



# Dallas Center-Grimes Community School

# Mustang Monthly



“Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Futures”

Volume 19, Issue 6

January 2017

## The Do’s and Don’ts of Winter Bus Safety

As we move into the winter months, it is always good to review school bus stop safety tips to ensure a safe and pleasant trip to school. Parents, please take a few minutes to review these tips with your child.

### Winter Bus Safety Tips for Students:

#### DO’s

- Do dress in warm winter clothing: hats, gloves, and boots.
- Do be on time at the bus stop.
- Do wait for the bus several feet further off the road in a safe place in winter weather. Be mindful that some stops may still have snow piles or drifts.
- Do go home and call your school if you think you missed your bus and we will come back to get you.
- Do move away from the bus to a place where the driver can see you and you can see the driver after you get off the bus.
- Do cross 10 feet in front of the bus, but wait for the “thumps up” signal from the driver before leaving the curb.



#### DON’Ts

- Don’t stand or play on snow piles at the bus stop - you could slide into the street in the path of oncoming traffic.
- Don’t walk along side a school bus.
- Don’t attempt to retrieve your books or lunchbox from around or underneath the bus until after it has cleared the unloading zone.
- Don’t push or shove when getting on or off the bus.
- Don’t chase after the bus or attempt to grab the rear bumper.
- Parents are responsible for their children’s safety before and after they are transported on the school bus, including at the bus stop. This is especially important during extreme weather.

## High School Registration

Tenth and eleventh grade students will register for 2017-2018 classes with their advisories on Friday, January 20. Students will have materials to help them plan and prepare for their classes and be provided time during advisories leading up to January 20. Parents can help their children by discussing future plans and course options in advance. The course description book, along with other planning materials, can be found on the high school website <http://www.dcgschools.com> (choose high school from the Schools tab).

## School Schedule at a Glance

**Monday, January 2** - No School for Winter Break  
**Wednesday, January 11** - 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Staff Professional Development  
**Friday, January 13** - End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester  
**Monday, January 16** - No School for Teacher Work Day  
**Tuesday, January 17** - Beginning of 3rd Quarter/2nd Semester  
**Wednesday, January 25** - 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Staff Professional Development

## Meadows Registration/Course Information

On Tuesday, January 10 **all current eighth grade** students and parents are encouraged to meet in the High School Auditorium at 5:30 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the registration process for ninth grade and gain information about both core and elective courses. The meeting should take about an hour. If you have questions, please contact Marc Juergens or Lori Phillips at 986-0105.

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## Student Assistance Program

Free, confidential program for DCG students! The Student Assistance Program has counselors available 24 hours/day and seven days a week for a phone consultation and extensive hours for in person sessions. A student and/or their parents can make the contact that allows for three visits per year per issue. Call 515-244-6090.

## SchoolMessenger Notification Service

The Dallas Center-Grimes School District is using SchoolMessenger as its Parent Notification system, a leading provider of notification services for parent outreach, emergency broadcasts, and other communications for education.

The SchoolMessenger system is designed to automatically notify parents for reasons that impact the safety and academic performance of students. SchoolMessenger will allow us to enhance our communication with additional features, such as text messages and individual parent control of who receives messages and how they are received.

## Iowa Sex Offender Registry

Many communities in Iowa, including Dallas Center and Grimes, have residents living in the community that are on the Iowa Sex Offender Registry. We are aware of residents living in Grimes and in Dallas Center that are on the sex offender register, although we no longer receive any official notification. We want to make you are aware of the situation so you can discuss it with your child(ren).

The sex offender register is available online at <http://www.iowasexoffender.com/>. Parents are encouraged to be aware of this information by accessing this website. If you do not have access to the Internet, or need assistance in accessing this information, please contact 992-3866. If you are unable to access this information, we will provide the information verbally or send copies of the information in the mail.

Please be aware that this notification is to serve only as a means for the public to protect themselves. Any action taken by anyone against these individuals, including vandalism of property, verbal or written threat of physical harm, or physical assault against these individuals or their family can result in arrest and prosecution.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), or socio-economic status (for programs) in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities or hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), §504 or Iowa Code §280.3 is directed to contact: Michelle Wearmouth, 1414 Walnut St. Suite 200, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063, telephone: 515-992-3866, who has been designated by the school district to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the ADA, §504 and Iowa Code §280.3.



## Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District Offices

### Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elementary Bldg.

