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The official newsletter of Arnold Public School

List

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Issue: 3

November 2015

Arnold Public Schools Gets Political

By Jasmine Nelson, Junior

On October 13th, Arnold Schools had a visit from a very important man. Senator Matt Williams from Gothenburg came to the school at about 10:30 am to get a tour of the infamous School House Graphics company, as well as answered questions from the senior Government class. Mrs. Lewis had originally met Senator Williams at a conference for superintendents, and wanted to see the Graphics company for himself.

When he first arrived, he was told about the high school students working, the summer program that is provided, and how things are run. He was taken to each of the department heads. From the design and layout to business aspects, he got to see every inch of the company. To his surprise, the company has went through great struggles to get to the popularity it is at today. There have been over 1200 intersections in Custer County alone that have road signs designed by the company. Other road signs have been made in Hooker, Grant, and Cherry county.

"Miscommunication is a big struggle. When sometime happens, we call the customers, explain what happened, and most of the time they understand," says Elissa Tilford, a junior and department head of design and layout.

He was shown the new printer/lamination system that the school had gotten in the past year, which had over 13 thousand dollars invested into it.

Each company head showed Mr. Williams what their job was, how

some of the machines worked, and a current job that they were working on. "This company is where we tie all of the math, welding, etc. skills together," said Mr. Mohr as he told more about the Mimaki JV33-130, the printer they bought in 2014.

Once given a very thorough trip through the graphics room, he was taken to see the gym, where the students designed and laid down the new gym floor and scoreboard design. "This



Above: Senator Williams discusses plaques with Cole Gracey & Madison Merritt, 9th.

is one of the most special things I have seen in a school of any kind," Senator Williams said of the company.

After the tour, he was taken to Mr. Peterson's classroom, where the seniors (as well as a few students from other grades in high school) awaited to ask questions. First, Senator Williams told a bit about himself and his role in Nebraska's government. The students learned that he has a background in banking, and occupies himself as a lawyer. He said that Nebraska's legislature was special because we are

the only unicameral (meaning "one house"). Senator Williams shared that he represents all of Dawson and Custer counties, as well as a portion of Buffalo county. Then, he was open to answer any questions the students (or Mr. Peterson) had for him.

One of the first questions he was asked was by Sully Lewis on his views on the legalization of marijuana. He reported that there were four bills passed this year; two dealt with the punishment for use of recreational marijuana, and two were for medical marijuana use. There is currently a study at the University of Nebraska Medical Center on the effects of medical marijuana to help with this bill.

In the forty-five minutes he answered questions, he covered a wide range of topics. From the death penalty to indefinite terms, he told each answer with a certain poise that only politicians have. "What the politicians do is extremely important and everyone needs to be involved at some point," he stressed to the students, whom only about three are able to vote currently.

When speaking, he noted that he is in a judicial group that deals with people's rights, including when incarcerated. Senator Williams showed each opinion with an open mind, almost to let each student develop their own. "On every issue, you have a green button and a red button. There is no gray button," when telling about the utter conflict between opinions on the death sentence.

Over all, Mr. Williams was given great respect from everyone that had the pleasure of meeting him, and we all hope he visits again soon.

Props To the Pillowcase Project

Arnold Volunteer Fire Department EMT's Heather Hagler and Tammy Weinman became American Red Cross Volunteers and received training for The Pillowcase Project. Heather and Tammy took the training in Broken Bow a few months ago and were excited to begin sharing this program with Arnold 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

The Pillowcase Project was originally created by

the Southeast Louisiana Red Cross chapter after Hurricane Katrina. The program was inspired by stories of college students evacuating their campuses, carrying their belongings in pillowcases. Walt Disney gave the Red Cross a grant in 2013 to make the program available nationwide. The Red Cross expanded the program in 2015.

The children were told about how the program was developed. Then, the children are taught the framework of the program. Which is, LEARN how emergencies happen and the best ways to stay safe. PRACTICE what to do during the emergency. Then, SHARE what they have learned with everyone in their household and community.

There is a local hazard presented to the children. This year the winter storm hazard was presented. The children are taught coping skills that can help them stay calm and feel safe during an emergency. A general preparedness section is presented to the kids, which deals with being prepared for emergencies. The students receive a workbook to go along with the program. The workbook contains pages on home fire escape plans and a safety planner. The students are encouraged to take the workbook home and fill it out with the help of the adults in their home. The

workbook also contains an emergency communication plan to help family members stay in contact with each other during emergencies with Emergency Contact Cards available. The workbook also contains an Emergency Supply Kit list to have available in your homes in case of emergencies.

The children receive a pillowcase with Walt Disney characters on



Arnold 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders holding their pillowcases, with Heather Hagler and Tammy Weinman, Pillowcase Project presenters.

such as paper, pens, water bottle, flashlight, and batteries. The students are also taught what emergencies it's appropriate to take time to look for your pillowcase or if it's an "act fast" emergency and they need to leave their pillowcases behind, such as a home fire.

This year 34 students took part in The Pillowcase Project at Arnold Public School. Amanda Koubek with the Red Cross was also present to help with The Pillowcase Project. For Fire Prevention Week, Arnold Volunteer Fire Department members Dell Cerny, April Tickle, Shelley Smith and Nancy Cool brought the Smoke House, a fire truck and an ambulance to the school and shared fire safety with the kids. The students got to see fire gear worn by the firefighters, the pumper and got to see the inside of the ambulance. They were also shown the lights and got to hear the sirens on the emergency vehicles.

All students in grades kindergarten-5th grade received Fire Prevention T-shirts sponsored by the Arnold Fire and Rescue, Touch of Grace Massage, Mills Hardware, Quad Cloud Photography, Smith Ag, Kramer Farms, Weinman Farms, Arnold Insurance Agency, Forrester's Dodge, and Homegrown Kids Day-care.



Arnold Public Schools will be having a Financial Aid Night on Monday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m. This financial aid program will be offered over Distance Learning in Mrs. Nansel's classroom. There will be information provided about the FAFSA. You are welcome to bring your student if you would like.



*School Packing Party!
November 18th
9:00 to 2:00
At School's Old Gym
Totes will be at school to bring donations.
Donations needed:
TOYS, and other supplies.
Public Is Welcome!
No toothbrushes are needed*

An Imperfect Proposal

By Jasmine Nelson, Junior

It's that time of year, folks! The 2015 Arnold One Act season is underway. This year, the title is *Imperfect Proposal* by Lisa Parry.

