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# Wakefield School News

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Volume 26 Issue 5

May 2019

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT  
19

GRADUATION MAY

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2019!



*~Creating positive graduation memories~*

The Class of 2019 is anxious for graduation and all the changes that will occur beginning on Sunday, May 19, 2019. This school year has seen success in football, basketball, speech, wrestling, FCCLA, FBLA and FFA. The 2019 senior class is racing with thoughts of graduating and moving on to new life experiences. The number one statement I get when asking what they are most excited about is “Getting out of Wakefield.” That’s not too surprising a statement when you consider that almost all of us made similar statements some years ago ourselves!

Amidst this exciting time, I get a bit hesitant and nervous as a school leader, parent, and friend with all the celebratory activities. As parents, we have survived lots of growing hurdles with our sons/daughters and now we are going to experience graduation and all the fun graduation celebrations bring. As parents, you have worked to prepare and protect your child from life experiences that have the potential to seriously harm or hurt them. We also realize that as they become older adolescents we cannot protect them from all potential harmful situations. I am however, concerned about all the upcoming graduation celebrations and the risks our

children are going to be exposed to during this time from alcohol and automobiles.

According to the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Alcohol Study 2013 research, “In 2011, approximately 19% of the state’s 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 14.5% of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported their first drink of alcohol occurred before age 13. Nearly a third of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported drinking at least one alcoholic beverage in the past 30 days (33.9%),” which is significantly less than the national average (48.4%). Nebraska drinking and driving data in 2011 reports that, “one in four high school students reported either being a passenger in a vehicle that was driven by someone drinking, or driving a vehicle while drinking themselves during the past 30 days.” About 1 in 5 Nebraska students reported binge drinking, (five or more drinks within two hours) during the last 30 days. According to 2013 data, binge drinking is increasing in Nebraska teens.

According to the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), during 2009 an estimated 16 traffic and 667 nonfatal traffic injuries were attributable to driving

*(continued on next page)*

after (under 21 years) drinking in Nebraska. Underage Nebraska children in 2009 account for 25.6% of all alcohol sales. The monetary costs of underage drinking in Nebraska, including the cost of medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering totaled more than an estimated \$423 million dollars. This represents a cost of \$2,309 per year for each youth in our state or an additional cost of \$2.92 per drink!

As parents, we all have worked hard to raise our adolescents to this point in life and invested considerable time, sweat, effort and money. Adults realize that trusting our students is not the issue; the issue is a lack of life's experiences to correctly choose the right decisions. I am asking parents to help your graduate and their friends have a

wonderful graduation celebration by preventing drinking and driving. Help create only positive memories for all our graduates and Wakefield students.

Please visit with your son/daughter and share your expectations and concerns about drinking and driving or riding with someone who may be driving impaired. Parental views are the top influencer of behavior in this area with your son/daughter.

My hope for the Class of 2019 is to have positive graduation memories and not have tragic experiences associated with alcohol related accidents. I am looking forward to celebrating with the class of 2019 on May 19. Let's all work together to create positive graduation memories for all!

Mark Bejot, Superintendent



*Graduation*  
*May 19 -*  
*2:30 p.m.*

**THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR THE  
2018-2019 YEAR (GRADES K-11) WILL BE FRIDAY, MAY 17  
WITH A 12:00 DISMISSAL**

**THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS  
(3-YEAR-OLDS & 4-YEAR-OLDS) WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY  
14**

**(4-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL GRADUATION IS TUESDAY, MAY 14 AT 1:30 P.M.)**

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# Principal's Notes

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Jason Heitz, 7-12 Principal

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## *Wakefield FCCLA chapter and advisor earn awards*

### **Individual Awards:**

*Power of One Award:* Alicia Arriaza, Fatima Dominguez, Kathy Ibarra, Sahrai Luna.

*Competitive Events:* Gabriela Arriaza & Andrea Lopez (silver).

*Outstanding Advisor Award:* Mrs. Galles.

### **Chapter Awards:**

*Chapter Award (Gold)*

*Outstanding Nebraska Community Service Award*

*Membership Increase*

*Go for the Red – Recruiting Members Skills*

*BFF Award – Strengthening New Members*

### **Chapter Recognition:**

*Nebraska National Programs*

*Red Leader*

*Feed Nebraska*

## *May calendar reminders*

- ❖ The Booster Clubs from Wakefield and Allen will hold a joint athletic banquet on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wakefield Civic Center. All athletes in

grades 7-12 and their parents are invited to attend.

- ❖ The last day of school for seniors is Friday, May 10, with graduation rehearsal set for either May 14 or May 15.
- ❖ The last day of school for K-11 students is Friday, May 17 with a noon dismissal.
- ❖ Graduation is Sunday, May 19 at 2:30 p.m.