E-mail: [pmorris@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:pmorris@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

Telephone Number: (515) 986-4057

Fax Number: (515) 986-4532

500 SW James Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem. Building

E-mail: [ahaitland@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:ahaitland@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

Telephone Number: 515-986-5674

Fax Number: 515-986-5376

400 N.W. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Diann Williamson, Principal/Dallas Center Elem. Bldg.

E-mail: [dwilliamson@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:dwilliamson@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3838

Fax Number: (515) 992-3467

1205 13th Street, P.O. Box 400, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Middle School Office

Jerry Hlas, Principal

E-mail: [jhlas@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:jhlas@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

Telephone Number: (515) 992-4343

Fax Number: (515) 992-4076

1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Meadows Office

Lori Phillips, Principal

E-mail: [lphillips@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:lphillips@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

Telephone Number: (515) 986-0105

Fax Number: (515) 986-3155

2555 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Ste. 200, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### High School Office

Scott Blum, Principal

E-mail: [sblum@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:sblum@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

Telephone Number: (515) 986-9747

Fax Number: (515) 986-9734

2555 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Central Office/Business Office

Scott Grimes, Superintendent

E-mail: [sgrimes@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:sgrimes@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3866

Fax Number: (515) 992-3079

1414 Walnut Street, Suite 200, P.O. Box 512

Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

# Annual Progress Report

Each district in the state of Iowa collects various data on their students' performance. This month, the Iowa Assessment proficiencies over the last several years are shared for both reading and writing. The writing assessment is called "Written Expression" whereby students analyze and interpret writing, word choice, sentences, etc.

## Iowa Assessment Reading Comprehension

	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
2002-03	88.0%	82.0%	81.8%	82.9%	85.0%	78.8%	68.5%	Not Tested	74.3%
2003-04	83.8%	86.5%	79.1%	75.6%	85.2%	74.4%	72.2%	82.8%	83.5%
2004-05	80.7%	92.2%	87.7%	75.4%	82.3%	85.4%	82.6%	80.8%	86.7%
2005-06	80.2%	91.7%	83.3%	85.1%	81.8%	81.1%	81.7%	81.7%	86.6%
2006-07	87.1%	91.1%	90.9%	78.1%	89.5%	87.2%	76.9%	82.9%	81.6%
2007-08	83.8%	86.7%	87.6%	81.9%	87.5%	82.8%	74.6%	80.2%	88.1%
2008-09	83.0%	91.3%	87.2%	84.6%	90.8%	80.0%	82.5%	78.3%	80.5%
2009-10	84.4%	88.0%	89.7%	81.2%	86.6%	89.8%	79.2%	83.5%	86.0%
2010-11	82.3%	92.4%	91.7%	76.1%	88.9%	85.9%	89.0%	80.3%	91.3%
2011-12	83.9%	87%	84.2%	83.4%	82.9%	82.9%	87%	93.2%	91.5%
2012-13	85.3 %	82.8%	83.8%	77.6%	90.0%	84.6%	86.5%	92.0%	94%
2013-14	91.8%	85.7%	84.8%	82.1%	87.2%	84.1%	90.1%	92.9%	86.4%
2014-15	90.6%	88.8%	87.5%	85.9%	84.1%	77.8%	91.5%	89.6%	83.3%
2015-16	90.2%	89.1%	90.4%	90.2%	88.6%	79.4%	90.3%	91.5%	80.1%

## Iowa Assessment Written Expression

	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>
2002-03	89.8%	93.4%	89.3%	91.5%	85.0%	81.8%	75.9%	Not Tested	71.3%
2003-04	91.5%	92.8%	89.1%	85.7%	93.0%	80.3%	83.5%	77.0%	75.3%
2004-05	85.8%	94.8%	94.3%	92.3%	85.5%	89.4%	79.1%	78.4%	84.8%
2005-06	88.9%	93.2%	91.7%	92.1%	87.1%	82.7%	82.5%	75.2%	87.8%
2006-07	90.6%	93.1%	92.2%	86.7%	90.4%	92.8%	73.8%	81.9%	79.7%
2007-08	84.4%	96.0%	97.0%	95.3%	88.2%	90.0%	81.3%	72.6%	87.6%
2008-09	92.9%	90.7%	95.5%	86.6%	88.9%	84.6%	79.4%	72.3%	68.5%
2009-10	89.6%	95.1%	92.0%	Not Tested	Not Tested	Not Tested	Not Tested	Not Tested	Not Tested
2010-11	89.0%	94.9%	94.1%	83.9%	88.8%	90.7%	81.7%	73.1%	80.5%
2011-12	91.4%	93.2%	90.5%	83.2%	81.3%	87.6%	91.9%	90.5%	87.5%
2012-13	84.2%	89.1%	86.3%	77%	83.9%	76.3%	92.8%	87.4%	90.6%
2013-14	91.8%	87.8%	91.9%	78%	84.3%	83.0%	87.6%	94.5%	85.6%
2014-15	90.1%	90.4%	92.9%	79.5%	79.0%	74.7%	89.8%	86.3%	83.1%
2015-16	87.9%	91.0%	92.8%	80.3%	82.2%	73.0%	87.0%	89.6%	76.2%