The delightful comedy stars Ben, a young man wanting to propose to his girlfriend, Kate. The only problem is, there's a few people who keep stopping him somehow from popping that simple question. From football players to a not-so-nice ex-boyfriend, the play has an array of characters. A constant stream of wisecracks (and wisdom!) comes from a nearby park bench, where a nosey old couple spends the afternoon eavesdropping and commentating. By the end of the picnic, it's more like a death knell than wedding bells for the young couples' relationship.

The Cast List for *Imperfect Proposal* will be as follows:

Street Troubadour (Musician/DJ)

Ashton Weinman

William: Jarret Buchholz

Ella: Morgan Eggleston

Mime: Leighton Bubak

Ben: Tristan Johnson

Kate: Tatum Cool

Football Player #1: Brandon Moninger

Football Player #2: Landon Furne

Football Player #3: Brenden Rivers

Rich Socialite: Olivia Furne

Dog Walker: Sadie Christensen

Protest Leader: Jasmine Nelson

Protester #1: Toni Oberg

Protester #2: Jennifer Barraza

Protester #3: Brenden Rivers

Andrew: Sully Lewis

Attractive Girl: Bobbi Barnes

Crew assignments include:

Student Director: Haley Reed

Makeup: Elissa Tilford, Avery Atkins and Madison Reed

Set Design: Landon Furne and Merritt Eastman

Sound: Alexis Soucie

Props: Mert Aker, Brandon Moninger, and Olivia Furne

Costumes : Avery Atkins and Madison Reed

Videography: Mert Aker

Lights: Merritt Eastman

Publicity: Haley Reed and Olivia Furne

Performance Dates Will Go As Follows:
Gothenburg Festival - Saturday, November 14th -- TBA

Callaway Community Night -- Monday,
November 16th -- 7 p.m.

Arnold Elementary Matinee -- Friday,
November 20th -- 1:30 p.m.

Arnold Community Night -- Friday, November 20th -- 7 p.m. (Soup and Pie from 5-7p.m. to benefit post prom)

MNAC at Litchfield -- Tuesday, November 24th TBA

District Competition at Ansley --
Tuesday, December 1st

State Competition in Norfolk --
Wednesday, December 9th



A Day of Fun at the Pumpkin Patch!

by Jasmine Nelson, Junior

On a slightly chilly October 2nd, a group of rambunctious kindergarten and first graders went to Fox Seasonal Farms in Broken Bow. There, the students learned things such as the life cycle of a pumpkin, while adding a dose of fun.

One of the many fun activities they did was seeing the pumpkin patch itself. "They had flat, fat, white, red, all different varieties of pumpkins to explore," said Mrs. Blowers, first grade teacher. During this time, they got to pick out a pumpkin of their own.

Besides the tour of the patch, there was a variety of fun activities for the children to do throughout the day, including Duck races a tricycle track, hay jump, and a corn maze. Everyone had a favorite from the day.

While they thought the fun could last forever, it was time to head home after a successful day. For the kindergartners, it was the first field trip they had taken. Other events in the day include story time, pony hop, hill slide, corn pit, barrel train, and a hay rack ride.

What was your favorite part of the trip?

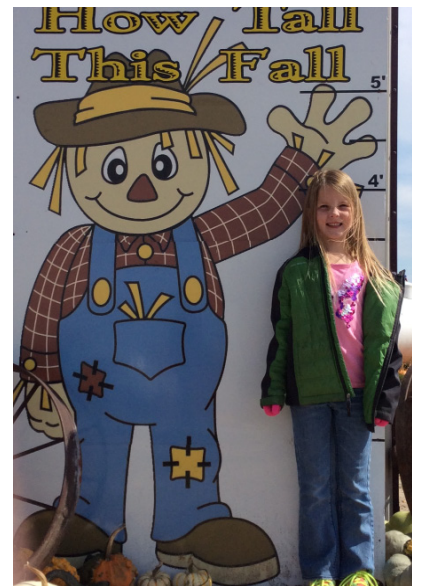


"The corn maze was so much fun!- Wacey Schultz"



"Jumping in the hay stacks was the best part!" - Walter Bierman

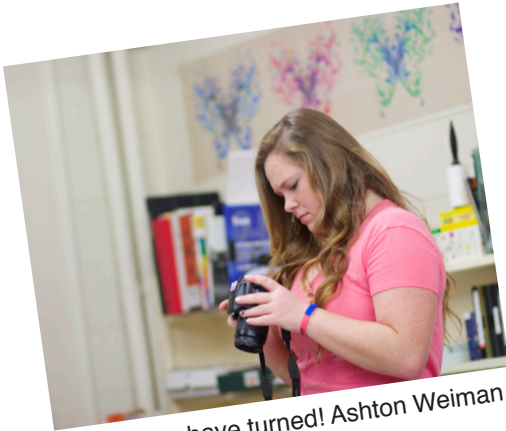
"The train barrel was my favorite!" - Josie Christensen



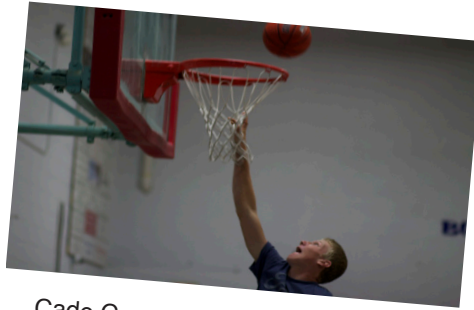
CAUGHT...IN THE ACT!

By Jasmine Nelson, Junior

It seems that high school students like to have some fun while in school. The high school photography class likes to get in on camera.



The tables have turned! Ashton Weiman, Junior, is checking to see if the photo is just perfect.



Cade Connell, Sophomore, catching some air in between classes.



Elissa Tilford, Junior, reliving childhood memories.



Dillon Brown, Senior, jumping for joy because he only has three quarters of high school left!



Not quite sure what Tristan Johnson, Senior, is up to!



Cade Connell, Sophomore, looks out at the field.



I don't think Dustin Zerwig, Senior, realized his picture was being taken.

