
Wakefield School News

Volume 16 Issue 4

December 2009

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

SCHOOL FUNDING

District likely will see decrease in state aid for 2010-11 school year

We are heading towards the midpoint of the school year and I have included a few items for you. First, I would like to go through some information concerning school funding including the state aid formula and changes that happened in the special session of the Legislature. I have also included the weather cancellation information again just in case you missed it last month.

SPECIAL SESSION – The Nebraska Legislature met during the month of November for the sole purpose of amending the budget. Since passing the two year budget earlier in the year, the forecasts for tax receipts have been lower than expected and that means there is not enough money to pay for all that has been budgeted.

During the session, there were several areas that were cut including money to education in the form of state aid to K-12 schools in the amount of over \$30 million. State aid is given to some schools using a very complicated and unpredictable model. At this time, Wakefield school received \$1.6 million for the 2009-2010 school year. With the loss of money due to the budget shortfalls, the prediction for the 2010-2011 school year is that we will

receive between \$1.6 to 1.7 million. The reason why the exact amount is unknown is because the state is using old data to predict these numbers and we are unsure what the Legislature is going to do in its regular session in the spring.

What does this mean for Wakefield Community School? Quite honestly, we will not know the full extent of the loss in state aid and how it will shape our decisions until after the regular session closes next spring. We are in the process of looking at where every dollar is being spent and how we can be thriftier than normal. If you would like to contact our state senator his name is Robert Giese and his office number is (402) 471-2716. Senator Giese is on the Education Committee where the most recent cuts have been created and ultimately passed.

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>

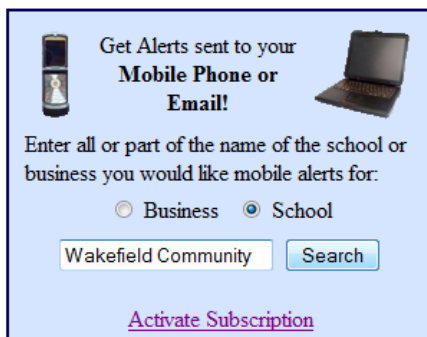


Wakefield
Community
Schools wishes you
a safe and happy
holiday season!

*Clayton Waddle,
Superintendent*

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!**

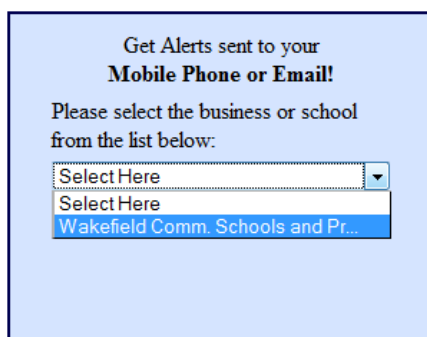
Enter all or part of the name of the school or
business you would like mobile alerts for:

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.

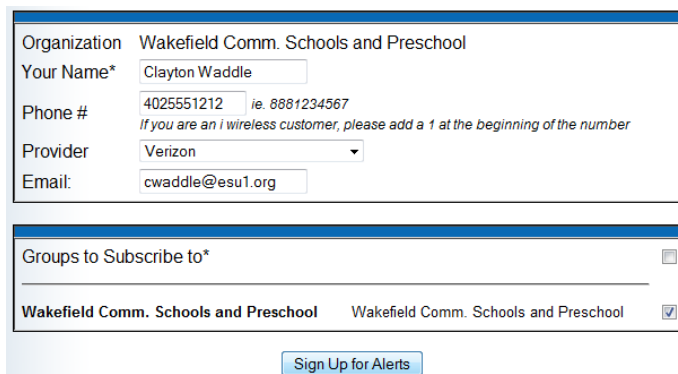


Get Alerts sent to your
Mobile Phone or Email!

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!

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

'The Space Between'

If you have ever worked at a school, you know what the phrase “between seasons” means. This phrase refers to the time between fall activity seasons and winter activity seasons. Football, volleyball, and girls golf are over, and one-act season is coming to a close. The first basketball games and wrestling events are right around the corner, and the speech team just recently began their competition season. On the calendar there was three to four weeks in which no extra-curricular event took place (besides practice sessions). This time “in-between” can give students and teachers a strange feeling sometimes!

Whenever I look at my calendar in my office, it seems like I am always planning for the next day, the next week, the next faculty meeting, the next event, etc. I have told my teachers, during our faculty meetings, that the important work comes in the “space between”



our meetings. We should not always concentrate on what we accomplished at the last meeting or what our plans are for the next meeting...but what we plan to do *between* meetings. That is the time spent in the classroom with the students. That is time that is truly important. Sometimes I have to remind myself that it's the “space between” that really counts.

