
Wakefield School News

Volume 15 Issue 2

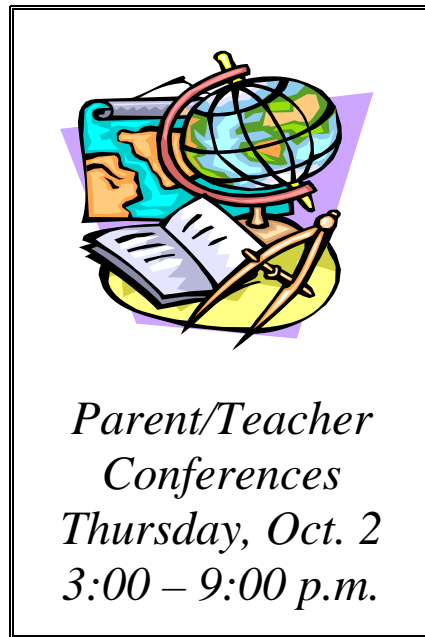
October 2008

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BUDGET HEARING HELD

Resources support student learning

The Wakefield Board of Education held a hearing for the 2008-2009 budget on September 15, 2008. The priorities of the Wakefield Board of Education are reflected in the resources allocated to support student learning. The annual budget of the school district supports the ability to provide a quality education to our students. The Nebraska statutes require that boards of education hold a public hearing prior to acting upon the annual budget. The total budget of disbursements and transfers approved for this year is \$7,007,992. Revenue is received from federal, state, and local sources. The total local property tax request for 2008-09 is \$2,334,882. This includes payments



for bonds on the Activity Center and past roof replacement projects.

The total tax levy for the new budget year will be \$1.090238 per \$100 of assessed property value. This represents a total levy reduction of 2.68 cents from last year. The district's assessed property value increased by 10.4% (Wayne County 8.63% increase;

Dixon County 11.38% increase; Thurston County 12.52% increase). The rise in property valuations allows us to decrease the tax levy while continuing to offer a high quality, comprehensive education to the children of Wakefield.

Board hosting public meeting on track, field project

The Wakefield Board of Education is planning to host a public meeting to inform district patrons of the status of the track and field project.

The tentative date is Sunday, November 2. The meeting location and time will be published in the Wakefield Republican.



Summer projects on school website

www.wakefieldschools.org



Recently, I wrote an article for the school website detailing projects that occurred during the summer of 2008. There were many improvements to the Wakefield Community School facilities. Each year, specific projects are identified in an effort to continually update our educational facilities. The planning occurs years in advance, and as district funds are available, facility improvements are initiated. The projects include over \$80,000 in improvements. To read the complete story and view photographs, go to the school website homepage, click on the “Administration” tab, then click on “superintendent” on the left hand column.

Bill Heimann, Superintendent

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

Parent/Teacher Conferences Oct. 2

First Quarter Ends Oct. 17

Positive atmosphere reflected in students

I am reminded again what a positive atmosphere we have at Wakefield Community Schools. I try to attend most of the monthly Community Club meetings, and we usually bring 1 or 2 students from our school's FBLA organization to these meetings. Not only do I usually have some sort of story about our students' positive behaviors, the students themselves always portray a positive image when they stand up in front of the people at the meeting and speak well of our school.

That is a tribute to the students and also to you as parents.

The teachers and I are still gathering “Positive Action” slips for the drawings that take place throughout the school year. Each student whose name appears, even once, in the drawing will be recognized, and students whose names are drawn out (approximately 8 names will be drawn) will also receive a special prize. In addition, the student whose name appears the most often will also receive special recognition.

We started this last year...ask your children for more details!

All students invited to after school program

Our After-School Program is also in full swing. Mrs. Sievers will be working with students from 3:45 until 5:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. All students are invited to attend these sessions if they need any assistance with schoolwork, or even if they just need the time and place to finish their homework. This time can be especially beneficial for junior high students who may need help learning study skills that will be essential upon entering high school. Please feel free to call the school if you have any questions about this program.

Upcoming events

**Homecoming Week is Oct. 6-10, with CORONATION taking place in the main gym on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7.



Coronation is tentatively scheduled for 7:00 p.m., but may be pushed to 8:00 p.m. Watch the website for more details.

**We have 2-hour late-starts on October 6 and October 20.

**The Wakefield Balloon Festival is Oct. 17-19.

**NHS Induction Ceremony is October 22.



From the Principal's Pen *Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal*

~ Parents and teachers provide the tools with which students build their futures. ~

Conferences help parents, teachers connect

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, October 2 from 3pm-9pm. A conference schedule was sent home with your child/children. Please review it and let Mrs. Anderson or Mr. Patzel know if the selected time does not work and we'll make the necessary adjustments.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come and visit with your child's teacher. Research shows that children whose parents are actively involved with their education achieve at higher levels in school. Parents and teachers that work together greatly enhance a student's ability to do well in school. Together, they can share insight with each other and create plans that can be implemented in both school and home. When parents and teachers work together, children develop a positive attitude toward school, feel proud of the achievements, and simply enjoy school to a much greater level. We look forward to seeing you on the 2nd!