HALLOWEEN: A HOLIDAY FULL OF FUN

By Tristan Johnson, Senior & Jasmine Nelson, Junior

To celebrate Halloween, the two Journalism students each wrote their own thoughts on the holiday! Try to guess what article belongs to which student!

As we all know, October is most famous for its enormous amount of pumpkins, chilly weather, and one of the most popular holidays-Halloween. This somewhat special day includes images of costumes, trick-or-treating, scary movies, creepy decorations, and similar festive décor.

Even though I'm in high school, I absolutely love Halloween. I've always been a person who loves a good scare, so this holiday is especially fun for me and quite a few of my friends.

I believe that the only thing I *don't* like about Halloween is how some people try to bring it down. It is said to have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off roaming ghosts. I don't know about everyone else, but I definitely believe that there are some otherworldly spirits roaming around here. Maybe not in small-town Nebraska, but in other places, it is very likely.

When I'm older, I want to travel around to the supposed most haunted places in America (there's a Television show on it as well). I think that it would be a really fun thing to do with a group of friends. I say I'd take friends because you obviously can't go to haunted places by yourself, that's like asking for a death sentence; it's a big Halloween no-no.

One of my other favorite things about Halloween would be all of the costumes. For many people, it's a way to escape their every day life and be someone else for a night. As a child, I don't think I took advantage of this fact, considering the fact I was a witch for three years in a row. (I know, I know, not very original).

Being a nerd for these types of things, Halloween is a big deal in my mind. Isn't there a saying that says that the most important months are the ones that end in -ber? Maybe it's because the weather starts to get cold and everyone goes, "*Burr*"!

Alright, I know that joke was corny, but I wasn't kidding when I said this holiday is important. I can't stand when people try to take away it's fame just because it isn't a time where families all get together and eat huge meals together. I mean, you could, but no one really does. I believe that it has every right to be considered a holiday as that of Christmas and Thanksgiving, days a good portion of people around the nation (and the world) celebrate.

The Season of the Pumpkin is back! Here is a month full of decorations and anticipation for a night of walking around and asking for candy. Not to be a Debby Downer, but have you ever wondered why we even celebrate Halloween?

For Christmas, we have a grand event-like opening presents and big meals. For Halloween, we send our kids out on the streets to knock on strangers' doors to ask for candy.

I'm all for celebration and happiness, but if you think about it, this is a very weird tradition we have. I get concerned for the minds of the youth. We spend 364 days a year teaching them about stranger danger. Then, all of a sudden, we give them a bag and tell them to do the exact opposite of what we trained them for.

What about the costumes? Where did this come from? After thinking about this way too hard, I decided I needed to do some research instead of being a clueless teenager just writing a column about not knowing anything.

There are a few different reasons we dress up on Halloween. In Medieval times on the eves of All Saints Day (Nov. 1) and All Soul Day (Nov. 2), people would practice "mumming" and "going-a-souling". Mum took the form of parading about in costume, chanting, singing, play-acting and general mischief making, while souling entailed going door to door and offering prayers for the dead in exchange for treats, particularly "soul cakes".

What I love about Halloween, besides the reasonless things that we do, is the way it brings kids together. Communities have a chance to see the kids they don't see often. There are activities in the park and the community center for us. It provides a break for farmer's kids who are stuck doing harvest.

Halloween is one of the many ways that America comes together and celebrates with anything they can. I'm happy to celebrate this sweet holiday. (Pardon the pun!)

Junior High Sports



Front row: Dalton Kunkee, Josh McFate, Colby Streit, Reagan Ross, Cooper Atkins, Eddie Berger, Eli Taylor, and Logan Peterson. Middle row: Jace Connell, Joseph Mott, Anthony Olson, Brett Halstead, Dylan Nelson, Sam Cool, Trevor Ross, Max Werner. Back row: Drew Vickers, Connor Rosfeld, Tucker Kratzer, Cody Erstrom, Jesse Connell, Dawson Hanna-Miles, and Ryen Dickman.



Front: Laykin Wilkins, Delaney Pinkerton, Jade Evans, Hagen Ell, Heather Kranz, Macy Ryneanson and Brandi Coons. Middle Row: Kylee Lehmkuhler, Laney Badgley, Angelina Harter, Kalie Glendy, Bailey Schwarz, Ca-lynn Liable, Kacee Dvorak, Tobie Schade, and Kirby Corfield. Back row: Saffron Phillips, Jadeyn Bubak, Natalie Trumbull, Jaelynn Hemphill, Jessie Sallach, Taylor Conroy, Suzy Heusman, Sierra Zerwig, and Landyn Cole.

From the Principal's Desk



October 16th marked the end of the 1st Quarter. Final quarter grades are available online through your PowerSchool account. If you would like a paper copy of your child's grades, please contact Penny in the office.

On October 16th, the Nebraska Department of Education released their annual State of the Schools Report. As a district Arnold Public Schools had a 91% proficiency in Reading, 87% in Math, 76% in Science, and 77% in Writing. Arnold scored higher than the state averages of 80% in Reading, 72% in Math, 72% in Science, and 72% in Writing. Though we are not

at 100% proficiency, we continue to work very hard and evaluate our progress so that our students can achieve their goals.

I would like to thank all those who attended Parent/Teacher Conferences in September. I enjoyed meeting and talking with everyone. It was nice to meet the parents of our students here at Arnold Public Schools. We had 85% attendance from grades 6-12. K-5 had a rate of 96%, and the remaining 4% made arrangements to meet at a later time. I appreciate you taking the time from your busy schedules to meet with the staff to ensure the success our students.

The Fall season is now here. As the weather changes and things start to cool off, students in grades K-5 will continue to go outside for recess as the weather permits. Please make sure your child has gloves, stock-

ing caps, and coats to be prepared for colder conditions.

Weather announcements will be via phone call, text message, and e-mail from our Blackboard Connect program once again this year. Please be sure Penny has your most current contact information. Some messages have already been sent through Blackboard Connect to begin the year, so if you have not received any messages, please let us know.

Operation Christmas Child will be taking place once again this year. If you are interested in donating they are looking for small toys and stuffed animals. Military type toys (army guys, guns, etc.), can not be accepted. Totes will be set up here at school until November 6th. The packing party will be held November 18th.

