
Wakefield School News

Volume 16 Issue 7

MARCH 2010

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

LEGISLATURE IN SESSION



Proposed bills could impact how schools conduct business

The Nebraska Legislature is in session right now and there are several proposed bills that may involve Wakefield Community School. The following bills, with the sponsor's name list after, are currently being discussed and may change how the school does business.

LB 697 (Pahls): This bill would prohibit the use of wireless communication devices on school buses. The problem is that some schools, including Wakefield, use cell phones on the bus to communicate when they are out of range of the school. Since the introduction of this bill, federal regulations have been imposed to address this issue.

LB 898 (Haar): This bill would create the Student Expression Act. There is nothing good that would come out of this bill. The bill's purpose is to give permission to students to express themselves through whatever means they see appropriate. A bill is never good when it includes an immunity clause for administrators, teachers, and staff.

LB 899 (Nordquist): This bill would preserve roughly \$7 million in state general funds currently earmarked for

the three state defined benefit plans (School employees, State Patrol, and Judges) along with the Omaha Public Schools retirement plan. If passed, there would be a burden to each district in the state to make up the difference in the fund. The school district pays 101% of each dollar placed into retirement. If the \$7 million is not paid from the state's general fund, the money would have to come from the local taxpayers.

LB 966 (Pahls): This bill would require each school district to budget at least 65% of all expenditures toward the classroom. This bill unnecessarily infringes on a school board's choice to budget as it deems most appropriate. A similar bill was debated last year and was not passed. While Wakefield Community Schools is just over 65%, the bill allows the state to control what is best for our school.

LB 1006 (Adams): This bill would change the kindergarten enrollment date to July 31st as per one of the recommendations in a recent interim study conducted by the Education Committee.

LB 1021 (Avery): This bill would impose multiple requirements upon the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA). The school board has voted on a

resolution to keep the NSAA the same and not in support of the bill.

LB 1028 (Louden): This bill would permit the creation of charter schools.

LB 1069 (Adams): This bill would provide needed technical and substantive changes to the laws governing the Educational Service Units Coordinating Council (ESUCC).

Please call Senator Giese at (402) 471-2716 or email him at bgiese@leg.ne.gov if you have questions on any of these proposed bills. You may also mention to Senator Giese that state aid to our district is important and that all efforts to keep it in Wakefield should be taken.

Please contact me if you have any questions. My email address is cwaddle@esu1.org or give me a call at school during regular business hours.

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

Winter sports seasons come to a close

It's that time of year again! The time of year in which winter sports are ending...and sooner than planned for athletes and coaches! The wrestling season ended with four State Qualifiers and two State Medalists. State Qualifiers included seniors Wyatt Jacobsen and TJ Rose, and juniors Brendan Nicholson and Christian Gallardo. Wyatt finished 4th at state in 119 lbs. and TJ finished 5th at state in 135 lbs. Congratulations to the wrestlers!

Both the boys and girls basketball teams ended their seasons in sub-district play with hard-fought losses. All our student-athletes should be proud of themselves and should have no regrets about their successful seasons.

Onward to track and golf season!

Speech season nearly complete

The Wakefield Speech Team consists of 21 members, including six varsity speech team members, seven JV members, and eight “novice” members.

Eighteen of the team members performed in the Lewis and Clark Conference Speech Meet in Bancroft on Saturday, Feb. 27. They are looking forward to the District competition on March 8 at Creighton High School. Good Luck to the Wakefield Speech Team!

Orientation held March 1 for eighth graders

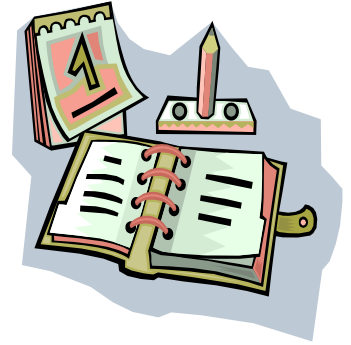
Eighth graders registered for freshmen classes during the evening of March 1. Students, along with their parents, also learned about the scheduling process, as well as the differences between junior high and high school. Some of the topics of discussion during the evening included attendance requirements, graduation requirements, planning for college, figuring GPA's, etc.

Dates to Remember!

~We now have regular school days on March 5 and March 12.

~The last day of the 3rd quarter has been changed to March 12. Report cards will go home on approximately March 19.

~Easter break is April 2-5.



**From the
Principal's Pen
Jerad Wulf, K-6 Principal**

Wakefield spellers advance to county competition



The Wakefield Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, with 18 students participating. To qualify for the competition, written exams were given in the 5th through the 8th grades. The exams were scored and the students that had the highest scores were selected to compete in the oral contest. To begin the competition, contestants drew numbers to determine their order

of participation. The champion in this year's local contest was Ryan Bodlak (7th grade). Runner up was Josephine Peitz (6th grade). Also qualifying for the county competition by placing 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively were Evan Nicholson (8th grade), Alyssa Oetken (7th grade), and Yesenia Ibarra (5th grade).

