
Wakefield School News

Volume 16 Issue 9

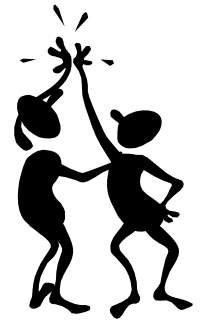
May 2010

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

A YEAR OF SUCCESSES



Great things happening at Wakefield Community School



The weather is turning nice, the days are getting longer, and the 2009-2010 school year is quickly coming to a close.

During a scheduled staff meeting, I asked teachers to reflect on the school year and tell me what they thought were some accomplishments and success stories in their classroom. Here are some of their responses.

- Mrs. Borg spoke of the envelopes being sent off to the soldiers who graduated from Wakefield serving in the military.
- Mr. Brenn said the state assessments given at the sixth grade level went well for the students.
- Mrs. Metzler was proud of her students and how they performed for the science fair. She also

credited Mrs. Amber Johnson for all of her help.

- Mrs. Johnson was pleased with how her students were reading and writing with Mrs. Gutzmann's class. A joint project was going very well between the two classrooms.
- Mrs. Carroll continues to learn more and more about the Smartboard in her classroom. She continues to incorporate it in more of her lessons.
- Mrs. Carson spoke of students starting to understand why they completed some of the assignments at the beginning of the year and how they are starting to bring what they learned all together.

Have a fun and safe summer!

- Mr. Hassler was proud of his students this year and how they performed at all of the art shows. His students brought home ten golds, four silvers, and best of show from the Lewis and Clark Conference Art Show.
- Mrs. Garwood talked about how the morning health run with the students keeps her motivated and how the Smartboard was a great addition to her classroom.
- Mr. Eaton was excited that 21 first graders were able to run the mile in less than ten minutes.
- Mrs. Vander Weil reported that all of the 11th graders passed the statewide writing assessment.
- Mrs. Eaton worked with her Smartboard more and was impressed with her students' work on their Shel Silverstein poetry unit.
- Mrs. Simmons reported that 97% of the 8th graders passed the statewide writing assessment.
- Mrs. Anderson said that her chemistry students have done well this year even though there were few in the class.
- Mr. Volk and his classes will complete all of the projects started this year before school is out!
- Mrs. Nicholson reported that the high school choir received a superior rating (I) at the district music contest.

- Mr. Trenhaile said that students participated in Class C All State Band this year. The students auditioned to be a part of the group and were selected.
- Mrs. Mitchell had success with FCCLA this year by qualifying two groups for the state convention.
- Mrs. Kaufmann said that the preschoolers are making headway and that most are making amazing progress.

As you can tell from what the teachers are saying, there are many accomplishments and successes to celebrate this year.

Administration, board working together to better student education

The administration has a couple major accomplishments to report this year. The most successful being the preschool moving to the elementary building. This year the preschool count has gone from a count of 12 students at the beginning of the year to 36 as of right now. Next year, there is a potential for over 50 students!

The administration has been working all year, along with teachers, to put on some great professional development concerning technology, reading, and ways to enhance their curriculum. Also, the principals are working on completing
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a K-12 student handbook for next year.

The school board has a couple accomplishments to report this year as well. Security has been increased at the building by adding cameras and changing the locks. Both are a passive way to make sure that your children are safe at school and the improvements made to the school are protected. The board has also invested resources in fixing the air movement problem in the gym and is

completing the track project which was approved so that the students would not have to run on the streets. To their credit, the board is about halfway done with revising and updating the school board policies.

The board also updated their goals for the district at their annual board retreat. They also hired three individuals this year, a science teacher, an elementary principal, and a superintendent.

There are so many other ways in which all of the school stakeholders (parents, students, staff, administration, school board, and patrons) have worked to better the education at Wakefield Community School. Please tell us your stories by emailing me at cwaddle@esu1.org.

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

Calendar reminders for May 2010

*Last day for SENIORS is May 11.
(Graduation Rehearsal is May 12)

*Athletic Banquet is May 11, 6:30 p.m.

*GRADUATION is Sunday, May 16, 2:30,
in the main gym.