Renaissance Home Connect

Watch Your Child's Progress in AR and

see their testing scores for STAR, Sign Up Now

Dear Parents,

Your student uses Accelerated Reader, also known as Renaissance Place, at school. This program has a new feature called Renaissance Home connect, which the student and the parent can access outside of class with an Internet connection. Renaissance Home Connect is fun and easy to use. It allows the teacher, the parent and the student to share information about your student's progress in Accelerated Reader.

Be watching a letter to come home on the first day of school with instructions of how to login and how to use the program. You can also set up automatic emails when your student takes tests over books or takes the STAR test.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Nicole Badgley

Student Absences and Notes

In an effort to be sure every student is taken care of, please be sure that you talk voice-to-voice to someone when you really need the school to know important information about your student, or if you need important information passed on to your student.

E-mail has been slow lately and if someone is gone for a meeting, then may not get to their voice mail messages until the next day. We appreciate your help.

- The Office

Coke Cap Collection

You can help our the school by collecting your Coke product bottle caps. Those you get from convenience stores, the grocery stores, vending machines, at ball games, and other places may all have the promotional codes on them. Coca-cola is refreshing its commitment to supporting education by enabling schools to collect donated points and then redeem them for a variety of school rewards including play- ground equipment, supplies, classroom materials, cameras, sound equipment, and more.

You can send your Coke caps (and other Coke products) to the school office and they will redeem them. For more information, you can go to the <http://www.mycokerewards.com/schools>. Thank you for your support.

Box Tops

Arnold Schools will again be collecting box tops for education with a goal of earning \$500 to purchase items for class- rooms. In the past, a Smartboard was purchased and some other equipment. The Box Tops campaign is a school fund- raising program started by General Mills in 1996. To date, Box Tops has raised over \$200 million to help purchase school supplies, playground equipment, technol- ogy items, and so much more. You can support our school by saving box tops and sending them with your student to the school, take them to Finch Memorial Library, or to Reed's Food Center. Thank you for your support.

Capri Sun Bags

Mrs. Crow is collecting Capri Sun bags again this year to help fund classroom projects. Please save those bags and send them to school with your student.

Daily Announcements

The daily announcements can be found on the school web page announcement's tab every morning. Mr. Morgan updates those announcements with corrections, additions to the calendar, and reminders of upcoming events. Please check the school web page often for new information.

Lock In

November 6th
7pm to 11pm

Play: Clue in the school
Watch a scary movie!
High Schoolers only
Once you get locked in,
you can't leave until we
let you



A Pie In the Face for the Pantry

By Morgan Eggleston, Senior

It's time for our local food drive again. This year we will be doing a penny war, so save up that change. Collection buckets will be set out in the school for four teachers, two elementary and two high school. The teacher with the most change in their bucket at the end of the food drive will receive a pie in the face (regardless of amount).

If a teacher gets over \$100 in their bucket, then they will receive a pie in the face also. It is possible for all 4 teachers to receive a pie in the face if everyone is generous in their donations.

If as a school, we raise at least \$400, then Mr. Morgan will also receive a pie in the face along with the teachers. "With the change of new administration, the students thought it would be fun to resurrect their most favorite fundraiser, the pie in the face!" said Mrs. Moninger.

This will take place on November 20th after the one act play production in the school's gymnasium. 'As long as it is not cherry pie, then it is ok with me ...' said Mr. Morgan when asked if he would be the target of a pie in the face.

An auction will be held to sell the right to "smear" the pie into the victim's face. Cliff Badgley will auction off the rights for this fun privilege.



ARNOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HONOR ROLL

QTR1

S1

12th Grade

Merritt Eastman	3-A's, 4-B's
Morgan Eggleston	7-A's
Olivia Furne	5-A's, 1-B

11th Grade

Jasmine Nelson	7-A's, 1-B
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10th Grade

Cade Connell	3-A's, 5-B's
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9th Grade

Leighton Bubak	7-A's
Jarrett Buchholz	5-A's, 2-B's
Logan Coleman	3-A's, 4-B's
Lydia Connell	6-A's, 1-B
Tatum Cool	6-A's, 1-B

8th Grade

Jace Connell	3-A's, 3-B's
Max Werner	A's, 2-B's

7th Grade

Jadeyn Bubak	6-A's
Landyn Cole	6-A's
Sam Cool	4-A's, 2-B's
Kacee Dvorak	5-A's, 1-B
Kylee Lehmkuhler	5-A's, 1-B
Bailey Schwarz	5-A's, 1-B

6th Grade

Faith Bierman	5-A's, 1-B
Reagan Cool	6-A's
Raylee Downing	5-A', 1-B
Carly Gracey	3- A's, 3-B's
Stella Lewis	5-A's, 1-B
Colbi Smith	5-A's, 1-B
Shayla Tickle	4-A's, 2-B's

School Calendar Subscription - NEW!

If you are interested in subscribing to the school calendar on your phone or computer, there is a new address to use. (Last year's calendar run's out very soon.)

Type in the following address, or copy and paste the address from the announcement tab on the school web.

As the calendar is updated, your calendar should too!

<webcal://ical.schedulestar.com/iCalNOW.cfm?i=E9D12603-ED44-7F66-6F137F7809514F80>

PowerSchool

Passwords

As in past years, the school will be using PowerSchool to share student grades with their parents. If you already have the ability to login and check your child's grades, then nothing has changed. Simply login to <https://arnold.powerschool.com/public/>. If you don't have a log in, forgot your password, or would like some help, please contact Nicole Badgley, nbadgley@esu10.org or Penny Allen pallen@esu10.org, or call either of them at the school 308-848-2226.

High School Sports



Front row; Brandon Moninger, Dillon Brown, Lafe Loper, Sully Lewis and Noah Edgington. Second Row: Spencer Johnson, Chase Ell, Blake Schwarz, Seth Pearson, Dayne Kulp, Hunter Aul, Marshall Still, and Isaac Stallbaumer. Third row: Weston Kunkee, Leighton Bubak, Kalen Dockweiler, Landon Furne, Jack Rush, Cade Connell, Jarrett Buchholz, and Blake Brown. Fourth row: Cooper Taylor, Logan Coleman, Tayten Eggleston, Cody Erstrom, Spencer Bloomer, Garret Rhruppek, Dane Rynearson, Dalton Donegan, and Cole Gracey.



