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# Wakefield School News

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Volume 17 Issue 2

October 2010

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BUDGET SUMMARY

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## *Wakefield financially sound*

# District committed to ensuring all students a quality education

Wakefield Community School is financially sound and will be able to provide the education needed for the 2010-2011 school year and beyond to all students, PK through twelfth grade.

The Finance Committee has met twice in the last month to discuss what will be happening with the "Cliff" year as described by the Nebraska Department of Education, the Legislature, and the Governor. Each of these officials have stated that the loss in state aid to schools through the equalization formula will cause the total aid to K-12 schools to drop \$150 million for the 2011-2012 school year. The loss would constitute a

reduction of nearly 18.5% in aid to K-12 schools.

During the 2008-2009 school year, the State of Nebraska accepted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to help schools. The 2010-2011 budget year will be the last year those funds will be made available and included in the state aid formula.

Wakefield will receive \$1.776 million in state aid this year. From that amount, almost \$270,000 are ARRA funds. When those funds are lost, the amount needed to ensure education is maintained at

*(continued on next page)*

*Thank you for your continued support of Wakefield Community School and feel free to stop by or call the Superintendent's Office if you have questions about the budget and how Wakefield is planning for the future.*

*~ Clayton Waddle, Superintendent*

Wakefield will be left to one of the two remaining funding sources which are federal and local dollars. While the federal government has pledged over \$58 million to the State of Nebraska to save education jobs, state officials have not told us how this money will be distributed and how much Wakefield will receive. That leaves the local taxpayer to pick up where the State of Nebraska is unwilling and has caused the Finance Committee to be proactive in making sure the Wakefield School District remains financially secure. We

are planning for up to a \$400,000 loss next year from state aid.

With the Cliff Year in mind, the Finance Committee and School Board have acted responsibly and conservatively to make sure the school has the funds necessary to make it through the lean years as the Governor, Department of Education, and Legislature have described many times in the press. More information on just how state aid to Wakefield will be changed for the 2011-2012 school year will be available from the Department of Education in the Spring of 2011.

## *Student safety major concern during bad weather*

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



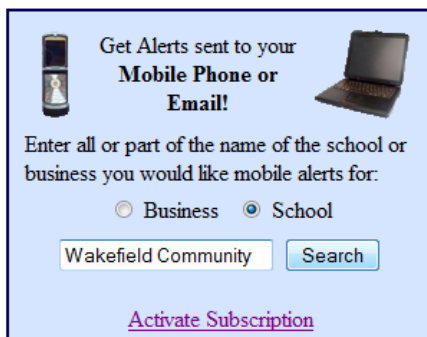
focuses on whether or not students can safely be transported to school. If we have school and a parent believes that it is unsafe to travel, that parent is free to (and encouraged to) make their own decision.

The information will be provided to the 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> - register to have automatic alerts sent to your mobile phone or email. We have placed instructions on our website and in this newsletter going step-by-step on how to sign up for this free service.
- ❖ 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>

# SnoCap Instructions

1. Logon on to the internet with your favorite web browser.
2. Go to <http://www.snocaponline.net>
3. In the box labeled GET ALERTS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE OR EMAIL! type in Wakefield Community School as shown below, click on the school button, then click on SEARCH.



Get Alerts sent to your  
**Mobile Phone or  
Email!**

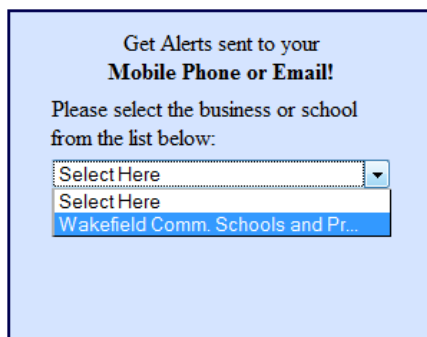
Enter all or part of the name of the school or  
business you would like mobile alerts for:

Business  School

Wakefield Community

[Activate Subscription](#)

4. A list of options will show up in the drop down list by clicking on the down arrow. Choose Wakefield Comm. Schools and Preschool as shown below.

