

RAISING A READER

TAKE ALONG YOUR
CHILD'S FAVORITE BOOKS
WHEREVER YOU GO.
READ IN THE CAR,
WAITING IN LINE AT THE
STORE, OR IN WAITING
ROOMS. MAKE READING A
PRIORITY!



HOMWORK HEROES!!

You may have noticed some changes in your child's classroom homework requirements as we work to increase homework expectations around the school. Teachers in all grades have been asked to send homework home regularly throughout the school week. Although specific classroom expectations will vary around the school, parents should expect to see work sent home Monday through Thursday evenings.

Homework is designed to build responsibility, reinforce important academic skills, and allow parents to see what we're covering at school. Homework should be age appropriate and meaningful. It should take around 10-15 minutes for our younger students to complete and 15-30 for our older students. Students will be held accountable

at school each day for completing and returning their homework.

During third quarter, we will be rewarding those students who complete and return their homework with our **Homework Heroes!** program. Students who complete and return their homework each day for the week will be eligible to choose a prize on Friday. We will also recognize those students who are able to complete and return homework without fail throughout third quarter.

If you have questions about or need help with your child's homework, do not hesitate to call or e-mail your child's teacher.

CENTRAL GRADUATES HIGHLIGHT

DR. TERRY AND ERIN BECKER

Dr. Terry Becker and his wife, Erin, were born and raised in Kearney Nebraska. He is now a family practice doctor at Kearney Clinic. Erin taught preschool for 9 years and is now a stay at home mom and community volunteer. They have four children, 6-year old triplets Faith, Anthony and Michaela and four year old Isaac. Erin attended Central Elementary from 2nd grade on. "I loved Central, but not at first. I moved from Northeast Elementary and did not want to leave my friends. I was very sad and cried every morning. I even locked my sister out of the car and refused to open the car and get out. After many weeks I began to love Central. I remember Mr. D.J. the P.E. teacher, and how he taught us to do all sorts

of jump rope tricks. (Fourth grade teacher), Mrs. Bailey was my favorite teacher. One of my favorite memories of school at Central was 6th grade international days. We picked a country to write a report on, make the country's flag, and present it dressed up in that country's clothing. I had Ireland and we made food for everyone. Another great memory of Central was when we would walk over to Mr. Reddy's old-fashioned penny candy store after school. Central holds a very special place in my heart. My mom attended Jr. High there and both of my sisters went to Central as well. It is such a beautiful building with many wonderful school day memories."

COUNSELOR'S CORNER: TERESA CORDES, CENTRAL ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR

In our guidance lessons, we have been learning about bullying. There are three types of bullying that we have discussed: physical, verbal, and emotional. Our lessons explore the different roles of bully, target, and bystanders and how we all play a part in stopping bullying from happening. Recently, a group of fourth graders attended a "Kids CAN Stop Bullying" Workshop to learn how to identify and address bullying. Our goal is to have a school where we all feel safe, respected, and take responsibility for our actions.

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY PAC MEETING NOTES

The Central Elementary PAC met on Thursday, November 13th at noon in the school media center.

-Treasurer's Report

Deli and Spaghetti night sales are not quite finalized but we expect to have around \$1500 in our PAC checking account and \$8000 in the PAC activity account.

\$1200 of those funds has been designated toward our Outdoor Classroom Project.

-Business

-Our Spaghetti Night went very well. We had a large turn out and made around \$1000. The students brought a large number of items for the baskets. A few notes for next year:

-Set up more tables.

-Create more baskets by spreading out the kids' donations.

-Add more basket themes. One idea was for a "Breakfast Basket."

-Have baskets displayed in school a few days before the dinner and allow kids to purchase raffle tickets at school.

-Have our basket drawing at school the day after the dinner.

-We discussed the Outdoor Classroom project. On the suggestion of KPS building and grounds director, Art Hanson, we are looking at the north area of the playground and the cement area where the bike rack currently sits. We would move the playground fence back to where the current gate sits. We discussed putting tables and benches that could be used for outdoor studying or lunch, a pergola structure for shade, and trees and bushes. A boy scout is considering this as his Eagle Scout project.

-Mrs. Schnoor presented information about increased homework expectations and our third quarter Homework Heroes project.

-Mrs. Schnoor shared Central's scores from the upcoming State of the Schools Report and efforts to improve math scores in our building.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 PM in the school media center. Babysitting will be provided. We hope you can join us.