Front row: Bobbi Barnes, Morgan Eggleston, Haley Reed, Sadie Christensen, Shaelynn Liable, and Emma Badgley. Second row: Assistant Coach Kim Sallach, Savannah Weverka, Olivia Paulsen, Haylea Rynearson, Maddie Stout, Chaney Loper, Tatum Cool, Mikayla McFate, and Coach Randi Atkins. Third row: Laney Willis, Vaile Berger, and Avery Atkins. Back row: Sydney Sallach, Madison Reed and Atlynn Witthuhn.

Upcoming ACT

Test Dates:

- **Test Date: December 12, 2015**
- **Registration Deadline: November 6, 2015**
- **Test Date: February 6, 2016**
- **Registration Deadline: January 8, 2016**
- **Test Date: April 9, 2016**
- **Registration Deadline: March 4, 2016**
- **Test Date: June 11, 2016**
- **Registration Deadline: May 6, 2016**

Family Lunch Balances Online

Parents will now have on-line access to the balance of the family lunch and breakfast accounts! This new feature of Wordware just came out this year.

The first day of school, the oldest or the only student in the family will be given a letter explaining about the new lunch program. This feature will eventually be included in your PowerSchool Access.

Please be looking for this letter to come home on the first day of school.

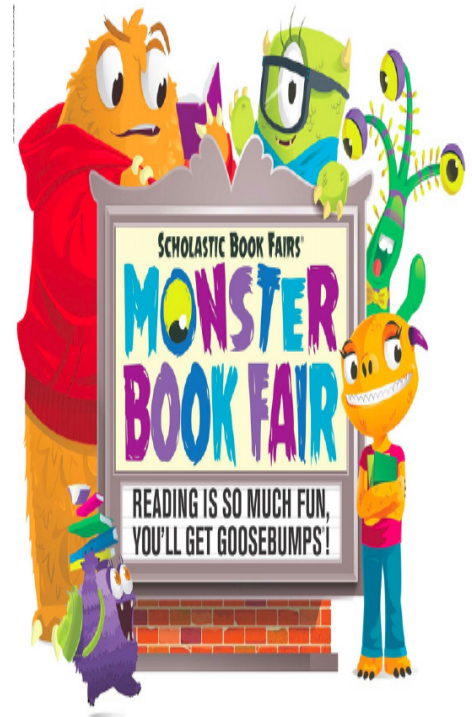
Book Fair A Success

By Jasmine Nelson, Junior

After running it's fall course, the fall book fair has come to an end. "The sales were up from last year's fall fair and the students really seemed to enjoy the monster's theme". says Mrs. Moninger, Arnold's librarian. She would also like to send out a huge thank you to Gracie Neth, Kevin Neth, Norna Scott, and William Moninger for working the book fair on the days that she wasn't able to run it.

The school received a gen-

erous donation from Salvation Army in Broken Bow of \$150 for children's books from their library, in addition to the ones the school earned. Books were also chosen by the Arnold Rotary Club for their 2nd grade "Reading Buddies" program. The spring book fair will be over Read Across America, which celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd. The fair will run February 26th through March 4th. The theme will be Feelin' Groovy Book Fair: Peace, Love, BOOKS!



From the Superintendent's Desk

The first quarter of school has come and gone, and that means the first four months of my new job have gone by very quickly! Some of you are aware I have been writing my final project for my doctoral degree at UNL in my "spare" time, and I will update you that the dissertation has been turned over to my committee for review. My fate is now in their hands!

I am enjoying my new role, but do miss the time I typically had to spend with parents, teachers, and students. Please stop in and say hello anytime, I would love to visit with you.

We have AYP classifications coming out soon; in fact, you likely already received a letter in the mail. We also included a letter from our commissioner, Dr. Blomstedt, that essentially explains how we have an excellent system of education, and that federal funding requires us to report news regarding our AYP status in what seems like a very negative way. However, APS students and parents should be proud of their assessment scores, as well as the daily progress our teachers and students work hard to achieve.

Thank you all for the opportunity to



lead your school and make a difference in the lives of your children! Happy Thanksgiving.

Dawn Lewis, Superintendent

Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



November 2015

Title I Cooperative

Educational Service Unit 10

What's the big idea? Boost your child's reading comprehension

As students progress through elementary school, they shift from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. In higher grades, your child will be expected to read and understand increasingly complex text. To ease this transition, share these strategies with your child:

- **Look for clues to the main idea.** Before she starts to read an assignment, your child should think about what she will be reading. What is the title of the chapter or passage? Does it offer any hints about the reading? What other clues can she find in subheadings, pictures, graphs or words in boldface or italics?
- **Take notes.** Taking notes while she reads makes it easier for your child to comprehend and remember information. It also makes reading active and engaging. Encourage your child to write down the most important ideas in the reading assignment. She can also write down any words she doesn't know and anything that she is confused about, so she can remember to ask the teacher.
- **Make connections.** One effective way for your child to remember new information is by relating it to something she's already learned. When she finishes a reading assignment, have her answer questions such as: "How is this topic similar to something else I have learned?" "What key ideas did I already know?" "What did I learn that was new to me?"



Add value to homework

Homework gives your child the opportunity to practice skills and learn responsibility, perseverance and initiative. To help him get the most out of homework:

- **Help your child manage time.** Establish a regular homework time when he will be most alert.
- **Help him prioritize.** Studying for tomorrow's test should come before math problems due next week.
- **Let your child do the work.** Offer guidance, but don't do the assignments. Homework builds independence.

Source: "Homework Tips for Parents," U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov/homework.

Fit in some exercise

Physical fitness contributes to school success. Regular activity is linked to both higher self-esteem and attentiveness.



Get creative and find fun ways to get your child moving. Suggest games like tag or Simon Says. Turn on some fast music and race to finish a chore. Or just stop by the playground on the way home.

Inspire inner motivation

Rewards can motivate kids. But when the rewards stop, often the desired behavior does, too. Students who are motivated from within are more likely to stick with a task and retain what they've learned longer. To spark inner motivation:



- **Ask your child to think about what she wants to learn about a subject.**
- **Help her see her progress.**
- **Ask her to teach you what she learns.**
- **Give positive feedback and urge her to congratulate herself on a job well done.**

Source: "Research summary: building self-motivation," *The Journey to Excellence*, www.journeytoexcellence.org.



