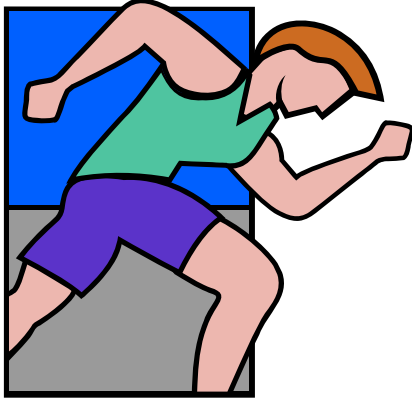

Wakefield School News

Volume 15 Issue 7

March 2009

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

TRACK UPDATE



Wakefield track project progressing

The Wakefield track project is progressing. The timeline has adjusted slightly since last month. Contractors are currently in the process of submitting bids, which

will be accepted until 2:00pm on Thursday, March 12. At that time the sealed bids will be opened. We will consult with our architect to review the bids and ensure that the lowest bidder has met all of the requirements for the project. A special Board of Education meeting

will be held March 16, 2009 to award the construction contracts. Once the Board selects contractors, and all necessary contract documents are complete, the actual work on the project will begin as soon as the weather is favorable.

May 22 will be last day for students

The month of February has provided better weather conditions. We are planning to have the last day of school for students on Friday, May 22. Although we could still have snowstorms in March or April, hopefully it will not cause the cancellation of school.

School districts are required by the state to educate students for a minimum number of instructional hours each year.

Wakefield School will meet those requirements by extending our school calendar for students to May 22.

Happy  St. Patrick's Day

Post-prom committee working hard to prepare for fun-filled evening

Due to the current economic uncertainty that we are facing, I want to applaud the Wakefield Post-Prom Parent Committee for recognizing the strain fundraising places upon our local community. This committee spends countless hours planning and preparing for a safe and fun evening for Wakefield students. These parents also recognize that the purpose of the night is to have fun. The money that is raised through the concession stands at school events will support a

positive post-prom event. If the quantity of prizes this year is less than the past years due to fewer solicitations, it will not detract from the event. Students will still have a fun-filled evening, and the school appreciates all of the hard work done by the parents. We would not be able to make it a success without the parents and the support of the community.

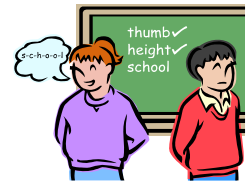
Dr. Bill Heimann, Superintendent



From the Principal's Pen

Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal

Wakefield spellers advance to county competition



Wakefield Republican sponsors event, awards prizes

The Wakefield Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Twenty-three students participated in the bee. 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 23 best scores were selected to compete in the contest. To begin the competition, contestants drew numbers in order to determine their order of participation. The champion of this year's contest was 7th grade student Samantha Bierbower. The runner-up in the competition was Alex Conley. The following students qualified for the county competition: Samantha Bierbower, Alex Conley, Ryan Bodlak, Alyssa Oetken, and Brenda Gallardo.

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The Wakefield Republican once again sponsored this year's competition and donated prizes to the class winners. Samantha Bierbower, the overall winner and 7th grade class winner, received a plaque and a \$50 savings bond. The other class winners received medals and 5 Wakefield dollars: Yesenia Ibarra (5th), Alex Conley (6th), and Levi Schincke (8th).

Mrs. VanderWeil pronounced for this

year's contest and Mr. Jacobsen, Ms. Tello, and Mrs. Youngmeyer served as judges.

The top five overall place winners competed in the County Spelling Bee held at Northeast Station in Concord on Tuesday, February 17. Ryan Bodlak won the county competition and Alex Conley placed third. Ryan will now participate in the Midwest Spelling Bee on March 14 in Omaha.



Wakefield Spelling Bee County Qualifiers

Terra Nova testing for 4th, 6th grades

Students asked to get plenty of rest, eat well, avoid appointments

During the week of March 30-April 3, the 4th and 6th grades will be administered the Terra Nova. The Terra Nova is a norm-referenced standardized achievement test designed to measure the basic skills that are taught in schools. The test measures performance in the following categories: Reading/Language Arts, Word Analysis, Vocabulary, Language Mechanics, Spelling, Mathematics, Mathematics Computation, Science and Social Studies. There are several things that parents can do to help ensure that their child will do his/her best. The following suggestions will be helpful:

- Adequate rest is an essential component of your child doing well in school. Be sure that your child gets plenty of sleep during this week.
- Having a full belly also has an impact on student performance. Making sure that your child eats a good, healthy breakfast will help his/her concentration throughout this series of tests.
- Send a snack to school with your child this week. Providing nourishment at mid-morning and mid-afternoon will also help ensure that your child is mentally focused and able to concentrate for an extended period of time.
- Check your calendar and try to schedule any appointments that you may have around this time. Students do have to make up any test they miss, so being present during this week will make the coming weeks easier on your child. Rescheduling tests can often times take students out of the activities they enjoy doing.