This is also true of one's life outside of work. Everyone spends a lot of “busy time” attending their children's events, dealing with their daily and weekly schedules, talking to their teachers, running errands, driving kids to ball games, etc. We would all benefit from spending more personal time with our children. As difficult as it is at times (sometimes it seems like we have to “pencil in” some time with our kids!) it is truly important to have personal time with our loved ones. It is the true “family time” that will be remembered and will really make a difference in your children's lives.

Again, it's the “space between” that really counts.

After school program reminder

A reminder that all students who are “ineligible” on our weekly list (failing a class for two consecutive weeks) are REQUIRED to attend the After School Program during that week. The After School Program takes place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 3:45-5:00. If students are ineligible, and do not attend the program, they must make up the time. Make-up time can be completed between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., as well as after school on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Upcoming dates...

- *Parent’s Night for Basketball AND the Sophomore Potato Bake will be Dec. 3.*
- *We have a 2-hour late start on Dec. 14.*
- *The high school (7-12) winter concert will be Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m.*
- *Parent’s Night for Wrestling is Dec. 17.*
- *We have a 2:00 dismissal on Dec. 23 for Christmas Break. Classes resume with a regular schedule on Jan. 4, 2010.*



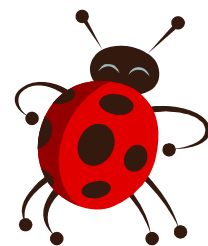
From the Principal’s Pen

Jerad Wulf, K-6 Principal

Children’s author visits Wakefield

On November 24, 2009, Wakefield Elementary School had a very special visitor to our classrooms. Jeanette Hopkins, author of *The Ladybug Waltz*, visited with our students

in grades PK-2. She shared stories about her granddaughter’s struggle with heart problems and how she was inspired to write her first children’s book. Mrs. Hopkins completed a picture walk of the story to discuss and define



the story to

vocabulary words for the students. Our students became active participants in reading the story with Mrs. Hopkins. Following the story, Mrs. Hopkins and her husband, Bruce, completed an activity with the students by making Ladybug crowns.

Our students were incredibly well-behaved and asked very good questions to both Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins. As a matter of fact, both of them would like to come back and work with the rest of our students in the spring. We are excited about the opportunity to have them come back to Wakefield. If you would like to check out a copy of her book, feel free to stop in our library or you can purchase it from Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com or from Book People in Sioux City.

Pre-school update

On November 2, 2009, our pre-school program was relocated within the building. The staff who worked in the pre-school program also relocated with our program.

We are currently serving 24 students in some capacity or another. According to Rule 11, which governs pre-school programs, we can serve a maximum of 20 students at a time. We were fortunate to purchase some new furniture and supplies for our increased enrollment and to provide additional opportunities for our students. Our students and staff members have adjusted well to the change.

We currently have a waiting list for students who would like to enroll in the pre-school classroom.

Fencing going up around elementary playground

Beginning December 1, 2009, you will see some workers on our elementary playground. The school board approved a bid to install fencing surrounding our playground. We will be placing the fencing near the sidewalk on 8th street and at the end of the practice field and playground on Main Street. In addition, you will notice a 4 foot fenced in area for our pre-school program.



Parents reminded to notify school of student absences

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please be sure to contact the main office. If we do not hear from you, we will call to find out where your children are. If we do not reach you at home, we will call your work phone or send someone to your home. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Mr. Wulf or Mrs. Anderson in the elementary office.

November Nice Bike Award recipients

Our students have been making very good choices this year. It is an expectation that all of our staff members have of our students.

We have been able to provide positive feedback to many of our students by giving them a Nice Bike Award when we catch them doing something that we would like to reinforce.

Our November recipients are: Emmalee Pommer, Savannah Nelson, Megan Borg, Sierra Brahmsteadt, Avery Hilsinger, Jose Sanchez, Manuel Grimaldo, Ella Conley, Lauren Munderloh, Brooklyn Bierbower, Dalton Moos, Zachary Johnson, Dennise Urbina, Mindy Demke, Alicia Arriaza, Aracely Dominguez, Hunter Sullivan, David Olvera, Mayra Mena, Preston Paulson, Zach Pommer, Nathan Webb, Oscar Canizales, Raymond Gatzemeyer, Raul Salcedo,