Show your child how listening is done

Your child isn't taking a class called "listening." That's because listening is an important part of all his subjects. One of the best ways to develop your child's listening skills is to model them for him. Here's how:

- **Don't try to fake it.** He knows if you're really listening by the way you respond. Stop what you are doing and pay attention.
- **Listen with your eyes as well as your ears.** Look your child in the eye as he speaks.
- **Notice nonverbal messages.** Tone of voice, facial expression, posture and energy level often say as much as your child's words.
- **Give it time.** All people think faster than they speak. And because children have smaller vocabularies and less experience expressing themselves, they can take even longer to say what they mean. When your child is speaking to you, be patient and let him take the time he needs.

Source: C. Smith, "How Can Parents Model Good Listening Skills?" *EdSource Online*, www.edsource.org.

Helping Children Learn

The Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

September 2015



How do I teach my child that schoolwork is not a race?

Q: My fourth grader is extremely competitive in sports and in school. He rushes through every assignment, hoping to be the first one finished. He never stops to think about details like neatness or checking his work. I know this haste hurts his grades. How can I help?

A: It sounds like your child has a bad case of "hurry-itis." He turns every task into a competition, and he wants to be first across the finish line.

Here's how to help him slow down and get back on track:

- **Talk to his teacher.** Let her know you would like to work on ways to help your child focus more on quality than speed as he works.
- **Talk to your child.** Put his competitive nature to work by using an example from a sport, such as basketball. Sometimes it's necessary to get down the court fast. But when a player is shooting free throws, accuracy is more important. Doing schoolwork is more like shooting free throws.
- **Make a plan.** Tell your child that you're going to look over his homework each night. If it's sloppy or carelessly done, encourage him to spend some more time on it. Soon your child will figure out that when he slows down, he'll get the work done well the first time—and that takes less time in the long run!



Are you a leader on your child's team?

School has been underway for a few months, so it's a good time to make sure you are doing all you can to build an effective school-home team to support your child. Answer yes or no to the questions below.

1. Have you met your child's classroom teacher at least once this year?
2. Do you talk with your child about school each day and review all of the information she brings home?
3. Do you monitor your child's homework? If she's struggling, do you ask the teacher how you can help at home?
4. Have you reviewed the school rules with your child and let her know you expect her to follow them?

5. Do you get your child to school on time each day?

How well are you doing?

More you answer "yes" you are actively working with the school. For each no, try that idea from the quiz.

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."
—Thomas Edison

Chalk one up for math!

You can make math fun for your child with a little sidewalk chalk. Try these activities:

- **Line walk.** Together, draw a number line on the pavement. Call out a subtraction problem. He can solve it by moving down the line from the higher number.
- **Add 'em up.** Number each square in a large three by three grid. Take turns tossing two stones on the grid and adding the numbers on which they fall.
- **Shadow time.** Have your child stand in the sunlight. Mark where his feet are, and where his shadow ends. Repeat every 30 minutes, with his feet in the same spot. Measure the shadow's changes.

It's all in the notebook

An assignment notebook can be a useful tool for helping your child get organized. Any small notebook will do. When the teacher gives homework, your child should write answers to three questions:

1. What's the assignment?
2. What materials do I need?
3. When is it due?



Remind your child to check her notebook each day before leaving school so she will know what to bring home.

Discipline leads to learning

Disciplining children can be a challenge, but some techniques really work. Try to:

- **Change misbehavior positively.** Focus on what you want your child to do, not what you want him to avoid doing.
- **Communicate expectations clearly.**
- **Keep corrections simple.** Say your child's name and repeat the correction ("Homework now") over and over.
- **Show your love.**

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Helping Students Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



November 2015

Title I Cooperative

Educational Service Unit 10

Set expectations and show your child how to meet them

Setting expectations for your middle schooler can motivate him to give his best efforts at school, develop his sense of responsibility and build a strong family connection. It's critical though, to make your expectations clear and achievable.

Here are some examples of appropriate expectations and specific ways to express them to your child:

- **Put schoolwork first.** "You're free to watch TV, play video games or talk to friends *after* you've finished your homework, not before."
- **Disagree respectfully.** "I expect you to speak respectfully to me and to your teachers, even when you are upset."
- **Limit social media.** "You can check Instagram and text friends for up to an hour each night. But electronic devices get turned off at 9 p.m."
- **Keep you posted about plans.** "Please let me know ahead of time if you want to go somewhere. Try not to surprise me at the last minute."
- **Participate in family events.** "You may plan weekend activities, but remember, we go see Grandpa on Sundays, and you need to be there."
- **Take care of himself and his things.** "Put your dirty laundry in the hamper. Any clothes left on your bedroom floor won't get washed."

Source: B. Bucke, Ph.D. and others, *Crossing Stars Promoting Using Your Head as Well as Your Heart to Help School-Aged Children*, Boys Town Press



Take care of the basics

Your family's habits have an impact on your child's readiness to learn in school. To support his success, commit to these routines:

- **Meals.** Serve lean proteins and lots of produce. Be sure your child eats breakfast.
- **Exercise.** Encourage at least 30 minutes per day. Exercise together when you can.
- **Sleep.** Set a bedtime that allows your child to get nine to 10 hours of sleep.

Learn what tests can teach

Your child may think that when a test is over, so is its importance to her. Remind her that tests offer her many ways to learn. She'll get the most out of a test if she:



- **Jobs down thoughts** after taking it. What was difficult? What did she feel confident about?
- **Keeps it** after she gets it back. She can correct wrong answers and use the test as a study aid for finals.
- **Analyzes errors.** Were they careless, or due to lack of knowledge? She can think of ways to study more effectively, such as using flash cards or making a study guide.



Six ways you can help with homework

Watching a child struggle with homework is so difficult for some parents that they jump in and do the assignment for their child. But homework is the student's responsibility. To help a struggler without taking over:

1. **Help your child organize.** Encourage her to use calendar, assignment notebooks and folders to keep things straight.
2. **Help her plan ahead.** Teach your child to divide large projects into small parts and to schedule plenty of time to do each part.
3. **Study with her.** Quiz her on vocabulary words, history facts or science flash cards.
4. **Offer tips,** such as "Reread the instructions carefully."
5. **Ask questions.** Help your child figure things out by asking, "Is there any part of this you can do?" "Is there a sample problem or question like this in your textbook?" "Is this like anything else you've done before?"
6. **Have your child ask the teacher** for help if she is still confused.

