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# Wakefield School News

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Volume 16 Issue 3

November 2009

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

IMPORTANT ISSUES

*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.*

## Wakefield Community School prepares to welcome preschoolers

*First official day Monday, November 2 – 8:15 a.m.*

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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 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.

## *Tune to radio or television for latest school postponements, 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>

## School meets AYP requirements for 2008-09

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.

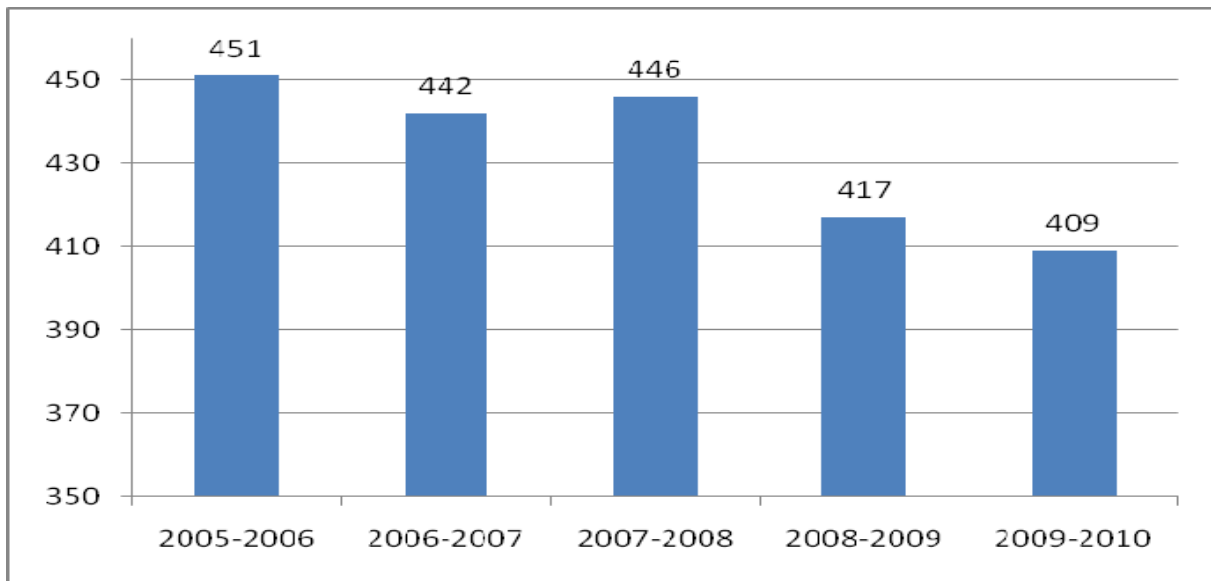
*Figures down slightly from previous year*

## Overall enrollment tops 400 students

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.

Clayton Waddle, Superintendent

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



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# Principal's Notes

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Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

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## Extra-curricular activities helpful in teaching valuable life lessons

As the fall sports seasons are coming to a close, and the winter sports seasons are right around the corner, I am reminded of benefits of student involvement in extra-curricular activities. I have always felt that students' involvement in sports and activities teaches valuable lessons about real life. In school activities, students learn the importance of teamwork, respect for authority figures, respect for teammates, and how the extra effort can pay dividends in the future. Coaches (not just sports coaches, but also speech, drama, FBLA, FCCLA, etc) not only teach specific "on-the-field" skills, but coaches also teach discipline and how to be prepared. Coaches always have and always

will have a dramatic and positive effect on the lives of the kids they coach.

However, perhaps the most important lesson to be learned during high school comes from PARENTS. Parents can be supportive and listen to their kids without necessarily reliving every moment of the activity...unless the KID brings it up! It is wonderful for parents to expect their children to do their best but their "best" can't be measured with statistics or wins and losses. It is often difficult to resist talking about school activities, but sometimes it is best for parents to step back, and allow their children to take the lead.

# *New plans for the concession stand*

I have had many discussions with representatives of the Junior Class Parents. The purpose of these discussions was to talk about the concession stand currently organized by Junior Class Parents. This discussion has been ongoing since August and a decision has been made to reorganize the concession stand at school.

