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# Wakefield School News

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Volume 16 Issue 8

April 2010

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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

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*By: Clayton Waddle  
Superintendent  
Wakefield Community Schools*

### School strives to keep community informed of events & activities

Communication is a key for teachers, parents, patrons and students, and to keep informed of all activities going on at the school is very important. There are many ways to keep and stay well informed about what is going on at school.

The first is to visit the website and become a member of our “News Update” group. It’s simple and easy to have the most current information added to our website sent directly to your email. To sign up, go to the school’s website at <http://www.wakefieldschool.org> and type your email address in the News Update



box located on the left-hand side and clicking the word “go.”

The second is to read the most current newsletter. The newsletter is available by clicking on the box labeled “Newsletter” on the left-hand side of the front page of our website.

If you would like to keep informed on a daily basis of the activities happening at school, the daily announcements are what you need. The announcements are updated throughout the day and can be accessed by clicking on the “Daily Announcements” tab located on the upper right-hand side of the front page of our website. At the very least you will

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Please contact me if you have any questions. My email address is [cwaddle@esu1.org](mailto:cwaddle@esu1.org), or give me a call at school during regular business hours.

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find a list of activities, the lunch menu, and the breakfast menu. You will also be able to scroll from day to day by choosing the date at the bottom of the daily bulletin page.

We have also added to the website a box allowing anyone to ready notes that have

been sent home from school from the elementary or high school office. All of the notes can be accessed by going to our front page and clicking on the box labeled, "Notes from the Office." We will try to add relevant notes to this page and make them available as soon as possible.

## Project Update

In addition to the information on the website, I would also like to take the opportunity to let you know about a few projects we have in progress right now. We are adding two security items to our school to make it a safer place for our students, staff and visitors. The locks are currently being changed and security cameras are being installed around the school. In addition, the air movement and air conditioning project is being completed. There are several ongoing projects including the track surfacing and reconditioning the parking lot on the west side. Both will be completed when the temperature is favorable.

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# Principal's Notes

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Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

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## Final quarter of school year always BUSY

We have begun the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the school year, and this time of year is always a busy time for students and teachers. In April (and May) on any given day, there could be a track meet, golf meet, FCCLA activity, FBLA activity, music contest, art show...just to name a few.

It is important to remember that if students are attending school-sponsored activities, that they are required to make arrangements with their teachers for the school work they will miss, and get their "yellow sheets" signed before they leave for the activity.

This requires some organization on the part of the students, but it will benefit them more than they realize. Parents, some of you will be seeing several "yellow sheets" in the next few weeks. These are for you to sign, to make sure you are aware that your child will be out of the building for school activities. Thank you for your patience during this busy time.

# Congratulations!



To the OID team  
(Hannah Paxton, Scott  
Wageman, Morgan  
Lunz, Ryan Conyers,  
Mercedes Greve) for their 3<sup>rd</sup>  
place finish at the State Speech  
Tournament.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation

Current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, and their parents, will be invited to an orientation in the multi-purpose room in April...date TBD. This will allow us to share some important information about the transition from elementary to junior high. All current 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are encouraged to attend. You will be receiving a letter when the date is set, and please watch the website for reminders.

Also during the month of April, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be “shadowing” the 7<sup>th</sup> graders for portions of the school day.



## Don't Forget

- NO SCHOOL on April 2 and April 5.
- PROM is FRIDAY, April 16, with the Grand March beginning at 6:00 in the main gym. Students attending prom will be dismissed at 11:40 on April 16, and in order to attend prom they MUST be in attendance for all of periods one through four.
- A reminder that if students in grades 7-12 are “ineligible,” they are not allowed to attend school activities that take place during that week. This includes activities such as Prom and the Athletic Banquet.
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter progress reports will be sent home on or about April 19.
- We have 2-hour late-starts (for teacher in-service) scheduled for April 19 and May 3.

*An investment in knowledge  
always pays the best interest.  
~ Benjamin Franklin*



# From the Principal's Pen

*Jerad Wulf, K-6 Principal*

## Assessments

Typically April and May are two months that are filled with end of the year assessments and standardized tests. Many classrooms will be finishing up their locally developed assessments or taking part in our state tests. During the first week of April we will begin taking the new Nebraska State Assessment in Reading (NeSA-R) in grades 3-6. We have also decided to take part in the Nebraska State Assessment in Math (NeSA-M) as a pilot school.