Your child benefits from helping others

Studies show that performing community service can lead to better grades and more interest in school. Volunteering can:



- **Build your child's self-esteem** and connection to the community.
- **Decrease the chances** of your child taking negative risks, such as using drugs.
- **Teach your child valuable skills,** such as how to work with different kinds of people.

Source: J. Littlefield, "How to Promote a Positive Teen Volunteer Experience," *Adopt Promoting*, www.adoptpromoting.com

Helping Students Learn

Top Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



PARENTS STRIVE

the number 2015



How can I make writing less agonizing for my child?

Q: My daughter hates to write. Whenever she has a writing assignment, she just stares at the blank piece of paper. Is there anything I can do to help?

A: Middle schoolers are often reluctant writers. Many simply freeze with fear at the thought of writing. They fear that what they write won't be any good, or that they'll be made fun of.

To help your child write more easily:

- Remind her that professional writers have difficulty writing sometimes, too.
- Talk through ideas with her. Encourage your child to write down her ideas just as they come. Later, she can correct grammar and flow.
- Have her try free-writing. She should write anything that comes to mind, no matter how silly.
- Don't overcriticize. If she asks you to review her writing, note what you like first. Focus on what your child is trying to say, not just the mechanics of writing.
- Don't fix her mistakes for her. You'll send the message that you don't think your child is capable.
- Be patient. Allow her to express her frustration. It takes time to become a good writer.



Handle a poor report card

If your child brings home a disappointing report card, keep in mind that reacting with frustration and anger won't help her earn better grades. Instead, try to:

1. Put grades in perspective. They are important, but they're not a measure of your child's worth.
2. Talk about things she's done well. Ask what she's most proud of.
3. Ask your child what she thinks is the problem behind the bad grades.
4. Set realistic goals for improvement. Don't ask for all A's if she's getting all C's.
5. Contact the teachers to learn their views on the situation.

Ask your child for a lesson

If you are wondering how you can help your child learn material that you may not know yourself, try asking him to teach it to you. When your child shares knowledge:

- His interest increases. A parent's interest builds a child's interest.
- He reinforces his own learning.

Feed a family connection

Eating meals as a family isn't easy when everyone is busy. But kids who eat dinner with their families four or more nights a week have an advantage in school. To connect with your child over meals:



- Be flexible. If you can't eat dinner together, share breakfast instead.
- Include your child in the conversation. Ask questions like "What's one surprising thing that happened in school today?"
- Go low-tech. Turn off phones and TV.

Source: "Family Meals Spell Success," Packer University Center for Families' Promoting Family Meals Project, www.cfmproject.com/meals



Can your child say 'no' to peer pressure?

Middle schoolers care a lot about what their friends say and think. Are you preparing your child to recognize and cope with negative peer pressure? Answer yes or no to the questions below:

1. Do you talk to your child about the desire to fit in?
2. Do you discuss doing the right thing rather than the easy thing?
3. Do you suggest ways your child can say no to things he knows are wrong? He could say, "I'm not interested," and walk away.
4. Do you make your family rules clear to your child? Do you also let him know he can talk to you if he feels pressured to break them?

5. Do you encourage your child to think about the consequences of his actions?

How well are you doing?

Does your answer mean you're helping your child resist negative peer pressure? For each no answer, try that idea.

"When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically."
—National Education Association

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Helping Students Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



November 2015

Title I Cooperative

Educational Service Unit 10

Four steps help teens discover the motivation to achieve goals

Whether your teen wants to earn a place on the honor roll, make the varsity soccer team or balance school and a part-time job, she'll need motivation to achieve her goals. Help her find it by sharing these tips:

- 1. Distinguish between goals and dreams.** Goals are dreams with deadlines. If your teen says she wants to make the soccer team but never practices, she has a dream. Only if she is taking action to make the dream a reality can it be called a goal.
- 2. Write goals down.** When her aims are listed on paper, they'll become more real to her. Have her post her goals where she will see them daily.
- 3. Visualize success.** Successful people from Albert Einstein to LeBron James have done the same thing: They've imagined themselves being successful. As your teen prepares for a test, for example, ask her to imagine herself looking at it and knowing the answers. She'll need to study, too, of course, but the vision should motivate her to hit the books again.
- 4. Experiment with task order.** For many teens, finishing an unpleasant task first makes the rest of the session more enjoyable. If your teen dislikes algebra, suggest that she get that out of the way at the beginning of a study session. On the other hand, some teens prefer to begin a study or practice session with something easy in order to build momentum. Have your teen experiment and find out what works for her.



Get a 10-minute head start

Doing a little work in advance can make homework sessions seem easier. Encourage your teen to use spare minutes to:

- Skim the next chapter of a textbook.
- Solve a math problem or two.
- Find a source for a paper or project.

Source: B. DeLobough, *101 Ways to Get Straight A's*, Third Communications

Connect to the real world

One way to support your teen's education is to reinforce what she is learning in the classroom with real-life activities. For example, if she is taking:



- **Math,** ask her to help you plan a monthly budget for the family.
- **History,** visit a museum, battlefield or monument together. If it's recent history, have her speak to someone who lived through the era she's studying.
- **A foreign language,** watch a movie in that language together. Or have your teen do the ordering in a restaurant that serves food from that culture.



Sometimes, peer pressure can be good

We often think of peer pressure in purely negative terms. But peers can also push teens in good directions, such as toward greater involvement in school. Expose your teen to positive peer pressure by encouraging activities that let him meet teens who share his interests and your values. You can:

- **Promote participation in extracurricular school clubs or sports.** Look at the school website together and try to find a club that matches your teen's interests.
- **Ask your teen to consider joining a service club, or a youth group at your house of worship.** If transportation is a problem, help your teen arrange a carpool.
- **Let him entertain friends at home while you are there.** Offer movies and a variety of snacks.
- **Speak out the parents of your teen's friends.** Talk with them about their rules and the values they share with their kids. You'll be able to check when your teen says "everyone else" is allowed to go to a midnight movie.