## *Another great year!*

*As the school year draws to a close, I would like to thank the parents, students, staff, and community for another outstanding year!*

*Congratulations are also in order to the class of 2019. Their individual and collective accomplishments are many, and their futures are bright.*

**Graduates:**

I hope your dreams take  
you...to the corners of  
your smiles, to the  
highest of your hopes, to  
the windows of your  
opportunities, and to the  
most special places your  
heart has ever known.



# From the Principal's Pen

*Jerad Wulf, PK-6 Principal*

## Track & Field Day



*Wakefield Elementary School will hold its annual Track and Field Day on Monday, May 13, beginning at 12:00 p.m. on the track west of the high school parking lot.*

*Students in grades K-6 will participate in numerous field events and running events throughout the afternoon. Families are invited and encouraged to attend.*

## Variety of events planned for last day

### Main Street Mile

All elementary students who have been active participants in the daily health run are invited to participate in the Main Street Mile on the last day of school (May 17) at 8:30 a.m.



Students will run down Main Street from the school playground to the Michael Foods parking lot. Please cheer on the kids as they run!

### Awards Assembly

We will hold our elementary awards assembly in the main gym immediately following the Main Street Mile.

Students will be honored for their hard work, attendance, and social skills.

Students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon on May 17, with buses running accordingly.



# Preschool graduation May 14



Four-year-old preschool students will hold their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the main gymnasium. Students are asked to bring their dress clothes to school and teachers will help them change.

The last day for all preschool students (3-year-olds and 4-year-olds) will be May 14.

## 2019-2020 preschool, kindergarten enrollments

Preschool and kindergarten spots for the 2019-20 school year have been reserved for parents who attended enrollment night in April and completed all of the necessary paperwork. Parents of preschool students who did not attend enrollment night or contact the school will not be guaranteed a spot.

If you have not completed your paperwork, please submit it as soon as possible. The school will not be contacting parents who have not submitted these items. If your child attended the 3-year-old program and you did not attend enrollment night, or contact the school, you are not guaranteed a spot in our full day program. This was written in multiple places and in the letter that went out with the enrollment packets. If you have questions or comments, please call the school at (402) 287-9892.

## Counselor Corner

Information for Parents and Students about Graduation, Scholarships & College, Bullying and more.

By Lori Harding (lharding@wakefieldschools.org)  
7-12 Guidance Counselor

*With graduation for the Class of 2019 fast approaching, the seniors are busy finishing up their high school career. There are several things seniors should be working on even after they have received acceptance letters to the colleges of their choice. Check with your college admissions counselor and financial aid office. Sign up for freshman orientation day — the earlier in the summer the better so you can have a better choice of courses and times they are offered. Make it a priority to check your **college e-mail account** at least once a week. E-mail will be the primary mode of communication from your college, and you do not want to miss important deadlines.*

# Ways to Stay Sharp During Summer Break

As summer approaches, the anticipation of a break from school is building among our students. Breaks are necessary and can be important times of rest and rejuvenation, but there are things you can encourage your children to do so that valuable learning is not lost. The following tips address this issue. On that note, it has been a pleasure to serve as the 7-12 School Counselor this past year. Have a wonderful summer break!

Do you remember how tough it was to jump into school last fall? Getting back into a study routine when school begins next fall is a lot less of a shocker when you have been doing things to stay sharp during summer break.

## **1. Read —**

Reading anything is good for the mind. Reading books that challenge you to think bigger, improve yourself, explore controversial topics, or detail the life stories of thought leaders are splendid ways to sneak in a little summer study. Since you do not have to write a report there is no stress involved, even when the topics are intense. If you want a break from reading, try listening to audiobooks while you do other things like exercising.

## **2. Volunteer — Intern — Take a Job — Job Shadow —**

Keep your mind sharp over the summer break by getting work experience. Internships and jobs give you resume-boosting work experience, while job shadows and volunteerism help you network and gain insights not found in a classroom.

## **3. Take a learning vacation —**

Why not learn as you relax? National parks, museums and historical monuments dot the country and are already ideal destinations for vacations. You can escape the academic life and stay busy during the summer with learning vacations, and stimulate your mind with real, tangible experiences. Wherever your travels take you, take the time to attend free presentations, go on guided tours, and read all the signs and literature offered. Learning vacations are an easy, fun way to stay sharp this summer.

## **4. Let the world be your classroom —**

Use the summer to expand your mind in new ways. Whether you work, read, travel, or meet new people, your summer break is a perfect time to learn outside of the classroom. You will love how the little things you pick up during the summer break become relevant to your studies. More than anything, engaging in summer study of one type or another helps prevent academic shock when you return to school in the fall.

*taken from: [textbookrecycling.com](http://textbookrecycling.com)*

**Have a great finish to the school year,  
and a safe and fun-filled summer!**