

WILDCAT PRIDE

Elementary Newsletter-February



Last year around this time we were dealing with some extreme snowfall, extreme rapid melting followed by extreme flooding throughout the area. Aside from some local ice jam flooding, it looks like the warmer temperatures this late winter and early spring will give us a much different March than last year.

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 Mrs. Walling'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. Walling'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

***PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES ARE TUESDAY, MARCH 17 and WEDNESDAY MARCH 18.**

Conference times were sent home a couple weeks ago and you should know your time. In the fall we had 97% attendance. Let's show support of our students and teachers and make it 100% this spring.

*Staff vs. Senior Basketball Game has been scheduled for Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the gym and is free. It is a fun event to watch if you've never attended. Please come and enjoy the show!

*There is **no school** for students on Friday March 20th. There is a 1:30 early out April 9th and No School April 10 and 13 for spring break. The last day of school is also a 1:30 dismissal on May 20.

* **Friday, April 17th 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. It will be similar to last year with the activities in the gym and food in the cafeteria.

Other Information

*Parent Teacher Conferences coming up on Tuesday March 17th and Wednesday the 18th

*Report Cards go out quarterly. They will be 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 March and April for grades 3-6. Look for these dates coming home from your child's teacher and at the end of this newsletter. 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.

*Pastries with parents will place March 26th 27th from 7:15-7:50. Sign up sheets went home last week. You can choose 1 of the days to come, but please fill out a form so they know how many to expect.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Our February Wildcat PRIDE recognition will be Friday, March 27th at 8:20 a.m. in the high school gym. If your child is selected a teacher may contact you and invite you to attend.

*This week is Read Across America Week/Dr. Seuss' Birthday. K-6th may take part in the following dress up days: **Mon:** Pajama Day, Curl up with a good book. **Tues:** Green Day for Green Eggs and Ham. **Wed:** Wacky Wednesday-Dress in a wacky outfit. **Th:** Cat in the Hat, Wear your favorite hat. **Fri:** Fox in Socks-Wear crazy socks

February PRIDE Award Winners Were: **Kindergarten:** Zayden Dzingle, Parker Redding, Breslyn Eiring **First Grade:** Haley Stenger, Violet Hall **Second Grade:** Calvin Schmidt, Alesia Oswalt **Third Grade:** Kora Allmendinger, Tiffany Vasquez-Ruiz **Fourth Grade:** Maddie Snyder, Haylee Stuart **Fifth Grade:** Maria Rivero **Sixth Grade:** Wyatt Peoples

*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!

2020 NSCAS TESTING SCHEDULE

DATE	TEST	CLASS	TIME	LOCATION
Mar 24	Reading Session 1	5th	9:00-10:00	Classroom
March 25	Reading Session 2	5th	9:00 Until Done	Classroom
March 31	Math Session 1	5th	8:30-9:30	Classroom
March 31	Reading Session 1	4th	9:45-10:45	Classroom
March 31	Reading Session 1	6th	12:45-1:45	Classroom
April 1	Math Session 2	5th	8:30 Until Done	Classroom
April 1	Reading Session 2	4th	9:45-10:45	Classroom
April 1	Reading Session 2	6th	12:45-1:45	Classroom
April 6	Reading Session 1	3rd Neiman	8:55-9:55	STEM Room
April 6	Reading Session 1	3rd Brousek	10:00-11:00	STEM Room
April 7	Reading Session 2	3rd Neiman	8:55-9:55	STEM Room
April 7	Reading Session 2	3rd Brousek	10:00-11:00	STEM Room
April 8	MathSession 1	6th	9:00-10:00	Classroom
April 9	Math Session 2	6th	9:00-10:00	Classroom
April 15	Math Session 1	3rd Neiman	8:55-9:55	STEM Room
April 15	Math Session 1	3rd Brousek	10:00-11:00	STEM Room
April 16	Math Session 2	3rd Neiman	8:55-9:55	STEM Room
April 16	Math Session 2	3rd Brousek	10:00-11:00	STEM Room
April 20	Math Session 1	4th	9:45-10:45	Classroom
April21	Science Session 1	5th	9:00-10:00	Classroom
April 21	Math Session 2	4th	9:45-10:45	Classroom
April22	Science Session 2	5th	9:00 Until Done	Classroom

Week of April 27-May 1 is the Make-Up Week