Learning thrives on respect

Respectful students add to a productive learning environment for themselves and their classmates. Remind your teen that teachers appreciate students who:



- **Say please, thank you and excuse me.**
- **Listen quietly when a teacher or classmate is speaking.**
- **Express their ideas without putting others down.**
- **Apologize—and mean it—when they do something wrong.**

Source: "Teaching Manners in a Manner-Jessie Ward," Education World, www.educationworld.com/classroom

Helping Students Learn

The Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



NEW SERIES

the number 2015



My teen is trying hard, but still struggling. Now what?

Q: My 10th grader works hard in Spanish class. But he just isn't getting it. His grades are low, and he may have to repeat this class. What can I suggest when his best effort just isn't enough?

A: Some students can master a subject without much effort. Others work hard and still struggle. That's no reason for your teen—or you—to give up. Trying hard won't work if he's not trying the right things. Help him focus on things he might do differently that can improve his chances of success. Suggest that your teen:

- Talk with his teacher. He should tell the teacher how much time he spends studying every night. He can ask what problems the teacher sees, and what the teacher thinks he could do differently.
- Devote more time each day to Spanish. Encourage him to spend at least 20 minutes learning vocabulary words with flash cards. Later in the study session, have him work on fluency by reading aloud.
- Review past lessons. Have him redo homework from the beginning of the year. When he hits a stumbling block, he may be able to pinpoint where his problems started. Then he can ask the teacher to clarify.
- Get extra help. Would the teacher be willing to work with your teen after school? Is there a student who could tutor him?

With a strong work ethic and your support, your teen can master this challenge.



What's going on in your teen's life?

Some teens keep the details of their lives strictly to themselves. Don't let your tight-lipped teen close you out! Here's a quiz to help you open up the lines of communication. Answer yes or no to the questions below:

1. Can you name the kids who eat lunch with your teen?
2. Do you listen to your teen's music sometimes? Can you name her favorite song?
3. Do you know the names of your teen's teachers? Can you name her favorite teacher?
4. Can you name two friends your teen texts with?
5. Do you talk with your teen about what is going on in the world? Can you name her biggest worry?

How well are you doing?

Show this quiz to your teen and talk together about your answers. See if she can answer some similar questions about you.

"A step backward, after making a wrong turn, is a step in the right direction."
—Kurt Vonnegut

Get your teen's thoughts

It's important to remember that the focus of education is learning, not grades. When you talk to your teen about school, don't just ask how he's doing. Show him you care about what he is thinking. Ask:

- About the book he's reading. Can he give you a brief summary of the plot?
- About a recent test. Does he think it was a good way to measure his knowledge of the material? Why or why not?
- About his accomplishments. How did he go about solving the toughest chemistry problem he's had recently?

Source: M. Niren, Ph.D., *University Stress for Parents with Teenagers*, Colonial Arts.

Ask about study habits

If your teen is spending hour after hour late into the night on homework that shouldn't take more than two hours, ask her:

- When are you most alert? Moving homework time to the afternoon may make a difference.
- How many breaks do you take? Experts suggest taking a short break every 30 to 60 minutes, but not so many that it interferes with concentration.

Watch for danger signs

Is your teen at risk of dropping out of school? Warning signs include:



- Poor grades.
- Lack of confidence in his abilities.
- Limited goals for the future.
- Absenteeism. Does he miss more than five days of school each term?

If you see any of these signs, talk to your teen and his counselor. Develop a plan to address issues before they lead to failure.

Source: "Why Do Students Drop Out?" National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University, www.cdpnet.org.

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EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

November 2015

Seniors...it's time to start the admissions process!

Admission deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

Complete your college visits and narrow your choices to 3-4 schools.

Contact your top colleges and ask about deadlines and the process for applying for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.

Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline. If your school is conducting an Apply2College event this fall, you can get help during the school day with your college applications. Even if your school isn't conducting an event, use free Apply2College resources including this [College Application Checklist](#). For other resources and tips, [click here](#).

Update your *Activities Resume*. Since extracurricular activities are an important part of a college application, keep them up-to-date by using the [Activities Resume](#) at EducationQuest.org.

Contact your admissions representative periodically to stay informed about deadlines and campus activities.

Attend a Financial Aid Program to learn college funding options

If you attend, you can register to win a \$500 scholarship!

Juniors and seniors - to learn about financial aid and other college funding options, attend an EducationQuest [Financial Aid Program](#) with a parent or guardian. If you attend, you'll be eligible to apply for a \$500 Financial Aid Program Scholarship! [Find details](#) at EducationQuest.org.

Lincoln, Omaha College Fairs coming up

If you live in the Lincoln and Omaha regions, don't miss these opportunities to visit with representatives from over 100 colleges:

[Lincoln Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Southeast Community College
[Omaha Area College Fair](#), Sunday, October 25, 1:00-4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska at Omaha Sapp Fieldhouse

For details, including a list of participating colleges, click on the links above, or see the [College Fair article](#) at EducationQuest.org.

If you can't make it to a College Fair, attend an Educational Planning Program (EPP) at a location near you. These "mini college fairs" also feature college representatives. See [Upcoming Events](#) at EducationQuest.org for dates and locations.

Register for a barcode!

Before you attend a college fair or EPP, visit NebraskaCollegeFairs.org to register for a barcode. Take the barcode to the event and college reps will scan it to retrieve your demographic information.

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

Review College Profiles at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program to learn about options for discounts on tuition.

Meet with college representatives who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.

Once you've narrowed your choices, schedule campus visits. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session.

For more tips, see the Selecting a College section at EducationQuest.org.

November "To Do" List

Juniors and seniors...complete these tasks in November to stay on the path to college!

_____ Seniors, register by November 5 for the December 5 SAT.

_____ Seniors, register by November 6 for the December 12 ACT.

_____ Attend a Financial Aid Program in your area and apply for a \$500 scholarship.

_____ Apply for scholarships. Visit free sites such as ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org. _____ Meet with college representatives who visit your school.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Kearney

308-234-6310 800-666-3721

Lincoln

402-475-5222 800-303-3745

Omaha

402-391-4033 888-357-6300

EducationQuest.org

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DAR Scholarship Due	2	3	4	5 CCC Rep @ 1:00	6 Albert & Stella Smith Scholarship Due-Everyone Apply!! Scholarship workday	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 Julia/Crawford Pool Scholarship Due-Everyone Apply! Scholarship workday	14
15 Hagan Scholarship Due	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day No School	27 No School	28
29	30					

November 2015

The A List

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