4TH GRADE PRIDE ACTIVITIES

Our fourth grade Pride student service organization has been active this month. The group supported our Red Ribbon week activities by gathering up the food donations and handing out Hawaiian Lei's.

The group also unloaded Deli International orders.

Pride will be selling TrailMix at school. Information will be sent home so kids know when to bring their money.

OMAHA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EXHIBIT

"THE CHILDREN'S BLIZZARD" COMING TO KEARNEY

Central students in grades 2-5 will enjoy a special day on Tuesday, December 9th thanks to collaboration between the Kearney Public Library and the Kearney Public School's gifted program to bring the Omaha Children's Museum traveling exhibit of "The Children's Blizzard" to Kearney.

Students will turn back the clock to relive the events of the day in 1888 when a Nebraska blizzard hit as students were leaving school to walk home. The exhibit covers a variety of content areas including history, language arts, science and art. Students will hear poetry by Nebraska poet Ted Kooser to recreate the feeling of being in the storm. They will hear the story of Minnie Mae Freeman, a teacher who saved her students. They will conduct experiments to understand the nature of the storm. They will also study snow crystals and view photomicrography, pictures of individual snow flakes. In addition to the exhibit at the library, professional storyteller, Val Scott, will tell stories in each classroom about winter weather and blizzard experiences. **Weather permitting, students will be walking from Central to the Kearney Public Library for the exhibit. Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate coats, hats, and mittens to school.**

THANK-YOU!

-SPAGHETTI SHOP FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR SCHOOL SPAGHETTI NIGHT FUNDRAISER.

-MCDONALDS FOR YOUR DONATION OF ORANGE DRINK AND CUPS FOR OUR SPAGHETTI NIGHT.

-CHAPTER AS P.E.O., EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, AND WALMART FOR DONATIONS TO OUR CLOTHING CLOSET.

-PI KAPPA ALPHA FOR VOLUNTEERING AT OUR SPAGHETTI NIGHT.



PARENT NEWSLETTER

HAPPY, HEALTHY MORNINGS!

The beginning of each school day at Central is designed to be a welcoming, relaxed start to the day. In addition to breakfast, our students enjoy reading, educational games, and computer time in the morning to prepare them to enjoy a successful day in the classroom. One new addition to our morning line-up is upper elementary yoga. Mrs. Tye leads those fourth and fifth graders who are interested in a fifteen-minute session each morning. The practice focuses on relaxation, balance, and stretching. If you are ever interested in joining your child for a session, do not hesitate to bring your yoga mat to the gym and jump right in. It's a great way to start the day!



Locker Ribbons Celebrate Math Computation Skills

We have set a goal that every child at Central will know their math facts. Children will be earning ribbons to tie on their locker handle when they reach the district standard for math fact fluency.

Kindergarten students will be working on counting and number recognition. First through third grade will be working on addition and subtraction (at increasing speeds for each grade level), and fourth and fifth grades will be working on

multiplication and division. Students who reach the advanced level (98% or higher) will also earn a rainbow ribbon. We hope to see every locker with ribbons tied on the handle. Families can help by studying math facts with their children to help them to go faster and faster while still giving correct answers. Flashcards are one of the best, inexpensive ways to improve a child's speed in knowing their math facts. They are cheap to buy and even cheaper to make.

NOTES FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE: WHOOPING COUGH

There has been an increase in the numbers of Pertussis (also known as Whooping Cough or 100 Day Cough) infections reported statewide, although not at this time in Buffalo County. This increase mirrors what is occurring across the country. The immunity from vaccination wanes over time, such that nearly all adolescents and adults are susceptible to Pertussis. Infants and young children are at higher risk of complications from Pertussis. Many students and adults have not been immunized for Pertussis since their kindergarten physical.

Coughs due to Pertussis in adults and adolescents may be difficult to distinguish from colds or influenza. Typically, coughs due to colds or influenza improve within two weeks. Coughs due to Pertussis persist for weeks or months, occurring in sudden coughing episodes. Vomiting may follow these coughing episodes. Therefore, persons with a chronic cough, with either sudden coughing episodes and/or vomiting, should be evaluated by a physician.

It is recommended now that all adults and children 11 years of age and older consider a Tdap vaccination to protect against Pertussis. Please check with your doctor regarding your immunization status.

We remind you of our school policy regarding fever: Keep children home if they have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater. Children should not return to school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without artificially keeping the temperature down with fever reducing medication.

For more information look to these resources in your area and their websites:

-Your Physician's office

-Two Rivers Health Department: www.tworiverspublichealth.com

-Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/default.htm#disease>

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/>