*DISTRICT Track is May 13 @ Hartington.
STATE Track is May 21, 22 @ Omaha.

*DISTRICT Golf is May 17 @ Norfolk.
STATE Golf is May 25, 26 @ Kearney.

*Last day of school for grades PK-11 is
May 19, with an 11:30 dismissal that day.

Driver's education classes begin May 18

Driver's Education class will begin Tuesday, May 18 with Mr. Chad Metzler as the instructor. Classes will be held on May 18 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., and May 24-27, 8:00 to 1:00. The driving portion of the class will begin June 1.

Students should bring a written list of dates that may conflict with a summer driving schedule. For example, family

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vacations, jobs, summer camps, etc. Mr. Metzler will collect that information to set up driving groups and days for the summer.

The cost to each student for Driver's Education is \$200 if they attend school in the district and \$260 for non-resident students. Please make your checks payable to Wakefield Community School and bring it to the high school office no later than May 14. If the fee is not paid by May 14 the student will not be allowed to attend the class. The summer driving schedule will vary for each student, and the instructor will try to accommodate individual schedules as much as possible. It will be the responsibility of the students to work out any conflicts with the instructor in advance.

Providence Medical Center is providing scholarships for driver's education. If the student qualifies, the cost of the class

will be \$50. For more information contact the high school office.

If you have any questions please contact the high school office.

Dates are set for 2010 summer school session

Summer School sessions will tentatively begin on July 7. The tentative dates for Summer School will be July 7-9, 12-15, 19-22, and 26-29. Sessions will run from 8:30 to 12:00 at the school.

Any student in grades 7-12 are invited and encouraged to attend. It is recommended and encouraged that once the decision is made to attend summer school, the student attends as many of the 15 days as possible. The extra time in school will help improve language and math skills. This is important to give the student the skills necessary so they are more prepared for next school year.

End of the year reminders

The end of the school year is always marked by numerous activities and events. During the busy month of May, students and parents may need a few reminders:

--Students must pay all their library fines and lunch bills before being checked out for the year.

--Report Cards (for grades 7-11) will be available in the office (from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) during the week of June 1.

--There is an 11:30 dismissal on the last day of school, May 19.

--Students are reminded that their 4th quarter grades are averaged with their 3rd quarter grades in order to calculate their 2nd semester grades. This makes the last few weeks of the school year just as important as the first few weeks! Keep working hard!

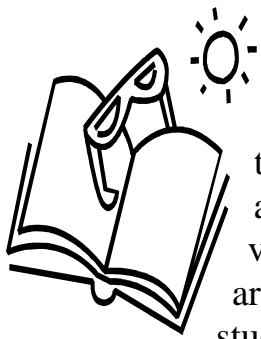


From the Principal's Pen

Jerad Wulf, K-6 Principal

It's hard to believe that my first year in Wakefield is coming to an end! It has been a year of great accomplishments and changes to support our students. As I reflect on the year, there have been many highlights that come to mind. The biggest is the relationships that I have formed with students, parents and staff members! It has been an amazing first year!

K-6 Summer school set to begin July 6



Summer School will take place during July. Students are referred by their teachers and administration based on various factors. There are 40 spots available for students in grades K-6.

Our summer school sessions will begin at 8:30 and conclude at 12:00. Lunch will not be served but a snack will be provided. Students are strongly encouraged to attend every day we are in session. For those students who attend, an incentive will take place on the 15th or 16th day. Below is the summer school schedule:

- July 6, 7, 8, 9
- July 12, 13, 14, 15
- July 19, 20, 21, 22
- July 26, 27, 28, 29

Students demonstrate speaking skills

If I were president...

Wakefield students demonstrated their public speaking skills during the Modern Woodmen of American speech contest held April 15. This year's topic was "If I were president..."

Students wrote a speech and shared it with the student body, staff, and judges. Brianna Samuelson took first place in the local contest, with Taryn Hingst coming in second and Heidi Borg placing third. Each of them received a plaque and a gold award pin, and their names will be engraved on the school's speech contest plaque. Gold award pins were also given to the next six ranking finalists: Josephine Peitz, Tiffany Saquique, Megan Muller, Zachary Pommer, Rachel Backman, and Megan Borg.