Solomon Peitz, Joyce Sherer, DeLaney Sowards, Jose Sanchez, Tyler Salmon, Danielle Charron, Lizeth Lozano, Danika Dorcey, Ben Klein, Noah Lamprecht, Isaac Camarena, Parker Lehmkuhl, Gabriel Peitz, Seth Nuernberger, Austin Brandt, Kristyn Tuttle, Dillon Borg, Jonathon Vega, Melissa Sebastian, Jack Heitz, Blake Brown, Karissa Adams, Ashley Marquez, Parker Paulson, Josephine Peitz, Vanessa Romero, Beatriz Lozano, Sarah Lorenzen, Megan Muller, Wyatt Sullivan, Heidi Borg, Aracely Suarez, Gabriel Lamprecht, Angelina Nelson, Harley Henderson, Susana Prado, Stephanie Palma, Luis Lopez, Aileen Sanchez, Titus Torczon Clark, Hunter Borg, Dawson Samuelson, Angel Jimenez-Perez, Allison Bruckner, Zachary Boeshart, Mitchell Fischer and Tomasa Garcia-Lopez.



Elementary Winter Concert
Tuesday, Dec. 8 – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 14

2 Hour Late Start

Wednesday, Dec. 23

2:00 Dismissal

December 24-January 3

Holiday Break



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Seniors...have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices to determine application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process.

How to estimate your FAFSA results

If you're a college-bound senior, you will soon complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in financial aid.

To estimate your FAFSA results now, use the *College Funding Estimator* at EducationQuest.org. The program will ask for 2008 income tax information. You may estimate your tax information to complete the Estimator but should use your completed 2009 tax returns when you submit the actual FAFSA.

Check out the Financial Aid Video!

Another way to learn about paying for college is by viewing the [Guide to College Funding video](#) at EducationQuest.org. The video features a family going through the financial aid process.

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't pay for scholarship searches. Free scholarship search sites are available on the Internet including [ScholarshipQuest](#) at EducationQuest.org which has over 1,800 state and local awards.

Check our school Website on a regular basis for a variety of scholarships.

Get organized. Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local awards and college-specific applications 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 exam 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.

Admissions Essays

Here are some factors that colleges consider when looking at their applicants:

- *Class Rank
- *ACT scores
- *High school coursework
- *High school grade point average
- *Letters of recommendation
- *Extracurricular activities
- *Work experience in intended major
- *Evidence of leadership ability
- *Community service
- *Interest
- *Essay



When writing your essay try to come up with something the admission office hasn't seen a million times before. A successful essay stands apart and tells a unique story. An essay about dating or arguing over boys is not recommended. Also, stay away from controversial topics like regulating the sale of firearms, political issues and anything else that might offend the reader's beliefs.

Some successful essays gave insight into an uncommon experience, hobby or achievement. Also, you might consider writing your reflection to a lesson learned from literature. Who is your hero or heroine and why? What are your expectations of a college education? Describe your interests, hopes for the future and leadership abilities.

Students should give drafts to a variety of readers: friends, teachers, relatives etc. The value of a second opinion is that the writer has many chances at improvement. Make your essay the best possible reflection of yourself! And don't forget to pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness.

2009 DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 DISTRICT ONE ACT @ LAUREL	2	3 SOPHOMORE POTATO BAKE B&GBB- PENDER-H PARENTS NIGHT	4	5 WRESTLING @ HOWELLS BBB-WAYNE-H
6	7	8 ELEMENTARY MUSIC CONCERT @ 7:00	9	10	11 G&BBB-WAUSA-H	12 B&GBB @ WISNER @ 9:00 A.M. WRESTLING @ STANTON
13	14 2HR LATE START	15 HS WINTER MUSIC CONCERT	16 PK-4 CHRISTMAS STORY TIME @ GARDNER LIBRARY	17 WRESTLING- ELKHORN VALLEY &WPCC-H PARENTS NIGHT	18 B&GBB @ STANTON	19 WRESTLING @ OSMOND G&BBB @ HARTINGTON
21	21	22 B&GBB – OSMOND-H	23 2:00 DISMISSAL	24	25	26
27	28 WSC B&GBB HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT	29 WSC B&GBB HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT	30 WSC B&GBB HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT	31		