It was decided that the Post Prom Committee will do concessions for the remainder of the football and volleyball seasons. Post Prom will also sell concessions (tacos in a bag, hot dogs, bars, and water) at the Clough Basketball Tournament in early January. The concession stand at all other basketball and wrestling events will be operated by school organizations, and Mr. Kevin Roberts has agreed to serve as the concessions manager for the school. This is in an effort to give different organizations, within the school, more/better opportunities to raise funds for their particular needs. Next year the Post Prom Committee will be only

responsible for concessions (including pop, candy, popcorn, etc) at home football games.

## **‘Ineligible’ students now required to attend After School Program**

Beginning the week of November 16, any student who is listed as “Ineligible” on our weekly list will be **REQUIRED** to attend the After School Program, and **REQUIRED** to fill out an assignment sheet. This plan is to assist students with their organizational skills, help them get their homework done, help them study for tests, and most importantly help them pass their classes!

A letter will be sent home with more details about this plan.

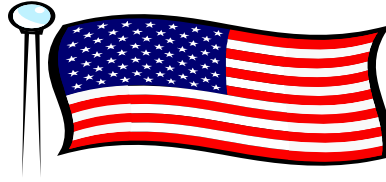
The After School Program takes place in room 218, 3:45-5:00, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, with Mrs. Lisa Sievers serving as the teacher during that time. Any student is welcome to attend, but beginning with the week of November 16, “Ineligible” students will be required to attend until they become “Eligible” again.

## *A few reminders of upcoming events*

- \*\*Sub-district Volleyball @ Wayne, November 2 and 3.
- \*\*Veteran’s Day Program at 9:00 a.m. on November 11, in the main gym.
- \*\*2-hour late-start on November 16.
- \*\*2<sup>nd</sup> quarter progress reports will be sent home (with the students) during the week of November 16.
- \*\*The One-Act cast will be giving a public performance on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m.
- \*\*No School November 26 and 27, for Thanksgiving Break.

# *Veteran's Day Program*

*Wednesday, Nov. 11 – 9:00 a.m.*



## **From the Principal's Pen**


*Jerad Wulf, K-6 Principal*

### **October busy month at Wakefield Elementary**

#### *Parent-teacher conferences...*

October has been a very busy month here at Wakefield Elementary! On October 1, 2009 we had Parent-teacher conferences. We had approximately 93% of our parents meet with teachers to discuss student strengths and areas of concern. Teachers have been active in trying to contact each parent that was unable to attend conferences to reschedule their meeting. We appreciate your attendance and willingness to meet with our staff.

#### *Homecoming & Balloon Days...*

An illustration of three hot air balloons. One is yellow with red stripes, one is purple with white stripes, and one is blue with white stripes. They are all floating upwards.

Homecoming Week was held during the week of October 12-16. Students participated in many events to show their school spirit. Students were excited to take part in our dress up days and decorate the building with the older students. We also had balloonists come to school to talk to us about ballooning and why it is such a great hobby. Students were able to take part in the activities on Friday evening and Saturday as well.

#### *Grandparent's Day...*

Wakefield Elementary School held our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Grandparent's Day on Oct. 23, 2009. We had nearly 150 special guests in our building. Students were encouraged to invite a special guest to school to spend part of the day with them. Grandparents and other special guest were invited to a short student assembly, lunch and to take part in classroom activities. This was a great opportunity for our students, families and teachers. Be sure to watch for details about next year's special day!

## *Welcome preschool students, staff...*

Beginning on November 2, 2009, there will be some new students in our building. Wakefield Community Schools has been working diligently to relocate our pre-school program from the Wakefield Family Resource Center to an on-site location. Although the relocation took place quicker than originally planned, we have tried to create a seamless transition for our students. We are excited to welcome Jena Kaufman, Kim Barge and Kayla Wiltman to our building. Although they have been district employees, we are excited to have them with us on a daily basis. In addition to serving our current students, there are some spots open. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact the school.