Brianna went on to take second place at the district contest held April 22 at Wakefield, and competed in the regional contest on April 30 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Information night...

On April 22, parents and Wakefield staff had a meeting in the Library Media Center to discuss changes for the upcoming school year. Information was presented regarding staffing, scheduling, curriculum and departmentalization.

During this meeting we also discussed ways to communicate with parents. One possible suggestion is to encourage parent participation by establishing a parent group. At this time, the specifics have not been identified.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact the elementary office.

Family math night

Family Math Night was held May 6 at Wakefield Elementary School in collaboration with Wayne State College. Several college students conducted a number of math activities for pre-kindergarten through 6th grade students, and snacks were provided. Parents were also welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events

Fun Day



Fun Day 2010 will look a little different this year.

We will be conducting our activities for

students in grades PK-6 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at dismissal time (11:30 a.m.) on May 19. Many activities are scheduled for that day and families are invited and encouraged to attend. Please be sure your child has sun-screen on and is prepared for the day.

Assembly

On May 18, 2010 at 2:30 in the Main Gym we will be having an assembly to honor our students and to reflect on the 2009-2010 school year.



Students will be honored for their hard work, attendance and pro-social skills. Some students and staff may also have a few surprises to share.

We would love to have you attend!



REPORT to PARENTS

Keep Kids Learning During the Summer

By forgetting about learning during the lazy days of summer, you're actually harming your child's education. Children lose a shocking amount of what they've already learned if they're allowed to "veg out" during the summer. That means that the kids who put forth just a little bit of effort are going to be way ahead come fall. You owe it to them—and to their futures—to incorporate learning activities into their summers.

- **You've got to have "the talk."** Before the last school bell rings for the year, sit down with your children and let them know that reading and learning activities will be an important part of their summer. Assure them that they'll still have lots of time for play and relaxation.
- **Find activity books to exercise their minds.** There is a huge variety of activity books available, usually catered to specific age groups. Give your children their own activity book, and let them work at their own pace to finish it. (Set a "due by" date to keep them on track.) Crossword puzzles, math activity books, and number puzzles all keep children's brains in motion.
- **Set a reading time every day.** Set aside a certain time every day where everyone turns off the computer, TV, music, and video games, and spends 15 minutes or more reading. (As busy as parents are, it's important that you participate as well, even if you just read the newspaper.)
- **Get great recommendations on books for your child.** Check out the American Library Association's lists on Summer Reading and Learning for Children at www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsum

merreadinec.ommendedreading.htm.

Be sure to sign your kids up for library summer book clubs, too!

- **Be "international."** Set aside nights during the summer to have an international evening. Together, find recipes from a different nation and put together a special meal. Learn a few basic words in that country's language and find a children's book or an encyclopedia article that gives information on life in that country. Get out a world map or a globe and show them where the country is and talk about what you'd want to visit if you could go there.
- **Incorporate "thinking" into traveling.** If your family is able to take a vacation during the summer, include stops at a few places that sneak in learning, along with fun. Zoos, children's museums, and historic sites are educational and entertaining. For bonus learning, have your children help you plot out the trip using maps or an atlas. Older children can tally up the miles, keep track of expenses, or figure out gas mileage.
- **Participate in sports/exercise.** With hours of free time every day, there's always time to build in some physical activity. Even if your child can't participate in a local sports league there are plenty of ways to get exercise—from jumping rope to family walks.

There are wonderful resources available through schools, libraries, and on the Internet to help families keep their children's brains "alive" during the dog days of summer. The payoff, in terms of their education, is beyond measure.



INFORME a los PADRES

Siga Enseñándole a sus Niños Durante el Verano

Al dejar a un lado el aprendizaje de sus hijos durante los relajados días de verano, usted está perjudicando su educación. Cuando los padres permiten que sus niños flojeen durante el verano, los niños pierden mucho de lo que han aprendido durante el año escolar. Esto quiere decir que los niños que se esfuerzan un poco durante el verano tendrán ventaja al iniciar el semestre. Para el bien de ellos y su futuro, incorpore actividades de aprendizaje durante las vacaciones de verano.