Elementary after school program underway

The After School Program started on September 16 and runs from 3:35-5:00. Currently, there are approximately 28 students participating in the program. During this time students are involved in reading, math, and enrichment activities. Mrs. Cathy Hoffart is teaching students in the first, second, and third grades. Ms. Brenda Tello is teaching students in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Please contact the school if you would like your child to participate in this program.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Wakefield Library Media Center during the week of September 29 – October 2. The Book Fair will also be open during Parent/Teacher Conferences, which gives you an excellent opportunity to stop in and see if there is any reading material you can add to your child's home library



Important Dates

Monday, September 29 - Thursday, October 2 – Scholastic Book Fair

Thursday, October 2 – **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Friday, October 3 – **No School**

Monday, October 6 – 2-hour Late Start – Teacher In-service

Friday, October 17 – End of 1st Quarter; **Balloon Festival Assembly @ 2:30**

Monday, October 20 – 2-hour Late Start – Teacher In-service

Monday, November 17 – 2-hour Late Start – Teacher In-service

If there is

a better

solution....

find it!





From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Seniors...have you visited your top colleges?

If you haven't done so already, visit your top college choices *soon* as application deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these tips for a successful visit:

Contact the admissions office at least two weeks in advance to schedule your visit. Make appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in the area of study that interests you. Ask about an overnight stay.

Visit while school is in session. You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.

Attend a freshman-level class. Notice how students interact with the instructor, and how the class is structured.

Read the campus newspaper and posters to get an idea of activities and hot campus issues.

Ask LOTS of questions.

If you can't visit, check out the school's website. You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information and campus photos or a virtual tour.

Don't pay for scholarship searches! Use free resources including *ScholarshipQuest* at www.educationquest.org; www.fastweb.com; www.fastaid.com; www.srnexpress.com and www.scholarships.com.

Check our school's website daily. New scholarships are added on a regular basis.

Get organized. Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local and college-specific scholarships 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 www.educationquest.org.

Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.

Use quality references such as a teacher, coach, counselor or principal. 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.

Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness. Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

We are pleased to announce the launch of an exciting, innovative new resource- www.college.gov. College.gov was designed by students for students and features first-person accounts of students who overcame challenges to going to college such as peer pressure, lack of family support, and financial barriers. It provides relevant, comprehensive information about why to go, how to go, and how to pay for college or other postsecondary education programs. Young people who may not have considered higher education a viable option will be engaged, informed, and inspired to create their own "roadmap" to college.

What things do admissions counselors look for in applications?

Schools are looking for someone who will be successful and a good fit for their particular university. Grades are important, test scores are important, and the classes that you take in high school are also very important. These are the standard requirements to get in.

If the class is limited to only 1,500 students and the school receives 10,000 applications, they have to turn down most of them. If everyone had the same GPA and the same test scores and took similar classes, it would be difficult for college admission counselors to choose new students. This is why they look for someone who is a good "fit" for their campus.

The criteria for finding a good "fit" can vary depending on the type of school you are applying to. Being original and standing out as an individual are important. When admissions counselors read a large number of essays, they often begin to sound alike. Spend some time on your writing, be creative, and get someone to look at your essay.

Avoid spelling errors or grammar mistakes. This kind of slip-up could be the deciding factor that makes a reviewer pass over to the next essay.

Another thing that is very important is that you be well-rounded. Do some research to see what kind of school you are applying to and what the average student is like at that school.

Don't be afraid to talk about all the things that you do and have done. Get used to talking about yourself. That is the key to getting in where you want.

What are some common mistakes students make?

The most common mistakes are that students miss deadlines, they don't read the application, and/or they leave out important documents or pieces of the application. These kinds of mistakes can cost you your chance at admission or delay your paperwork. Such errors can also be a sign that you may not be that serious about attending, and that you don't pay attention to detail.

Make a checklist for every application you are filling out. Include deadlines and requirements for each school. This will help keep you organized. Also, spelling mistakes are the worst. Proofread your applications and get someone else to help edit them. Make sure that if you are using the same basic essay for many schools that you tailor it to each school. Some admissions offices see applications come in with a cover letter or essay written for another school. This is a big mistake.

Internet Sources

Parents, please remind your college bound son or daughter to spend some time researching scholarships on the internet. Here are some helpful web sites for scholarships and career exploration:

educationquest.org	adventuresineducation.org
fastweb.org	learnlink.org
scholarships.com	mapping-your-future.org
freschinfo.com	
collegeboard.com	
fastaid.com	

Don't forget that colleges award numerous scholarships to their incoming students. Some college applications are a scholarship application as well but many still require a separate application.

