
Wakefield School News

Volume 14 Issue 5

December 2007

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

MEETING SCHOOL NEEDS

Process to include public

Identifying district priorities

Wakefield Community School Board of Education members are in the process of identifying priorities for the district. The conversations are centered on the educational needs for students and ensuring quality programs and facilities to meet those needs. As the conversations continue, the public will be invited to participate in this process. A list of potential projects is being prioritized – and the top priorities will be



based upon current district needs and available financial resources. During the month of October, heavy

construction equipment was in use at the west end of the high school.

The reason was to remove 830 yards of dirt (from school property) on the hill located south of the football practice field. Meyer Construction used the dirt for the new Swimming Pool at Graves Park. The city paid for the dirt removal as part of the pool project contract with Meyer Construction and the school was paid \$415 for the dirt.

For the most current news from the superintendent's office, visit the Wakefield School website and click on the "Staff" tab located at the top of the home page; then click on the "Administration" link located on the left side of the page. Then select the article "News from the Superintendent's Office." There are multiple articles available to read, plus links to Board of Education agendas and minutes, and school newsletters. If there is information you would like to know, please contact the school at 287-2012 so we may answer your questions.

Another successful year at Wakefield Community School



Congratulations to the 2007 Trojan Football team for completing their second straight undefeated season with a state championship. Our school and community are proud of the players and coaches!!

2007 has been a year filled with success at Wakefield Community School. Every day in every classroom and every activity, students demonstrate learning. Learning is measured by more than report cards, or wins/losses. I am continually amazed at the depth of student learning. Second graders are learning the parts of a sentence (including nouns, verbs, prepositions) and counting money and making change during math; fourth graders are learning about numbers (in the millions) and sixth graders are completing complex story problems. High school students wrote amazing poetry that was performed by several speech team members during our annual Veteran's Day Program. Our "Quiz Bowl" team is the conference champion and Rachel Kluthe was selected to All-State Choir. Students are learning the skills needed to be successful.

Wakefield School's curriculum is aligned in grades K-12 for language arts and math. Teachers know what skills students are expected to master at each

level, and additional support is provided when needed. In the recent "State of the Schools Report" released by the Nebraska Department of Education, students at Wakefield School are meeting state targets for learning. The process used to align our language arts curriculum with Nebraska state standards, and the process of assessing student progress in meeting those standards received the highest possible rating (Exemplary). On October 31 when representatives of the Nebraska Department of Education visited Wakefield to review the process used to assess our math curriculum, we were called a "model district." Additionally, the reviewers commented about the positive environment in our school. The principals, teachers and support staff are to be commended for their efforts in providing outstanding educational opportunities for students. The students and parents deserve credit as well. Although Wakefield Community School has done well in 2007, we are challenging ourselves to be even better in 2008! On behalf of the Wakefield Board of Education and school staff, thank you for making our school and community a great place! Happy Holidays!

Bill Heimann, Superintendent

Change made to school calendar

The Wakefield Community School calendar has been changed for the spring of 2008. Spring break has been moved from April 18 to March 20. In 2008, Wakefield will attend the high school District Music contest held in South Sioux City on April 18. There was a change from the original location and date of the contest, which prompted the adjustment to the calendar. A copy of the revised calendar is included in this newsletter.

Students **will have** school on **Friday, April 18**. There will be **no school** on Thursday, March 20. Easter Break is March 20-24, with school resuming on Tuesday, March 25. Official action was taken at the November 12 Board of Education meeting.

Note: the day of no school on November 16 (State Football Championship Game) will **not add another day to the calendar.

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

'Tis the Season...

This is the time of year to be thankful. As the first semester comes to an end and we approach the holiday season, I would like to say THANK YOU for a few things:

**THANK YOU to the students and sponsors, and all who supported our Conference Runner-Up One-Act team. They put on a wonderful show and we are very proud of them.

**THANK YOU to the players and coaches, and all who supported our State Champion Football team and District Runner-Up Volleyball team. Our student athletes should be proud of their accomplishments and should look back on this past season with no regrets.

**THANK YOU to the students and sponsors, and all who support the instrumental and vocal music programs at Wakefield. Our band received recognition at the parade in Norfolk and they always put on a good show at sporting events. The band, choir, and show choir performed very well at the concert, and Rachel Kluthe received all-state music honors for her singing. We have very talented students in Wakefield, and that is a tribute to the teachers, parents, and of course the students themselves.

(continued on next page)

**THANK YOU to the faculty and staff at Wakefield Community School. Without their hard work and dedication to the education of our students...every day, every week...these wonderful accomplishments would not have been possible.

**THANK YOU to the Parents for always supporting the school, supporting the teachers, and most of all, supporting the students!

**THANK YOU to the STUDENTS. They have shown high achievements (NHS, Honor Roll), great sportsmanship (at sporting events), great leadership and service (Veteran's Day program) and a great positive attitude in school. Keep up the great work!

THANK YOU!!

Dates to remember...

Monday, Dec. 10 – 2-hour late start/teacher in-service.

Friday, Dec. 21 – 12:00 dismissal/end of 1st semester.

Wednesday, Jan. 2 – Classes resume following holiday break.

Thursday, Jan. 10 – No school/teacher in-service.

From the Principal's Pen

Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal

Power Team awes Wakefield students

The Power Team presented two assemblies at Wakefield Community School on Nov. 15. The Power Team travels all over the world sharing their feats of power, strength, speed, inspiration, and motivation. Four members came to the area and two of the team presented their programs to the elementary and high school students. They broke blocks of concrete, bent medal rods, exploded pop cans with their bare hands, broke baseball bats, and blew up water bottles by using their lungs.