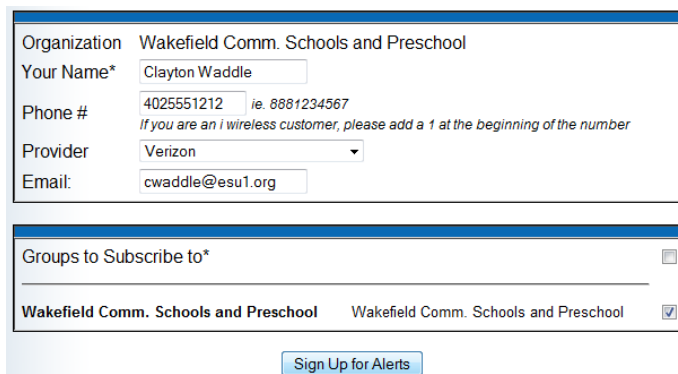


Get Alerts sent to your  
**Mobile Phone or Email!**

Please select the business or school  
from the list below:

Select Here  
Select Here  
Wakefield Comm. Schools and Pr...

5. There are two ways to sign up for alerts. You can choose email, text, or both. Enter the information as shown below and check the box to the right of Wakefield Community Schools and Preschool then click on Sign Up for Alerts. NOTE: You may be charged for text messages if it is not part of your cell phone subscription. Check with your cell phone provider if you have questions.



Organization Wakefield Comm. Schools and Preschool

Your Name\* Clayton Waddle

Phone # 4025551212 ie. 8881234567  
If you are an i wireless customer, please add a 1 at the beginning of the number

Provider Verizon

Email: cwaddle@esu1.org

Groups to Subscribe to\*

Wakefield Comm. Schools and Preschool  Wakefield Comm. Schools and Preschool

6. An email or text will come to you asking for you to activate your subscription. Follow the steps and to validate and you are finished!

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# Principal's Notes

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Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

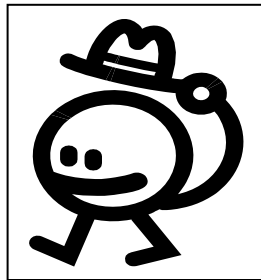
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*The 2010-2011 school year is in full-swing. By the time you read this newsletter we will have had parent-teacher conferences (September 30) and are well on our way to finishing the first quarter (quarter ends October 15).*

## Programs will focus on respect, social skills

### *'Respectful Actions'*

The teachers and I are discussing different ways of recognizing students for "respectful action." This takes the place of our "positive actions" but the format will be different. We are still in discussion about exactly HOW to recognize the students, but we will be trying to let everyone know as they happen, through website articles, notes home with students, articles in the paper, or simply announcing it to students. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details soon!



### *'Social Skills'*

The teachers and I are also discussing ways to teach students social skills, such as "Accepting 'No' for an Answer," "Accepting a Consequence," "Disagreeing Appropriately," and "Staying on Task." There are a total of 14 skills (the list was developed by Boys Town) that we are discussing. We will start by narrowing down the list of 14 to the ones we (as teachers) feel would be the most beneficial to Wakefield students. This will also tie in to the "Respectful Actions" idea, because most of the social skills we want to teach are directly related to having respect for adults and for each other.

## *All students invited to after school program*

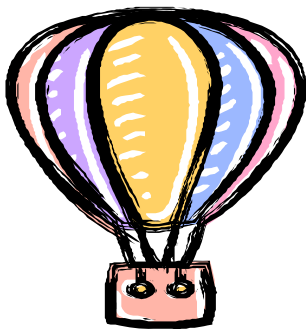
Our After-School Program is also in full swing. Mrs. Sievers will be working with students from **3:45 until 5:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays**. All students are invited to attend these sessions if they need any assistance with schoolwork, or even if they just need the time and place to finish 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. **NOTE: if you receive a letter stating that your child is on "ineligible" he/she is REQUIRED to attend the after school program.** We will try to work with all students to help them stay organized, caught up on homework, study for tests, etc...all of this can easily happen by attending the after school program.

## Wakefield to host several upcoming events...

Wakefield School will be hosting various conference and district events this year

- ❖ The first upcoming event will be a Class D sub district volleyball tournament, Nov. 1 and 2. (Wakefield's volleyball team will be playing at Norfolk Catholic on those nights).
- ❖ We will also be hosting the Lewis and Clark Conference One-Act Competition, Nov. 22. Both gyms will be used all day that day, as 8 different schools (including Wakefield) will be participating.
- ❖ Wakefield School will also be hosting the District Speech contest, tentatively scheduled for March 14, 2011. More details to come...
- ❖ This year is also the year in which we will be having a School Improvement "External Visitation." The external visitations happen for all accredited schools once every five years. Administrators and teachers from other schools will be visiting on March 17 and 18, 2011. More details to come...

