
Wakefield School News

Volume 15 Issue 4

December 2008

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

PROGRESS SHARED

Public joins in discussion

District priorities outlined at meeting

The Wakefield Community School Board of Education held a public meeting on Nov. 2 at ESU#1 in Wakefield. The purpose of the meeting was to share the progress towards addressing current district facility priorities and to update on the track and field project. The agenda included facility needs of the Wakefield Community School District: Board of Education Facility Priorities, Track and Field Project, Timeline, Costs and a question/answer session.

The Board of Education Facility Priorities are: Track and Field facility; Main Gym (air movement, floor, lights, paint); District Transportation (replacement of 15 passenger vans; bus barn facility); School building safety and security; Maintenance

plan for facilities. (Note: Work is being conducted for preparation of each of these projects simultaneously but due to funding sources, not all projects will be undertaken at the same time).

The Track and Field project is a priority due to student safety. The Board wants to provide a safe place not just for track athletes but for physical education classes as well. This project will be a benefit to the school and to the community. For more information on the facility meeting, visit the school website homepage, click on the "Administration" tab, and then click on "Superintendent" (left hand column of the page). An article called "District Facility Priorities" was written that explains more detail.



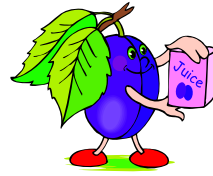
Wakefield Community Schools wishes you a safe and
happy holiday season!

*A reminder that school will be dismissed at 2 p.m. on December 23 and resumes on
Monday, January 5, 2009*

‘Juice Alive’ offers students healthy snack choice

Last month, the Wakefield Community School added a new product to the lunchroom as an optional “snack.” High school students are able to purchase “Juice Alive” as either a four ounce or eight ounce drink. Elementary students only have the option of the four ounce drink that may be purchased for fifty cents. Juice Alive is 100% frozen fruit juice; it has no added sugars and contains zero grams of fat. View additional information at www.juicealive.com.

Our school lunch program provides meals that meet strict state and federal nutritional requirements on a daily basis. We provide supplemental snacks that students may purchase in the lunch room,



with all proceeds utilized in the lunch program. During the first few weeks, the frozen juice has been very popular with students. Juice selections include blue raspberry, strawberry kiwi, green watermelon, or fruit punch, among others. The reason we have added this optional selection to our snack menu is to provide a healthier choice for students. Our school lunch program provides quality meals at an economical cost for students. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Foote, Food Service director.

Bill Heimann, Superintendent

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

‘Between’ time counts at school and at home

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 were three to four weeks during which no extra-curricular events 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.



Reminders



**We have 2-hour late-starts on Dec. 1 and Dec. 15.*

**The Music Boosters will be celebrating "A Festival of Trees" on Sunday, Dec. 7 in the main gym. Contact a music booster, or check out the school website, for more details.*

**The high school music concert will be Dec. 16.*

**Parent's Night for Basketball will be Dec. 19.*

**We have a 2:00 dismissal on Dec. 23 for Christmas Break. Classes resume with a regular schedule on January 5, 2009.*

*And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow,
stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be
so? It came without ribbons. It came without
tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags.
And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was
sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.*



~Dr. Seuss



From the Principal's Pen

Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal

A focus on writing

Wakefield Elementary teachers are part of a unique process of Professional Development this school year. Educators from around the country take part in thousands of excellent workshops and conferences each school year. Attending these activities provide teachers with a wealth of information, knowledge, skills, and strategies they can bring back and utilize with their students. Attending a one or two day training is a great way to take the first step in mastering a strategy to use with students. The reality, however, is that teachers still need additional support as they begin to implement the various ideas they learn from taking part in these.

To address this issue, Wakefield teachers and administrators invited a consultant to conduct the "initial" training that teachers would receive at any conference or workshop, but continue to provide support by coming back several times during our late starts. This type of Professional Development is referred to as "job-embedded" staff development, where organizations bring consultants who

"specialize" in a set of skills to guide and facilitate the implementation of programs.

Nancy Sharp Wagner has spent one full day with elementary teachers and several late starts so far working with teachers on a variety of topics related to writing, such as: analyzing student data, creating a year-long writing plan, zooming in on and adding details, writing personal narratives, etc. She has also spent time in classrooms demonstrating lessons for the teachers.

Educational writing consultant and author Nancy Sharp Wagner, aka N. L. Sharp, loves to share her enthusiasm and knowledge about writing and the writing process with students and teachers. A native Nebraskan who graduated from Ponca High School, Nancy is the author of three picture books for children. TODAY I'M GOING FISHING WITH MY DAD was a nominee for Nebraska's Golden Sower Award in 1995-1996. THE RING BEAR, illustrated by Wakefield art teacher Michael Hassler Jr., was named the 2003 winner in Nebraska's Center for the Book



Award program in the children's category. Her newest book, EFFIE'S IMAGE, was named a 2006 Teachers' Choice Award winner by Learning Magazine and was a nominee for Nebraska's Golden Sower Award in 2007-2008.

Nancy has a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree from the University of NE-Lincoln and a Library Media

endorsement from the University of NE-Omaha. Nancy has been a classroom teacher for the Fremont, Nebraska, Public Schools, and a classroom teacher, a READ (Reading, Enrichment, and Development) teacher, an Instructional Facilitator, and a Library Media Specialist for the Millard Public School District in Omaha, Nebraska.

Progress Reports

The end of the 2nd Quarter is almost upon us. Elementary progress reports were sent out on Wednesday, November 26. The elementary will be sending report cards home on Monday, January 12. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about their performance. The quarter/semester ends on Friday, December 23.

Important Dates

Monday, December 1 – 2-hour late start – teacher in-service
Tuesday, December 23 – 2:00 dismissal; end of the 1st Semester
Monday, January 5 – School resumes
Wednesday, January 14 – Report cards sent home

~ If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders. ~ Abigail Van Buren



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.

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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 2008 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



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- *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 give 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.

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WAKEFIELD SCHOOL WEBSITE

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