

From the Superintendent

I have four topics to discuss in this article. The first is preschool, second, weather cancellations, third, adequate yearly progress, and lastly, enrollment. Preschool has been an important part of our school since the 2005-2006 school year. Some questions you may have are answered below. When the weather turns bad, the roads can become dangerous. Please read the information below and register for the free service called SNOCAP. Please read the enrollment information and take a look at the data since the 2005-2006 school year.

PRESCHOOL - There has been a great deal of discussion about the preschool ever since the last time this newsletter went out. I wanted to take the opportunity to share some information with you. The preschool, which will have its first official day of class on Monday, November 2nd, has been the sole responsibility since the 2005-2006 school year. During that year, Wakefield Community School accepted a grant that would last for three years and end prior to the end of last year. Since the grant ended, the school has taken responsibility for the daily function by providing the staff and supplies.

There are five main reasons for moving the preschool to the elementary site. The first, we now have room for the preschool at the elementary. Second, the preschool and elementary teachers will be able to collaborate easier and more frequently. Third, the preschool students will be able to transition easier from preschool to kindergarten. Fourth, the preschool will be handicap accessible. Fifth, the preschool students and staff will have more opportunity to work plan common events and activities.

If you have any comments or questions concerning the preschool, please feel free to call Mr. Wulf or myself and we would be happy to address them.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS - Now it is time to talk about the weather. Soon it will turn cold and the question will arise regarding school postponement or cancellation due to inclement weather. My decision focuses on whether or not students can safely be transported to school. If we have school and a parent believes that it is unsafe to travel, that parent is free to (and encouraged to) make their own decision.

The information will be provided to media, it is not always accurate due to technical difficulties, or sometimes the stations are overloaded, so utilize more than a single source of information:

- ❖ **INTERNET**: SnowCap: <http://snocaponline.net/main.php> - register to have automatic alerts sent to your mobile phone or email.
- ❖ **TV**: KTIV (Channel 4) has its own system and it seems to be the most reliable. I contact all Sioux City TV stations and a “central clearing site,” but there are often problems— proceed with caution.
- ❖ **Radio**: Tune to KTCH in Wayne and KNEN, KEXL, & KUSO (US92) all in Norfolk.
 - Click on the “Alert 4 School Announcements” at the KTIV website <http://www.ktiv.com>

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) – Wakefield Community School has made AYP for the 2008-2009 school year. Initially, the state reported that we did not meet AYP at the elementary level but after some quick work by staff members, we tracked down some data that was incorrectly submitted last year. After it was corrected, we met all requirements needed to meet Adequate Yearly Progress.

Why is meeting AYP important? AYP is a way for the Nebraska Department of Education to show that schools have met the requirements set out in the No Child Left Behind Act. If a school does not meet AYP, there can be consequences for that district and sanctions can be applied. It was important for Wakefield Community School to have MET by their name as opposed to NOT MET. We want our teachers, staff, and students to get the credit they deserve for working hard throughout the school year. From what I have seen so far, a label of not met does not reflect on the learning and great teaching I see every day.

ENROLLMENT – From the charts below, you can see that the enrollment numbers for the 2009-2010 school year have gone down slightly. The numbers are encouraging since a year ago the prediction was that we would drop below 400 and possibly fall to 375 students. We are actually at the same number of students as presented in the 1995 count. The enrollment has gone up and down throughout the years, and has ranged from a low of 351 in 1985 to a high of 484 in 2002. I have high hopes that moving the preschool to the elementary building will bolster the numbers for next year and maintain an overall enrollment above 400 students. We have been able to count four -year-olds in our total student count since the 2008-2009 school year.

Grade	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Pre-K			19	10	8
K	27	28	35	36	23
1	31	30	29	34	33
2	28	29	27	25	33
3	38	26	31	25	26
4	26	41	26	29	29
5	31	30	34	22	29
6	29	25	30	34	26
7	35	29	29	30	39
8	44	35	31	29	31
9	42	41	32	29	34
10	45	43	39	28	31
11	39	44	43	40	28
12	36	41	41	45	37
12+				1	2

ELEMENTARY TOTAL	210	209	231	215	207
SECONDARY TOTAL	241	233	215	202	202
GRAND TOTAL	451	442	446	417	409