## Important dates



\*\*The Wakefield Balloon Festival is Oct. 15-17.  
\*\*October 15 marks the end of the 1<sup>st</sup>

quarter.

\*\*We have a 2-hour late-start on October 18.

\*\*NHS Induction Ceremony is October 13 at 2:40 in the main gym.

## Calendar Changes...

*Please note the following changes on the Wakefield Community School calendar for the month of March, 2011.*

*Friday, March 11 - Regular school day*

*Monday, March 14 - NO SCHOOL (Wakefield will be hosting the District Speech Contest)*



# From the Principal's Pen

*Jerad Wulf, K-6 Principal*

## Bucket Filling 101

As we continue to create a bucket-filling school here at Wakefield Elementary School, we want to give you a little more information about this simple concept. Bucket-filling is easy to do and very easy to understand. "Everyone carries an invisible bucket that holds our good thoughts and feelings. When our buckets are full, we feel happy and when our buckets are empty, we feel sad." All children can quickly understand that we can all fill one another's bucket when we do and say things that are kind, considerate, caring and respectful. They also learn that when they are mean, inconsiderate, uncaring or disrespectful, they dip into buckets and remove those good feelings. During this school year we are encouraging, reminding and recognizing everyone's efforts to be a bucket filler!



## Wakefield Elementary School plans for 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Grandparent's Day

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Grandparent's Day will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Our students will write invitations to their special guests encouraging them to come enjoy the day at school.

Grandparents will take part in classroom activities and see what students are working on. Children and grandparents will also eat lunch together and take part in a school-wide assembly. It is very interesting to see the distinct differences between our current educational system to those of our grandparents.

In addition to Grandparent's Day, the Wakefield Community is also hosting the annual Balloon Days Festival. There will be various activities for students, teachers and grandparents to take part in on this day.

*WSC football players partnership with elementary students*

A great opportunity took place on October 20<sup>th</sup> for our students in Wakefield.



Seth White, defensive coordinator for Wayne State College, contacted our school to see if we would be interested in establishing a partnership with them in which their players and our students would (*continued on next page*)

interact, play and complete academic tasks. After talking with staff, we decided it was a great opportunity for us to set up. Approximately 30 players came to school and took part in various activities with students ranging from reading books, playing games and helping with assignments. Our students enjoyed the day and we look forward to many years of this partnership.

## *Parent-Teacher Conferences*

### *contribute to student success*

Parent/Teacher conferences were held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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. This year, conferences for students in grades pre-school through 3<sup>rd</sup> were scheduled with the classroom teachers. Parents of students in grades 4-6 were able to meet with teachers in the lunchroom. When parents and teachers work together, children develop a positive attitude toward school, feel proud of their achievements, and simply enjoy school to a much greater level. Again, thank you for your dedication to our school community and to the success of our students.

## *Parent organization established*


One of our goals this year is to actively seek ways to encourage and maintain constant communication. Last spring, I began to find out if there was any interest in establishing some sort of parent/community organization. After talking to various stakeholders, we decided to proceed. In September we met to begin this process. During the first meeting approximately 25 parents provided feedback and asked questions about our plan.

In the upcoming months we will be discussing many topics including school safety, routes to school, and upcoming events. Watch for more information regarding our next meeting. We hope to see you there.

## *Safety reminder...*

Please help your child figure out the best way to get to school. We want to remind all students to walk on the sidewalks if they are available. Avoid walking on the streets. Often times drivers do not see children. If students are picked up or dropped off at school, be sure to follow all safety rules.

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*The object  
of  
teaching   
a child is to  
enable the  
child to get  
along  
without the  
teacher.*

# Reading with your child

*By Jaime Manz, Reading Specialist*

As a parent, it is never too early to start reading with your child. From day one, reading aloud to your child is important. Reading is a fundamental skill that everyone needs throughout their lives. Some parents think that reading aloud with your child needs to be a big production but that is not the case. When reading with your child, make sure the child can see the book properly. Children can learn at an early age the proper way to hold and read a book. Take time to look at and discuss the pictures. They are there to help children understand the story. Make sure to stop periodically and point out things happening in the story or share your own thoughts about the story. Encourage your child to share their thoughts as well. The discussion about the story is just as important as the actual reading. Children need to be able to make sense of and understand what they read. Try to ask deeper, thinking questions that engage your child with the story rather than surface level questions that tend to have

one word, right or wrong answers. It really doesn't matter if you have a wide array of books or if you read that same book what seems to be a million times. Exposing your child to reading is what is important. If the experience is forced or not enjoyed by the child, it will be difficult to instill the love and joy of reading.