### DCG Mission Statement Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Futures!

The Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is committed to developing positive, productive, and responsible citizens who are independent thinkers, value themselves and others, and have the knowledge, skills, and desire to be life-long learners. Excellence in education comes from setting high expectations for all and providing the resources needed for every student to excel.

# Board Commendations

- DCG Assistant Football Coach Brian Hutzel for his recognition as one of the two people honored as 2016 Class 3A, Assistant Coach of the Year - Football. -Scott Heitland
- I would like to commend our football coaching staff, but specifically Coach Heitland, Coach Tjeerdsma, Coach Hutzel and Coach Donahue. These men have made a significant impact on my son's life, and I know he will continue to hold them in the highest regard the rest of his life. They truly care more about the kid than the sport and do an amazing job of letting the kids be who they are as well as teaching them the game of football. I am proud of our football staff and happy when people ask me where my son plays. Their impact will be life long.
- Thanks to the PTO for organizing our fundraiser "Stampede to Read," which generated over \$30,000.00. They have also generously awarded grants to several of our classrooms to enhance the learning of students. We appreciate the hours of planning and volunteer work that goes into organizing events throughout the year. Thanks PTO for your continued support! -DCE Staff
- The fourth grade teachers would like to thank the Dallas Center Rotary Club for providing dictionaries for all the fourth-graders. They personally come in and teach students what a civic group is all about and give the gift of knowledge. The students are so excited about the dictionaries; it is hard to control their excitement. Not only is it a dictionary, it is full of lots of information. Thank you again for doing this. -Amy Lawton
- I would like to thank the incredible Taher staff at North Ridge elementary for the kind and caring relationships they build with our staff and students. They each make our lunchroom such an inviting place to be! -April Heitland
- I would like to thank the ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) teachers for all their effort and hard work for their EL programs and on the EL Grant. Harka Biswa, Diane Messerli, and LaRee Hawks just received a grant from the AEA for \$3,500 to purchase additional supplemental materials for their EL students. Their dedication and hard work has also been evident in the number of students who became proficient from last year to this year. DCG had 7 EL students who became proficient this year because of the great services and instruction at DCG! -Angela Dvorak
- The Athletic Department would like to recognize the following athletic departments, athletes, and their accomplishments:
  - All State Band - Emily Frett, Noah Huff; Directors: Craig Crilly and Steve Britt
  - All State Vocal - Elaina Bayse, Dakota Belling, Savanna Harper, Kole Hicok, Kolby Kamm, Allison Koch, Isaac Lodwick, Connor McAninich, Nick Secory, Carsyn Vance, Claire Wessels; Directors: Eric Mohlis, Heidi Steger
  - Boys Cross Country - 3rd Place State Meet - Jared Bravard, Alex Thompson, Tyler Borneman, Dakota Belling, Jacob Cline, Jacob Waymire, Brian Miner, Head Coach: Matt Pries, Asst. Coach: Josh Saba
  - Girls Cross Country - 7th Place State Meet - Brooke Kramer, Lexi Smith, Natalie Paulson, Grace Robbins, Elizabeth Belling, Kaitlyn Murano, Lara Kallem, Head Coach: Justin Droppert, Asst. Coach: Tyler Kastantin
  - All Conference Cross Country Runners - Tyler Borneman, Alex Thompson, Lexi Smith, Brooke Kramer
  - All Conference Volleyball - 1st Team: Grace Judd, 2nd Team: Tatum Jorgensen, Ally Ferguson
  - All District Football - Ben Fisher, Nathan Brown, Trey Washington, Ryan Johnson, Coty Lemon, Trent Carpenter, Spencer Hansen
  - DCG Cheerleaders - Class 3A State Champions – Brea Wolfe, Meredith Hart, Skylar Robertson, Haley Hudson, Carsyn Vance, Amy Meyers, Sarah Fangman, Abby Ryan, Kourtney Terry, Megan Holiday, Hannah Bustamante, Dayna Clausen, Brittan Deardorff, Sarah Frett; Coaches: Chrissy Deardorff, Angie Rubel - Submitted by Steve Watson
- Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School and Meadows had four teams that competed in the regional mock trial tournament on October 25, 2016. Over 2,000 students participated in this year's competition. Two teams moved on to state, those teams being denoted as team green and team purple. Team purple is composed of eighth-graders Emma Wagner, Elizabeth Vance, Sierra Sonberg, Cale Schmitz, Sierra Mason, Alex Romig, Molly Patterson, and Jordan Smith. Team green is composed of seventh-graders Garrett Bond and Josh Ward, and sixth-graders Audrey Frett, Dante Chittenden, Madison Stone, Rachel Becker, Megan Grimes, and Huston Halverson. Team purple placed 10th at state, and team green placed 8th at state. The mock trial teams are coached by head coach Shannon Wallace, and assistant coaches Kim Cross, Jill Altringer, Kathryn Pagel, and Jessica McCartan. The ELP Coordinator is Pamela Kluender. -Shannon Wallace and Pamela Kluender
- I would like to commend the entire staff at North Ridge from the custodians getting the second grade team moved in quickly, to the teachers, associates, office staff, and Principal Mrs. Heitland for making all of us feel welcome into the building! What a great support the staff is here! We all love this place! -Heidi Washington
- Thank you to Mike Burger for supervising and overseeing the North Ridge newsletter with his students! -April Heitland