## *Nice Bike awards...*

It is one of our goals to promote pro-social skills, positive behavior and manners in our daily school operations. This year, the staff at school has implemented a positive reinforcement program to encourage students to make good choices. October Nice Bike recipients are: Theresa Obermeyer, Cassidy Miner, Oscar Canizales, Henry Ramirez, Lorna Zapata, Ben Klein, Dalton Moos, Aileen Sanchez, Madeline Mogus, Jeremiah Chase, Olivia Scott, Joyce McGuire, Brenda Vega, Anthony Munderloh, Raymond Gatzemeyer, Noah Lamprecht, Dawson Samuelson, Nolan Fishler, Hunter Sullivan, Wyatt Sullivan, Josephine Peitz, Sarah Lorenzen, Michael Kiewel, Aracely Suarez, Susana Prado, Braxton Miner, Brooklyn Bierbower, Karissa Adams, Dillon Borg, Megan Clark, Kassidy Brudigam, Mitchell Fischer, Katie VanderVeen, Hayden Ekberg, Jackson Heitz, Blake Brown, Samuel Heitz, Austin Brandt, Garrett VanderVeen, Seth Nuernberger, Jacob Dorcey, Julieta Fregoso, Ty Volk, Danika Dorcey, Jamie Dolph, Solomon Peitz, Katelyn Pommer, Cole Lundahl, Megan Muller, Kimberly Calderon, Danielle Gilliland, Josephine Peitz Emmalee Pommer, Josselyn Vazquez and Andrea Lopez.

## Important dates in November

*November 9*

Lifetouch picture retakes

*November 16*

2 hour late start  
for teacher in-service

*November 24*

Author visit

*November 26 & 27*

No school  
Thanksgiving vacation

Be the  
leader  
you'd  
want for  
your  
child



## From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,  
K-12 Guidance Counselor

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

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track.

**Contact your top college choices NOW** and ask about deadlines and the process for applying for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid. Also, ask about application fees. This information may also be available in the [College Profiles](#) section at [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org).



**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.

**Update your Activities Resume.** Because extracurricular activities are an important part of the admissions application, keep them up-to-date by using the *Activities Resume* at [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org). In many cases, you can simply print your resume and include it with the application.

**Contact your admissions representative periodically** to stay informed about deadlines and campus activities.

### ***Juniors...start researching colleges***

If you can narrow your choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

**Review *College Profiles*** at [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org) for information about Midwest colleges. If you're interested in going to an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at <http://msep.mhec.org>.

**Visit an EducationQuest location** in Lincoln, Kearney or Omaha and use our free college search resources.

**Meet with college representatives** who visit our school.

Once you've narrowed your choices, **schedule campus visits**. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while college classes are still in session.

## ***Attend Financial Aid Program to learn funding options***

To learn about financial aid and other college funding options, attend our upcoming **Financial Aid Program** with your parents. EducationQuest will be hosted by the Allen school and through our Distance Learning we will also be able to participate in the discussion. Please plan on attending this very important meeting on November 9 at 5 PM in the Distance Ed. Room.



## Notes from the school nurse

*Wakefield school*

### *participating in Dental Day*

We are planning on attending dental day in Lincoln again this year. Students who were found to have dental problems during their health screening will be receiving a letter from the nurse. If parents are interested in having their child's dental work or routine dental cleaning done at dental day, please contact Angie Borg, R.N. at 287-9892 or Ofelia Calleros at 287-2012.

Students who do not have Medicaid or dental insurance are eligible to participate in Dental Day. However, if you have dental insurance and are interested, please contact the school nurse. Those who choose to participate in Dental Day will have to complete a short application/health history and sign permission forms. The first dental exam will be done by a local dentist.

On Friday, February 5, 2010, those students will be taken to Lincoln to the UNMC College of Dentistry to complete any necessary dental work. Transportation will be provided by the school to the first dental exam and to Lincoln.

*Happy  
Thanksgiving  
from the  
Wakefield  
faculty and  
staff*