Wakefield Community School Kindergarten Round-Up Friday, March 27, 2009

Eligible children must turn 5 before Oct. 15, 2009

**Parents & Children with last names beginning A- J
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**Parents & Children with last names beginning K-Z
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**For more information call
287-9892**

Other Important Dates



Monday, March 2 – Casual Pictures

Friday, March 6 – No School (Spring Break)

Monday, March 9 – 2-Hour Late Start (Teacher In-Service)

Wednesday, March 18 – End of 3rd Quarter

Monday, March 23 – 2-Hour Late Start (Teacher In-Service)

Wednesday, March 25 – Report Cards Sent Home With Students

Report Cards

The 3rd quarter officially ends on March 18. Third quarter report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, March 25 with the students. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions concerning grades or your child's performance.

*~ There are never
moments of
failure, only
moments of
learning ~*

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 sophomore Christian Gallardo qualifying for the State Wrestling Tournament in Omaha. Congratulations to Christian!

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!

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Speech season nearly complete



The Wakefield Speech Team consists of 3 returning varsity speech team members, with the remaining students being “novice” members. The varsity team took runner-up at the Wakefield speech meet, with the “novice,” or “JV” team winning champion honors. The JV team also took 3rd place at the Battle Creek speech meet. The Wakefield Speech Team performed in the Lewis and Clark Conference Speech Meet in Allen on Saturday, February 28. The team is looking forward to district competition on March 4 at Wayne State College. Good luck to the Wakefield Speech Team!

8th graders and parents encouraged to attend orientation on March 2

Parents of current 8th graders...there will be a meeting for students and parents in order to register for freshmen classes. This meeting will provide a chance for parents and students to learn about the scheduling process, as well as learn about the difference between junior high and high school. Some of the topics of discussion that evening include attendance requirements, graduation requirements, planning for college, figuring GPA's, etc. All 8th graders, and parents of 8th graders, are welcome and encouraged to attend. *This meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2.* Please contact the school if you have any questions.

*» No school on March 6. 2-hour late starts on
March 9 and March 23*

*» The last day of the 3rd quarter has been
changed to March 18. Report cards will go
home on March 25.*

*» Prom is April 4, with the Grand March
beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the main gym.*

2009 Statewide Parent Involvement Conference March 21 at Ralston

Parents are invited to attend the 2009 Statewide Parent Involvement Conference, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at Ralston High School. This conference is the embodiment of a statewide effort to energize parents and school officials to work together more effectively to help raise kids that are ready and eager to learn.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Scott Poland, a nationally certified psychologist and a nationally recognized speaker/facilitator. Dr. Poland will talk about identifying high-risk behaviors, preventing your child from engaging in high-risk behaviors, suicide prevention, and parenting tips for today's world.

Parents interested in attending this conference are asked to contact Mr. Patzel or Mr. Jacobsen (287-9892), and they will make arrangements for you to attend. Additional information concerning the conference is available online at <http://www.ralstonschools.org>.



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Check out the new 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.

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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. Follow these tips for successful campus visits.

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.

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College Profiles can help with college search

Find information about Midwest colleges in the [College Profiles](#) section at EducationQuest.org.

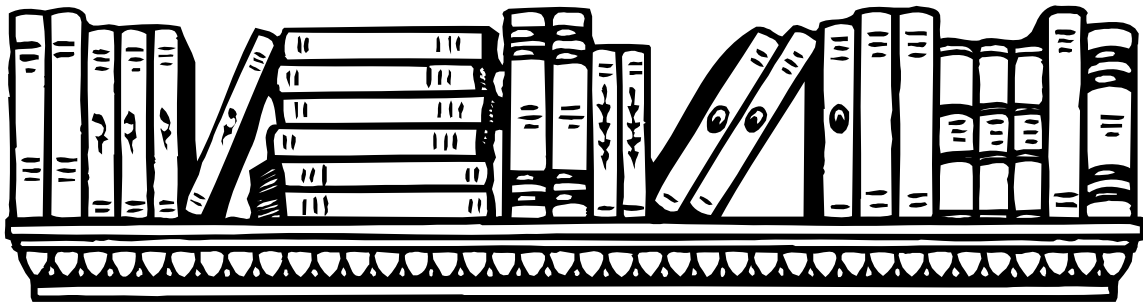
March “To Do” List

Seniors

- ___ If you haven't already done so, complete your FAFSA!
- ___ Expect college acceptance letters during March and April.
- ___ Continue applying for scholarships.

ACT Preparation Workshop

Northeast Community College offers an ACT Preparation Workshop on March 21, 2009. The cost is \$25. If you're interested please pick up an application form from the guidance office.



The object of education is to
prepare the young to educate
themselves throughout their
lives.

~ Robert Maynard Hutchins