The message of the elementary assembly focused on holding onto your dreams despite times of adversity and challenges. They shared two key steps to achieving your dreams: 1) BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, and 2) WORK HARD! The Power Team's assembly was made possible by Calvary Bible Evangelical Free Church in Wayne, Concord Evangelical Free Church in Concord, Evangelical Covenant Church in Wakefield, and Praise Assembly of God Church in Wayne.

Elementary progress reports go home Dec. 4

The end of the 2nd quarter is almost upon us. The elementary will be sending Progress Reports home on Tuesday, December 4. Please feel free to contact

your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. The quarter/semester ends on Friday, December 21.

~If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.~

-Abigail Van Buren



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Admissions Essays

Here are some factors that colleges consider when looking at their applicants:

- *Class Rank
- *High school coursework
- *Letters of recommendation
- *Work experience in intended major
- *Community service
- *Essay
- *ACT scores
- *High school grade point average
- *Extracurricular activities
- *Evidence of leadership ability
- *Interest

When writing your essay try to come up with something the admission office hasn't seen a million times before. A successful essay stands apart and tells a unique story. An essay about dating or arguing over boys is not recommended. Also, stay away from controversial topics like regulating the sale of firearms, political issues and anything else that might offend the reader's beliefs.

Some successful essays gave insight into an uncommon experience, hobby or achievement. Also, you might consider writing your reflection to a lesson learned from literature. Who is your hero or heroine and why? What are your expectations of a college education? Describe your interests, hopes for the future and leadership abilities.

Students should give drafts to a variety of readers: friends, teachers, relatives etc. The value of a second opinion is that the writer has many chances at improvement. Make your essay the best possible reflection of yourself! And don't forget to pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness.

Helpful Web Sites

Scholarships

scholarshipquest.org
fastaid.com
fastweb.com
srnexpress.com
collegeboard.com

Financial Aid

pin.ed.gov
fafsa.ed.gov
finaid.org
ed.gov/finaid.html
nasfaa.org
nslds.ed.gov

Athletics

ncaa.org
naia.org

College Savings Plan

planforcollegenow.com

Midwest Student Exchange Program

www.mhec.org

Career Planning

www.nebraskacareerconnections.org
careerpathsonline.com
careerlink.org
<http://online.onetcenter.org>

College Planning

collegexpress.com
actstudent.org
collegeboard.com
petersons.com

Study Abroad

studyabroad.com
internationalstudent.com

www.march2success.com

March 2 Success is a free, web-based program developed by Kaplan, a leading provider of test preparation and admissions services. This web site contains hours of interactive lessons, practice tests and drills that can help students in their preparation for the ACT. The US Army provides this course as a public service.

In order to use the many features of this site you will need to register and you have to be at least 13. When you register you will be asked whether you want a recruiter to contact you. If you answer “yes”, then you will be contacted. If you answer “no” then nobody will be contacting you and you are still free to use this web site for your test preparation.



Countdown to College Call-In Show* airs **December 11*

Get expert advice on college planning, admissions and financial aid during the ninth annual *Countdown to College* call-in program **Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm CT (6:00 MT)** on NET Television.

During this one-hour program, college-planning experts will answer viewers' questions on the air. You can submit questions now or the evening of the show by calling 800-666-3721 or e-mailing them to countdown@educationquest.org. You'll receive an answer on the air or via e-mail.

Watch your mail for a postcard with more details.

If you miss the show December 11, watch for a rebroadcast on NET Thursday, December 20 at 10 pm CT (9 pm MT).

The show will also be rebroadcast on NET2:

- Friday, December 14 at 9 pm CT (8 pm MT)
- Saturday, December 15 at 7 am CT (6 am MT)
- Sunday, December 23 at 10 am CT (9 am MT)

A Spanish voiceover version of the program will air on NET2 in late January or early February (date and time to be announced).

Countdown to College: a Nebraska Connects Special is a co-production of EducationQuest Foundation and NET Television.

Seniors...have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices to determine application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process.

How to estimate your FAFSA results

If you're a college-bound senior, you will soon complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in financial aid.

To estimate your FAFSA results now, use the *College Funding Estimator* at www.educationquest.org. The program will ask for 2007 income tax information. *You may estimate your tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2007 tax returns when you submit the actual FAFSA.*

**WAKEFIELD
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
2007-2008**



August 2007

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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September 2007

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October 2007

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November 2007

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December 2007

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January 2008

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- = No School; Teacher Professional Day
- = School Vacation

February 2008

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March 2008

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April 2008

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May 2008

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June 2008

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July 2008

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- ◇ = PT Conferences
- = Beg./End of Quarter

August 13-14	Teacher Pre-Service
August 14	Meet & Greet
August 15	First Day of School
September 3	Labor Day-No School
September 27	1:00 p.m. Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences
September 28	3:00- 9:00 p.m. No School
October 17	End First Quarter
November 21	12:00 Dismissal
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 21	End of 1 st Semester 12:00 Dismissal
January 2	School Resumes
January 10	Teacher In-service
February 7	1:00 p.m. Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences
February 8	3:00 – 9:00 No School
March 7	End 3 rd Quarter
March 20-24	Easter Break
May 15	End of Semester
May 16	Teacher Workday
May 18	Graduation
May 19-23	Snow Days

2hr Late Start for Teacher In-Service
Sept. 10, Sept 24
Oct. 8, Oct. 22
Nov. 5, Nov. 26
Dec. 10
Jan. 14, Jan. 28
Feb. 11, Feb. 25
March 10
April 7, April 21

- [] = Teacher Inservice; 2 hr.
Late Start

To Reach Us:



PHONE

(402) 287-2012 (High School Office)

(402) 287-9892 (Elementary Office)

(402) 287-2943 (Bus Barn)

FAX

(402) 287-2014



MAIL

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Wakefield, NE 68784

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL WEBSITE

<http://www.wakefieldschools.org>