A few recommendations to help students be successful include adequate sleep and eating breakfast. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the school.

## Promoting reading comprehension at home

Wakefield Elementary School is dedicated to encouraging our students to love reading. A great way to promote reading comprehension is to allow children to make mental pictures as they read. To improve comprehension at home, read a book orally to your children without letting them see it. Then ask what the illustrations looked like. For example, how are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy? The more questions we ask about a book or piece of text, the more likely our students will comprehend what they read.

## Family Math Night Coming in May

On Thursday, May 6, Wakefield Elementary School in collaboration with Wayne State College will host our annual Family Math Night from 4 to 5 p.m.

Family Math Night will feature numerous math activities at various grade levels. Students in grades pre-school through 6, along with their parents, are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jacobsen.

## Pre-school Enrollment Night Slated April 26

We are excited about the significant growth that we have seen in our pre-school program and hope to see it continue. We will be having a pre-school enrollment night on Monday, April 26 at 5 p.m. Students who are currently enrolled will have preference for enrollment.

If you plan on having your child begin pre-school in the fall, be sure to attend or contact Mrs. Anderson for an enrollment packet.

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

**Eligible children must turn 5 before Oct. 15, 2010**

**Children will take part in initial screenings with our partners from the ESU, tour the school and get a feeling of what school is all about.**

**For more information call  
287-9892**



## From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,  
K-12 Guidance Counselor

## **Seniors...it's decision time!**

Attention seniors: It's time to make the big college decision and determine where you'll spend the next 4-5 years of your life!

As you make your decision, have a heart-to-heart talk with your parents to make sure you pick your college for the right reasons, not because it's where your friends - or your girlfriend or boyfriend - are going. Talk about the following:

**Location.** Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won't experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If travel costs are prohibitive, you may not make it home as often as you'd like.

**Cost.** Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond the freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships?

**Academic program.** Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors—does the college offer other programs of interest?

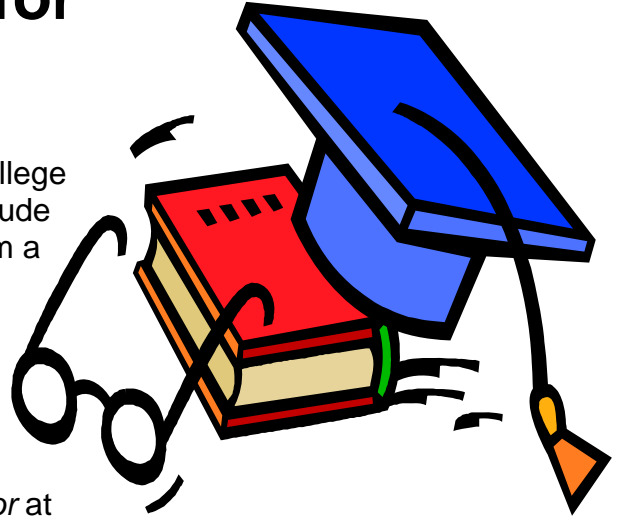
**Amount of loans required.** Use the [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) at EducationQuest.org to estimate future student loan payments.

The EducationQuest Web site features other tools that can help you make the final decision including the [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#) and the [College Comparison Calculator](#).

## Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

The financial aid award letter you received from your college indicates the loans you qualify to borrow. They may include loans you borrow directly from the school (Perkins), from a lender (Stafford Loans), or from the federal government (Direct Loans). In addition, your parents may qualify for the PLUS loan. Your college will provide borrowing procedures.

Before you borrow, estimate your future monthly loan payments using our [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) at [www.educationquest.org/calc.asp](http://www.educationquest.org/calc.asp).



The key is to borrow WISELY. Think about how debt may affect your future lifestyle. Here are some tips:

- Carefully research the college you plan to attend to make sure it's a good fit. Some students transfer to three different schools, which added additional years of school and loan debt.
- Estimate your future salary and compare it to the amount of student loans you think you will need.
- Work while you go to college and use that money to pay living expenses.
- Use your student loan money *only* for tuition, books and fees.
- Keep track of your student loan debt. Some students say that they didn't pay attention to their debt accumulation until their junior year, and then said, "It was a shock!"

## Scholarship warning...

As a junior or senior, you'll receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services. If they charge a fee, investigate them thoroughly. EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms for free and will guide you to free [scholarship search resources](#). For more information, talk to your guidance counselor or call EducationQuest at 800-666-3721.