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# Wakefield School News

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Volume 14 Issue 2

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

A CONTINUING PROCESS

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## Working to improve student success



The new school year is off to a great start! Thank you to students for their efforts, to parents for their support, and to school staff for their dedication to student learning.

Most parents have experienced frustration when the strategy used with one of their children is successful, but in a similar situation, the same strategy may not work with another child. The same is true when teaching a classroom full of students each day (regardless of the age level). School staff are constantly utilizing various techniques to help the student learn, because each student is unique and the same teaching strategy is not effective for every situation.

Wakefield Schools has scheduled fourteen two-hour late starts during the course of the school year. The purpose of these meetings is for teachers to work collaboratively with each other to improve the teaching/learning process. The time is spent improving our

knowledge and skills so that each of us is better equipped to help all students learn. The best teacher does not have all of the answers, but within our school system, the collective knowledge, skills, and experiences of our staff will likely be able to help solve most problems. The teacher in-service time this year will be spent evaluating what we are currently doing and determining the appropriate actions to improve student success. School improvement is a continual process and will never end, so as the educational leaders in the community, we too must continue to grow and learn. The following questions are at the forefront of every conversation:

- 1) What are the essential knowledge/skills that we want students to learn?
- 2) How will we know if/when they have learned it?

- 3) What will we do when students do not learn the essentials?
- 4) What will we do when some students have learned and others have not?

These are complex questions with no simple solutions. However, when teachers have an opportunity to address issues and work collaboratively, the results of their efforts are enhanced learning experiences for students.

The student learning priorities of the Wakefield Board of Education are reflected in the resources (time and money) allocated to support student learning. The annual budget of the school district supports the ability to provide a quality education to our students. Nebraska statutes require that boards of education hold a public hearing prior to acting upon the annual budget. The Wakefield Board of Education held a budget hearing for the 2007-2008 budget on September 12, 2007. The tax levy was set during the regular meeting of the board of education. The total operating

budget of the school district for this year is \$7,110,012. Revenue is received from federal, state, and local sources. The total local property tax request for 2007-08 is \$2,166,859, compared to \$2,045,007 in 2006-07. This includes payments for bonds on the Activity Center and roofing projects.

The tax levy for the new budget year will be \$1.117041 per \$100 of assessed property value. This represents a total levy reduction of 1.3 cents from last year. The district's assessed property value increased by 7.2% (Wayne County 9.65% increase; Dixon County 5.9% increase; Thurston County 4.2% increase). The rise in property valuations allows us to decrease the tax levy while continuing to offer a high quality, comprehensive education to the children of Wakefield. Our kids deserve it and the future of small communities depends on it. We appreciate your support.

Bill Heimann, Superintendent

## Industrial Technology

# Students looking for projects

Two buildings, seven bridges, 16 pieces of furniture, two racecars, electrical wiring, over 50 detailed drawings and one pool table. This might sound like a big business but it is what the students have either accomplished or started this year. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Tech class recently completed a unit over construction and design. The main project for this unit was bridge building. The students were assigned to teams of two and began by researching the many different types of bridges. After their research they began to design their own bridges and upon completing a design it was time to build. The bridges had to hold a minimum of five pounds and all of them reached the minimum. One bridge held over 11 pounds before destruction. They all did a great job.

The Carpentry and Construction class is in full swing with 2 buildings currently being framed up. They also have 2 patios, 2 garden sheds and a playhouse to build. We are always looking for more projects.

If anyone is interested in having something built or a vinyl sign made please contact us.

Travis Volk, Industrial Technology Instructor

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# Principal's Notes

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Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

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## School in full swing

The 2007-2008 school year is in full swing...and full-speed ahead! It seems like just yesterday I was introducing myself to you in the August newsletter. Now, by the time you read this newsletter we will have had parent-teacher conferences and are well on our way to finishing the first quarter (quarter ends Oct. 17).

I would like to thank all the parents for the wonderful support that you give your children. It is obvious to me that the children in this community are raised with integrity, as made evident by their work ethic and positive behavior. In fact I received a compliment about our students that I would like to share with you. A woman who works for ESU #1 was in our building doing the annual hearing screenings for K-12 students.

She said that she had been traveling to various schools in our area, and that the Wakefield students were the most polite and well-behaved students she had seen in her travels. That is a tribute to the students and also to you as parents.

Our After-School Program is also in full swing. Mrs. Sievers will be working with students from after school until 5:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. All students are invited to attend these sessions if they need any assistance with schoolwork, or even if they just need the time and place to finish their homework. This time can be especially beneficial for junior high students who may need help learning study skills that will be essential upon entering high school. Please feel free to call the school if you have any questions about this program.

## Upcoming Events



*Homecoming Week*  
*Oct. 1-5*  
*Coronation Oct. 1*  
*8:00 p.m.*  
*Main Gymnasium*



*Balloon*  
*Festival*  
*Oct. 12-14*  
*Please come join in*  
*the festivities!*



## From the Principal's Pen

*Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal*

### After School Program...

The After School Program started on September 6 and runs from 3:35-5:00. Currently, there are approximately 50 students participating in the program. During this time students are involved in reading, math, and enrichment activities. Cathy Stading is teaching students in the first and second grades. Amy Gould is teaching students in the third and fourth grades, and Hillary Snyder is teaching students in the fifth and sixth grades. Sylvia Hernandez and Andrea Salmon are also working with students at this time. Please contact the school if you would like your child to participate in this program.

