, I would like to share some thoughts with you about what I am loving about being the principal at Cedar Bluffs Elementary. In my third year of being principal here I feel like I have a good grip on who we are and where we are going. I feel like our day to day operations are continuing to improve and students are continuing to learn and grow. I hope you feel the same way. I wish everyone could see all the small moments which occur at Cedar Bluffs Elementary on a daily basis. One of the greatest things about this school is that even though student numbers have grown, we are still maintaining a small school atmosphere. Even with two sections of each grade level, (three in kindergarten) grade levels are sharing the same recess and lunch time. Grade levels will also often take part in group activities and projects between classrooms. On a nearly daily basis I see two grade level classrooms combining in some capacity. I often see third grade coming together to work on a writing and science project, or fourth grade working together on math. For those of you who may not know, I grew up in Cedar Bluffs and one of the greatest things I recall about attending this school was the close friendships created with the same set of classmates from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. This atmosphere still exists and students are still able to create these relationships.

In addition to relationships with peers, relationships with teachers is another great memory I have from attending school here. Presently, between coaches, bus drivers, teachers, paras, lunch and after school program workers, students in PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade have about 30 adults who they have the opportunity to interact with on a daily basis. We have made building and maintaining quality relationships with students a school-wide priority. We believe, and research will tell you, that quality relationships among students and teachers is vital to student motivation, sense of care and behavior. Our staff does a great job of greeting students with smiles everywhere in the building to make students feel welcomed and many work very hard to deeply get to know students. I hope your child feels like they have someone at school who really cares about them.

Another great feature of our school is the flexibility we have in our classrooms. We can still allow teachers the opportunity to be creative and make school a fun place to be. Although we have uniformed certain aspects of our day to deliver a guaranteed curriculum in both sections of each grade level in reading, math and science, teachers are still allowed and able to do fun projects. I taught for 11 years in large districts and had many more limitations to varying instructional practices. There are benefits to both and here we are able to do a little bit of what makes each way of doing things effective. On the last page of this, I again included our most recent state testing scores in comparison to the surrounding area. We do have room for improvement, but are doing quite well academically and are classified by the state as Great.

The last thing I would like to share about what makes our school great is the staff. We have teachers, paras and support staff who work very hard and do a great job of teaching our students and taking care of their overall well-being. As all people, teachers have certain strengths and weaknesses and personality traits unique to themselves. Parents and teachers may not always see eye to eye, but rest assured your child's well-being is at the forefront of their intentions not only for the year they teach them, but also for the rest of their lives. I know parents and families don't get to see the day to day from the outside, but what goes on behind these walls is truly great.

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving break and are prepared for the rest of the Holidays. We will have a 1:30 early out on December 20<sup>th</sup> to begin the holiday break and will resume classes **Tuesday** the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. Until next month, take care and GO WILDCATS! Mr. Hansen

## REMINDERS

\* As stated in the Elementary Handbook, students will generally be sent home if, they throw up and feel ill, have a fever of 100, have suspected head lice, or some other possible communicable illness.

### \* ATTENDANCE INFORMATION...

\*Attendance notices were recently sent to those who needed them.

\*School begins at 8:00 and students are recorded as tardy starting at 8:15 due to finishing up breakfast and getting kids into rooms.

\*Students are recorded ½ day absent if they arrive after 9:15 a.m. or leave before 2:15p.m.

\*Students are recorded absent for a full day if they leave before 10:00a.m. and are absent the remainder of the school day.

\*Every two times a student is tardy it equals one absence.

\*Attendance letters generally come home after 10 absences and by law are reported to the county attorney at 20. All absences are counted as an absence whether excused, or unexcused.

However, excused absences are taken into consideration by the county attorney.

## Notes from the Kids First After-School Program:

Did you know the Kids First After-School Program is free with over 100 kids signed up, with an average attendance of 60 kids on any given day! We do activities in areas of art, math, chess club, fitness along with games and free play with classmates. UNL Extension comes in and does projects on food and healthy eating. Ms. Foster does science with our middle school kids along with Crazy 8's Math Club with our Kindergarten through 5th graders. We also offer homework time every day for 3rd through middle school for a minimum of a half hour, but if kids need more time they are encouraged to finish homework before joining activities. If you want your child to be a part of the Kids First After School Program or would like more information please contact Mr. Beckman at 402-628-2080 ext.3 or [jeff.beckman@cbwildcats.org](mailto:jeff.beckman@cbwildcats.org).