Throughout the school year, I will be including articles in the newsletter outlining seven reading strategies and suggestions to help your child become a better reader. As part of teacher in-services in the elementary last year and this year, teachers have focused on these seven reading strategies. With both home and school working together, we can help our children and students to become better readers. If you ever have any questions, feel free to contact me at school. [jmanz@esu1.org](mailto:jmanz@esu1.org).

Happy Reading!



## From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,  
K-12 Guidance Counselor

### **Tri-State Area College Fair is October 3 in South Sioux City**

Don't miss the opportunity to visit with representatives from nearly 100 state and regional colleges during the Tri-State Area College Fair **Sunday, October 3 from 12:30-3:00 pm** at the Marina Center in South Sioux City.

The College Fair, sponsored by EducationQuest Foundation, Siouxland Area High School Counselors and Northwest Area Education Agency, will also feature financial aid presentations. Follow these tips to help you make the most of your College Fair visit:

**Before you attend**, determine which colleges you want to visit ([a list is available](#) in the College Fair article at EducationQuest.org).

**Prepare a list of questions** to ask the college representatives. Ask about deadlines to apply for admission, scholarships and financial aid.

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

If you have questions about the Tri-State Area College Fair, contact the EducationQuest Omaha office at 888.357.6300.

Other college fairs scheduled for this fall are as follows:

**Scottsbluff/Gering Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 10, 1:00-3:30 pm – Gering Civic Center

**Lincoln Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 17, 1:00-3:00 pm – Southeast Community College

**Omaha Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 31, 1:00-4:00 pm – University of Nebraska at Omaha

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### **EducationQuest tools will help you find the right fit for college**

Check out [College Profiles](#) at **EducationQuest.org** to research colleges in Nebraska and across the country. You can search for schools based on location, size, school type, cost, major, activities and services for students with disabilities. Your search results page will list colleges that match your criteria and provide a link to more information about the school.

### **Video demonstrates college selection process**

Our “Find the Right Fit” video features two high school seniors who find that searching for the right college is like shopping for a good pair of shoes – you have to find the right fit! You’ll find this 10-minute video at [EducationQuest.org](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

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### **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.

**Check out the college website before your visit.** Most college sites have a section for prospective students where you can learn about the school’s admissions process, types of majors, student services and employment opportunities. You might even be able to schedule your visit online.

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

**Get a feel for the campus.** Hang out in the student union, find coffee shops with wireless Internet access, eat in a restaurant close to campus or attend athletic or cultural events.

**Ask LOTS of questions.** See the EducationQuest *College Prep Handbook* or website for [good questions to ask](#).

## Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

**Don't pay for scholarship searches!** Use free search sites including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#) where you'll find over 2,000 state and local awards. Scholarship resources are also available at your local library and at the EducationQuest offices in Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha.

**Get organized.** Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local and college-specific scholarships deserve top priority because you're more likely to earn them.

**Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs** using the [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

**Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores** by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

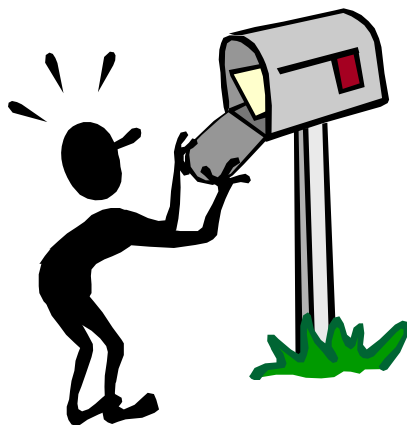
**Use quality references** such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.

**Get an early start on essays.** Describe your interests, hopes for the future, and leadership abilities – but be sure to tailor your essay to the scholarship topic.

**Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness.** Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

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## Watch your mailbox ...



Seniors...your parents will soon receive a postcard from EducationQuest highlighting what you should do this fall to prepare for college. Review this information carefully with them to make sure you complete important tasks before the deadlines.

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### Financial Aid Program

October 8 at 5 PM in the Distance Education room in the high school.