- Converse con ellos. Antes de que la campana suene anunciando el final del año escolar, siéntese con sus hijos y hágales saber que actividades de aprendizaje y lectura serán muy importantes durante las vacaciones de verano. También asegúreles que aun tendrán mucho tiempo para jugar y descansar.
- Busque libros con actividades que estimulen sus mentes. Hay una gran variedad de libros de actividades para niños de todas edades. Déle a cada uno de sus niños su propio libro de actividades, y permita que trabajen a su propio paso hasta terminarlo. (Fije una fecha límite para que sigan un itinerario). Los rompecabezas, crucigramas, libros de actividades matemáticas, y rompecabezas numéricos, aseguran que los niños ejerciten la mente.
- Establezca una hora diaria para la lectura. Asigne una hora determinada para que sus hijos apaguen la computadora, televisión, música, y videojuegos, y dediquen unos 15 minutos o más a la lectura. (A pesar de que los padres pueden estar muy ocupados, es importante que usted también participe, aunque sea leyendo el periódico).
- Averigüe cuáles libros son recomendados para niños. Revise las listas de libros y actividades de aprendizaje para el verano de la Asociación Norteamericana de Bibliotecas en: www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsummerreading/recommendedreading.htm. ¡No se olvide de inscribir a sus niños en el club de lectura de verano en la biblioteca pública!
- Sea “internacional”. Reserve una o dos noches durante el verano para preparar una velada internacional. Busquen en familia, recetas de diferentes países y preparen un menú especial. Aprendan algunas palabras básicas del lenguaje de cada país y busquen un libro para niños o una enciclopedia con artículos que proporcionen información sobre el estilo de vida propio del país. Saque un mapa o un globo terráqueo y muéstreles la ubicación del país y converse acerca de los lugares que le gustaría visitar.
- Haga que los viajes sean parte de sus proyectos. Si su familia puede tomar vacaciones durante el verano, incluya paradas en diferentes lugares que combinen el aprendizaje con el recreo. Los zoológicos, museos para niños, y sitios históricos son tanto educativos como entretenidos. Para que aprendan más, haga que los niños planeen el viaje utilizando mapas o un atlas. Los niños mayores pueden calcular el total de millas que viajarán, mantener los gastos, y calcular el costo de la gasolina por milla.
- Participe en ejercicios/deportes. Ya que contará con varias horas libres cada día, siempre habrá tiempo para algunas actividades físicas. Aunque su niño no pueda participar en una liga de deportes local o un equipo comunitario, hay muchas otras maneras de hacer ejercicio—desde brincar la cuerda hasta paseos familiares.

Para ayudar a las familias a mantener las mentes de los niños “estimuladas” durante los sofocantes días de verano, hay muchos recursos disponibles a través de las escuelas, bibliotecas, y el Internet. Aunque usted tenga que esforzarse un poco, vale la pena ya que los beneficios a la educación de sus niños son invaluable.



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

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.

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

Grants are typically based on financial need and do not have to be paid back. An example is the Pell Grant. Eligibility often depends on your FAFSA results.

Scholarships are based on achievement or talent and also do not need to be paid back.

Loans must be paid back, with interest. There are federal student loans, federal parent loans and private loans. The good news is that interest rates for federal student and parent loans are at historic lows. However, you must demonstrate financial need for some loans, like the Perkins Loan.

Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. Jobs are available on and off campus and listed through the school's financial aid office. Here are some more helpful tips:

- Carefully research the college you plan to attend to make sure it's a good fit. Transferring to three different schools will add 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. Don't wait until you graduate to find out how much money you owe.