## Other Information

\*The K-5<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas Music Program will be Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will begin at 6:30 and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades will begin at 7:30.

\*The night of the program there will also be a soup supper in the cafeteria running from 5-8 p.m. In addition to that, there will be bake sales and the BOOK FAIR in the Library and hopefully even Santa Claus in the special education classroom. Please see the flier on our website and Facebook page about the program. Parking is not good at CBPS and we apologize for this, so please plan on needing to walk after you park.

\*A PRESCHOOL Winter Party will take place on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Auditorium on Main Street at 2:30 p.m. The PK teachers have practiced some songs with the kids to perform and will have some family activities following the singing.

\*Report Cards are going out quarterly this year. They were first given out at conferences and will again immediately after winter break.

\*ALL LOST AND FOUND items will be donated at Christmas break. There has been a very large number of items left around the building. If you need to come look through it, please do so soon.

\*Winter MAPS and Aims Testing will begin this week and throughout December.

\*Our canned food drive was a tremendous success. Over 1,000 items were donated by the elementary students! Miss Smoot's class donated the most and will have an ice-cream party to recognize their generosity.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*This year we are focusing on Wildcat **PRIDE** (Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Empathy) At the end of the month we will have a PRIDE party and recognize a student from each classroom who exhibited this characteristic. If your child is selected a teacher may contact you and invite you to attend. Our next one will be on Friday, Dec. 20th at 8:20 a.m. in the high school gym. November winners will be recognized. All are welcome to attend.

\*Christmas Music Program and Book Fair is Friday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*Dec 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 p.m. the Book Fair will be open in the Library.

\*Winter Break starts on Fri. Dec. 20th with a 1:30 early out. Classes resume Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

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

### November **PRIDE** Award Winners Were:

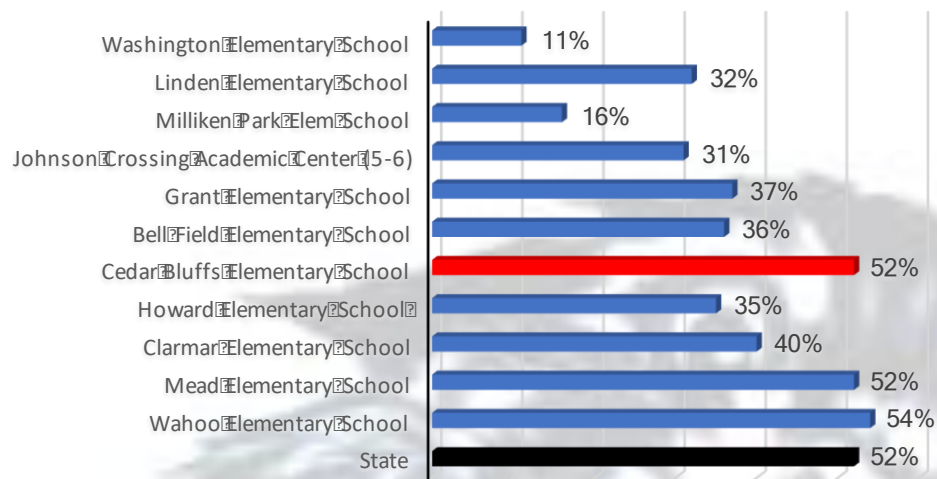
**Kindergarten:** Piper Kiefer, Liam Fredrickson, Evie Thiesen **First Grade:** Brinley Grosse, Luna Schutt **Second Grade:** Willow Milliken, Emma Switzer **Third Grade:** Koraleigh Allmendinger, Blayze Jurgens **Fourth Grade:** Grayden Pleskac, Kaylee Quintero-Arevalo **Fifth Grade:** Carter Hermanson **Sixth Grade:** Erika Holyoak

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

# GO WILDCATS!



## NSCA English Language Arts



## NSCA MATHEMATICS