### Parent/Teacher Conferences...

Parent/Teacher Conferences were held last week and the attendance was awesome! Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come and visit with your child's teacher. Research shows that children whose parents are actively involved with their education achieve at higher levels in school. Parents and teachers that work together greatly enhance a student's ability to do well in school. Together, they can share insight with each other and create plans that can be implemented in both school and home. When parents and teachers work together, children develop a positive attitude toward school, feel proud of the achievements, and simply enjoy school to a much greater level. Again, thank you for your excellent attendance!

### Important Dates...

**Monday, Oct. 8** – 2-Hour Late Start (Teacher In-service).

**Wednesday, Oct. 17** – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

**Monday, Oct. 22** – 2-Hour Late Start (Teacher In-service).

**Monday, Oct. 29** – Lifetouch Picture Retakes

**Monday, Nov. 5** – 2-Hour Late Start (Teacher In-service).

*~Parents and teachers provide the tools  
with which students build their futures~*



# *From the counselor's desk*

By Branis Knezevic,  
K-12 Guidance Counselor

## **Seniors...it's time to start the admissions process!**

College may seem far off, but admission deadlines will hit as early as December.

Contact your top colleges **NOW** and ask:

- about application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid
- if you need a separate application for scholarships
- if you should apply online or submit a hardcopy
- about application fees

Apply to your 3-4 colleges before the deadline. Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT score. They may also require a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay and an interview.

I get information about scholarships on a daily basis. A student from the MMC class enters that information on the school website. It is important to take the time to check the available scholarships on our website and on the bulletin board in front of the guidance office.

## **Seniors...have you visited your top colleges?**

If you haven't done so already, visit your top college choices *soon* as application deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these tips for a successful visit:

**Contact the admissions office at least two weeks in advance** to schedule your visit. Make appointments with an admissions

representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in the area of study that interests you. Ask about an overnight stay.

**Visit while school is in session.** You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.

**Attend a freshman-level class.** Notice how students interact with the instructor, and how the class is structured.



**Read the campus newspaper and posters** to get an idea of activities and hot campus issues.

**Ask LOTS of questions.**

**If you can't visit, check out the school's website.** You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information and campus photos or a virtual tour.

## **It's College Fair season!**

During September and October, EducationQuest will sponsor several College Fairs featuring representatives from as many as 200 colleges. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

**Grand Island Area College Fair**, Sun., Sept. 16, 1:00-3:30 p.m. - Heartland Event Center (**NEW LOCATION**)

**Tri-State College Fair**, Sun., Oct. 7, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Marina Center, South Sioux City

**Scottsbluff/Gering Area College Fair (NEW!)**, Sun., Oct. 14, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Gering Civic Center

**Lincoln Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 21, 1:00-3:30 p.m. – Southeast Community College

**Omaha Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 28, 12:30-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska-Omaha

Follow these tips to make the most of the College Fairs:

**Review a list of participating colleges** to determine those you wish to visit (for a list, see the College Fair article at [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org)), and prepare a list of questions. Ask about admission deadlines, fees and criteria.

**Prepare pre-printed labels** with your name and address to stick on information cards at college booths where you want additional information.

**Attend a College Fair financial aid program** to learn about types of aid and how to apply.

### **The importance of getting involved!**

Start the school year by getting involved in extracurricular activities to increase your chances for scholarships and admission to your top colleges. Use the *Activities Resume* at [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org) to track your involvement throughout high school – then the information is readily available when it's time to apply.

### **Senior students and parents...start preparing for college admission!**

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting later this fall.

Follow these steps to stay on track:

- 1. Contact your top colleges NOW** and ask about application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid; if you need a separate application for scholarships; and about application fees.
- 2. Visit with college representatives** at College Fairs, Educational Planning Programs, during campus visits, and when they visit our high school.
- 3. Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline.** Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay and an interview.

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

### Internet Sources

Parents, please remind your college bound son or daughter to spend some time researching scholarships on the internet. Here are some helpful web sites for scholarships and career exploration:

educationquest.org	adventuresineducation.org
fastweb.org	learnlink.org
scholarships.com	mapping-your-future.org
freschinfo.com	DiscoverColleges.com
collegeboard.com	
fastaid.com	

Don't forget that colleges award numerous scholarships to their incoming students. Some college applications are a scholarship application as well but many still require a separate application.

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*Wakefield Schools hires highly qualified staff. Parents can request information regarding qualifications of their child's instructors from the school administrative office at 802 Highland St., Wakefield, NE 68784*



## Fourth grade visits Wakefield Museum

On September 21, the fourth grade class got a glimpse of the past. They were fortunate enough to spend the afternoon learning about the history of Wakefield at the Wakefield Museum. The fourth grade spends the year learning about Nebraska, and thanks to the Wakefield Heritage Organization (WHO) the class was able to visit seven stations and learn about ways of life from the late 1800's to the 1920's in our own community. Students learned about business and industries, types of clothing, sports and games, and rooms and tools in the home. The students were amazed to see how the way of life was so different. They got the opportunity to talk with the volunteers and ask questions of how the museum came to be and where many of the artifacts came from. A special thanks to all those who volunteered to guide the students through the museum. Your stories alone made a lasting impression on the students.