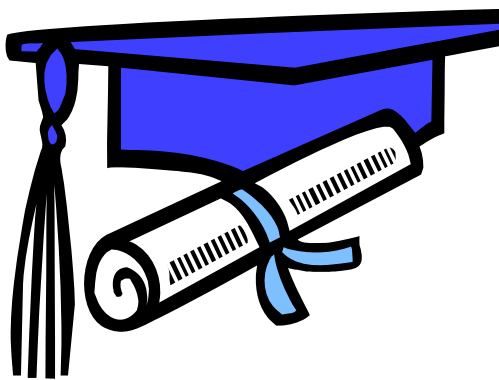
Summertime is planning time for juniors

Juniors...summer is the time for serious college planning. Here are your assignments:

- Start narrowing your college choices. Tour a few schools this summer. Visit EducationQuest and search the Internet for information about colleges that interest you.
- Update your [Activities Resume](#) on the EducationQuest web site. Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards and part-time jobs.
- Identify teachers and coaches who will write letters of recommendation for you—you'll need them for admission and scholarship applications.
- Look for scholarships. Free resources include your guidance counselor and *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org, which has over 1,500 local and statewide scholarships. Pay attention to the scholarships seniors are earning.
- Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses. Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.

May “To Do” List for Seniors

- ___ Apply for student loans, if necessary
- ___ Register for freshmen orientation
- ___ Start a list of dorm room essentials



Graduation
May 16 – 2:30 p.m

Parents Advised On How To Detect Communications Disorders In Their Children

Group Uses May's Better Hearing and Speech Month To Get The Word Out To Parents About Speech, Language, and Hearing Problems

(Rockville, MD - May 12, 2008)

Although more than 5 million children in the United States have a speech, language, and hearing disorder, parents are often uninformed and unsure about what to do when they suspect their child. This May, and every May since 1927, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has used the May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) celebration to provide parents with information about communication disorders to help ensure that they do not seriously affect their children's ability to learn, socialize with others, and be successful in school.

Speech and language problems can occur at any time in a child's life. They can be caused by accidental injury, illness, or inherited by birth. Child speech and language problems include:

- Stuttering
- Articulation problems ("wabbit" instead of "rabbit")
- Language disorders such as the slow development of vocabulary, concepts, and grammar.
- Voice disorders (nasal, breathy, or horse voice and speech that is too high or low)

Parents who suspect their child has a communication disorder should see an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist. These professionals identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems including swallowing disorders. Speech-language pathologists work in schools, private practice, hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, health departments, research laboratories, and other health education settings.

"Fortunately, most children with speech, language, and hearing problems can be helped," according to Catherine Gottfred, PhD, speech-language pathologist and ASHA President. "Even if the problem cannot be eliminated, we can teach the child strategies to help them cope with their communication disorders, or provide them with the appropriate technology. By promoting Better Hearing and Speech Month, we hope parents will learn about communication disorders, what they can do to help their children, and how speech-language pathologists and audiologists can help with their child's communication disorders."

Meanwhile, hearing loss, like speech and language problems, can have a negative impact on a child's social and academic development. Communication disorders like hearing loss in children can occur at birth or as a child grows older due to chronic ear infections or exposure

to noise. The earlier hearing loss occurs in a child's life, the more serious the effects have on the child's development.

Typical signs of a hearing loss in children include:

- Inconsistently responding to sound
- Delayed language and speech development
- Unclear speech
- Sound is turned up on electronic equipment (radio, TV, cd player, etc.)
- Does not follow directions
- Often says "Huh?"
- Does not respond when called
- Frequently misunderstands what is said and wants things repeated



As a first step, people who think their child is displaying many of these warning signs and think they may have hearing loss or other hearing disorders should see a certified audiologist. These professionals specialize in preventing, identifying, assessing, and treating hearing disorders. Also, they provide treatment for hearing loss including fitting hearing aids and other assistive listening devices, and they can teach children with hearing loss how to concentrate on hearing all sounds.

ASHA recommends that children at risk for hearing loss, such as those who suffer from chronic ear infections or in cases where there is a family history of hearing loss, be screened by a certified audiologist as frequently as needed to ensure they are hearing well. Otherwise, for children ages 5-18, hearing screenings should occur on initial entry into school and annually in kindergarten through 3rd grade as well as in the 7th and 11th grades.

Parents who think their children may have a speech, language, or hearing disorder or know of a loved one who has a communication disorder should access [ProSearch](#), ASHA's online directory of audiology and speech-language pathology programs, to find an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist or audiologist in their area.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for more than 130,000 audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists. For free information or to locate an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist or audiologists, consumers may call 800-638-8255 or visit www.asha.org.