2009 DECEMBER LUNCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 SLOPPY JOES TATER TOTS APPLES	2 BARBEQUE MEATBALLS AUGRATIN POTATOES DINNER ROLL STRAWBERRIES	3 CHICKEN NUGGETS CARROTS DINNER ROLL PEACHES	4 VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP GRILLED CHEESE FRESH BEGETABLES PINEAPPLE	5
6	7 ITALIAN DUNKERS LETTUCE PEARS	8 PORKCHOP PATTIE MASHED POTATOES HOMEMADE BUNS PEACHES	9 GOULASH PEAS DINNER ROLLS GRAPES	10 CHILLI CHEESE FRIES FRESH VEGETABLES MIXED FRUIT	11 HAMBURGER FRIES APPLESAUCE	12
13	14 BBQ PORK SANDWICH CORN PEACHES	15 TURKEY MELTS GREEN BEANS CHERRY SALAD	16 PIZZA BROCCOLI CHOC. CHIP COOKIES PEARS	17 CREAMED CHICKEN MASHED POTATOES DINNER ROLL FRUIT SALAD	18 MINI CORNDOGS MIXED VEGETABLES HOMEMADE BUNS BANANAS	19
20	21 HOT DOGS BAKED BEANS ORANGES	22 SOFT SHELL TACOS TOPPING BAR BREAD BASKET PINEAPPLE	23 SACK LUNCHES	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

MILK IS SERVED WITH EVERY MEAL. IN THE OPERATION OF SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM, NO CHILD WILL BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF RACE, SEX, COLOR, NATINAL ORIGIN, AGE OR DISABILITY. IF YOU HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST WRITE IMMEDIATELY TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRUCULTURE, WASHINGTON D.C. 20250. ALL MEALS ARE SUBJECT TO C

ACTIVIDADES DE DICIEMBRE 2009

DOMINGO	LUNES	MARTES	MIÉRCOLES	JUEVES	VIERNES	SÁBADO
		1 PRESENTACIÓN DE DISTRITO EN LAUREL UN ACTO	2	3 PAPA HORNEADA ESTUDIANTES DEL 10 GRADO BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL - PENDER NOCHE DE PADRES	4	5 LUCHA EN HOWELLS BALONCESTO BARONIL - WAYNE
6	7	8 CONCIERTO MUSICAL ESCUELA PRIMARIA A LAS 7:00 P.M.	9	10	11 BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL - WAUSA	12 BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL EN WISNER A LAS 9:00 A.M. LUCHA EN STANTON
13	14 2 HORAS TARDE	15 CONCIERTO MUSICAL DE INVIERNO ESCUELA SECUNDARIA	16 HORA DE CUENTOS DE NAVIDAD PARA PR - 4TO. EN LA BIBLIOTECA GARDNER	17 LUCHA - ELKHORN VALLEY Y WPCC NOCHE DE PADRES	18 BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL EN STATNON	19 LUCHA EN OSMOND BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL EN HARTINGTON
20	21	22 BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL - OSMOND	23 SALIDA TEMPRANO 2:00	24	25	26
27	28 TORNEO DE DIA DE FIESTA DE BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL EN EL COLEGIO	29 TORNEO DE DIA DE FIESTA DE BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL EN EL COLEGIO	30 TORNEO DE DIA DE FIESTA DE BALONCESTO FEMENIL Y BARONIL EN EL COLEGIO	31		

MENÚ DICIEMBRE 2009

DOMINGO	LUNES	MARTES	MIÉRCOLES	JUEVES	VIERNES	SÁBADO
		1 SLOPPY JOES PAPITAS MANZANAS	2 ALBÓNDIGAS EN SALSA BARBACUE PAPAS GRATINADAS PAN FRESAS	3 TROCITOS DE POLLO ZANAHORIAS PAN DURAZNO	4 SOPA DE VEGETALES CON CARNE DE RES EMPAREDADO DE QUESO A LA PLANCHA VEGETALES FRESCOS PIÑA	5
6	7 ZAMBULLIDOS ITALIANOS ENSALADA PERAS	8 TORTITA DE CHULETA DE PUERCO PURÉ DE PAPAS PAN DURAZNO	9 ESTOFADO HÚNGARO CHÍCHAROS PAN UVAS	10 PAPAS FRITAS CON QUESO Y CHILE VEGETALES FRESCOS FRUTA MIXTA	11 HAMBURGUESA PAPAS FRITAS SALSA DE MANZANA	12
13	14 EMPAREDADO DE PUERCO EN BARBACOA ELOTE DURAZNOS	15 DERRETIDO DE PAVO EJOTES ENSALADA DE CEREZAS	16 PIZZA BRÓCOLI GALLETAS CON TROCITOS DE CHOCOLATE PERAS	17 POLLO EN CREMA PURÉ DE PAPAS PAN ENSALADA DE FRUTA	18 MINI CORN DOGS VEGETALES MIXTOS PAN PLÁTANOS	19
20	21 HOT DOGS FRIJOLES HORNEADOS NARANJAS	22 TACOS DE CONCHA SUAVE BARRA DE ENSALADA PAN PIÑA	23 LONCHE EN BOLSA	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		