The Wakefield Republican once again sponsored this year's competition and donated prizes to the contestants. Mrs. Kathy Johnson pronounced for this year's contest and Mr. Jacobsen, Mrs. Montoya, and Mrs. Youngmeyer served as judges.

The County Spelling Bee took place at the University of Nebraska Northeast Station near Concord on February. 23, 2010. Wakefield's Ryan Bodlak placed third at the county level.

Assessment supports student instruction in the classroom

Students in grades K-12 took part in the winter session of the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to support student instruction in the classroom setting.

Students were given an assessment in reading, math and language usage. The assessment was given on the computer and individualized for individual student performance. The test adapts to a student's strengths and their weaknesses.

Results can be obtained from your child's classroom teacher or from the main office.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences were held on February 11, 2010. We had very strong attendance. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher or would like a follow up meeting, feel free to contact the school.

Reading strategy of the month

Research indicates that the single most influential indicator of student success is the amount of support students have at home. Reading is vital to the school success of all of our students. Here are some simple suggestions that you can do at home with your child when you read together.

Read To Them

The most important thing you can do for your reader is to read to him. Read things that they are interested in and things for just pure enjoyment. Stop and talk with him/her about what you have just read - you thought it was funny, he/she liked the way the author said something, and you liked that idea. Talk about any part of the story or writing that you want. Point out different aspects of the text like: see how the pictures help tell the story, did you hear all those rhyming words, what do you think will happen next, look at all the lines that repeat, see how long that word is, did you notice all the words that started with Z, we already

know a lot about this story because of something else we've read or heard about, etc.

Remember, as a significant adult in your reader's life, your uses of reading and writing for real purposes, including

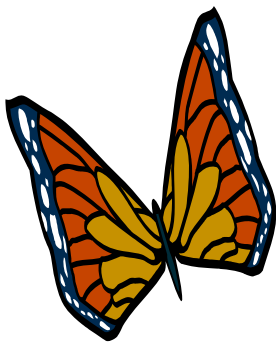
enjoyment and information, are the most powerful demonstrations you can give.

Just as your child learned about speaking from your demonstrations, they will learn about reading through your modeling of it.

***Wakefield Community School
Kindergarten Round-Up
Friday, April 30, 2010***

Eligible children must turn 5 before Oct. 15, 2010

**For more information call
287-9892**



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



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Check out the EducationQuest video –“The FAFSA Made Easy”!

Seniors...for a humorous and comprehensive overview of how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), check out the new 10-minute video – [“The FAFSA Made Easy.”](#) on EducationQuest.org.

What happens after you submit the FAFSA?

If you have already submitted your FAFSA, here's what will happen next...

Expect your SAR and Award Notification

You'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) after you submit the FAFSA. This acknowledges that your form was processed and can be used to make corrections to your FAFSA. You'll need the PIN you used to file the FAFSA to make electronic corrections.

The colleges you listed on the FAFSA will send you a financial aid award notification detailing the assistance they're offering. They may offer a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans.

Compare award notifications

Compare award notifications from the colleges. Some may offer more in scholarships and grants, while others rely on student loans. Calculate your out-of-pocket expenses for each school to get the whole financial picture. Use the [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#) to determine which school offers the best deal. Sign and return the award letters.

Keep looking for scholarships!

Many local, state and national scholarships have deadlines in March, April and May. For local and state scholarships, visit *ScholarshipQuest* at [EducationQuest.org](#), our school's website or pick up applications from Mrs. Knezevic's office.

Juniors: It's time to start your campus visits

Start looking at colleges your junior year so you can narrow your choices by the time you're a senior.

Visit your top college choices while the schools are in session. You won't get the true flavor of the school during breaks or finals week.

Schedule your visits at least two weeks in advance. Ask for appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in your area of interest.

Talk to a faculty member about upper-level classes in your anticipated major. Many students change majors because they don't understand the subject matter or the degree of difficulty.

Ask the financial aid counselor how the college may offset tuition costs and about college-based scholarship applications and deadlines.

If possible, stay overnight in a residence hall and eat in the cafeteria. Ask about the personality of each hall so you can request one that suits you.

Check out college Web sites. You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information, and campus photos or a virtual tour.

Helpful resources at EducationQuest.org

Check out these free resources and tools at **EducationQuest.org** to help you find the college that's the best fit for you:

["College Selection" section](#) – walks you through steps you should take during the college search process.

[College Profiles](#) - has information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country.

["Find the Right Fit" video](#) – follows two high school seniors as they search for colleges that fit their career interests.