# 2017-18 Preschool Registration

Please read below to learn about the new procedures regarding preschool registration for the 2017-18 school year. Please note, registration will not take place until March 1, 2017.

## WHAT DOES THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM CONSIST OF?

Our curriculum offers a balance of individual, small group, and large group activities with an emphasis on learning centers and child self-selection. The classrooms are planned to stimulate aspects of development by acknowledging each child's individual development, age-related development, and cultural background. Your child will learn by doing, imitating, observing, exploring, examining, experimenting, and questioning in activities and experiences planned according to his or her interests and home experiences. Language and literacy experiences, storytelling and story sharing, creative dramatics, and music are integrated throughout the program as well as numbers, science, and outdoor activities. We also focus on social emotional learning with an emphasis placed upon sharing, belonging to a group, and forming friendships with other children and adults.

## HOW OLD DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?

For the 3 year old preschool, your child must be three by September 15th, 2017.  
For the 4 year old preschool, your child must be four by September 15th, 2017.

## WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

The preschool registration window is open between **March 1st and March 18th, 2017**. Registration will still be available after March 18<sup>th</sup>, but we cannot guarantee a slot for your child. Please note: for the 3 year old program only, limited spots are available and a random drawing will be used for placement.

## WHICH SCHOOL BUILDINGS OFFER PRESCHOOL CLASSES?

Heritage Elementary in Grimes, The Grimes Child Development Center (Brighter Beginnings), and Kids Korner in Dallas Center will be the preschool locations for 4 year olds.

Heritage Elementary will be the only location for the 3 year old program.

## WHICH BUILDING WILL MY CHILD WILL BE IN?

Grimes students will mostly be placed at Heritage Elementary. A few will be placed at the Grimes Child Development Center (Brighter Beginnings) along with the students who attend daycare there. Dallas Center students will be placed at Kids Korner in Dallas Center. Once the building and section decisions are finalized, families will be contacted by email, letter or phone regarding their assigned location and time.

## IF I LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE DC-G SCHOOL DISTRICT, CAN I STILL REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Resident students of the Dallas Center-Grimes School District and siblings of current open-enrolled students will be considered first for enrollment into the preschool program. If there is room available when school starts, then we may fill the slots with out of district students. Please call the North Ridge office in the meantime to be put on a waiting list, but please do not register online.

## WHEN ARE PRESCHOOL CLASSES HELD?

4 days per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Morning Class (AM) – 8:10-11:10 AM	(3 year olds and a couple of 4 year old sections)
Afternoon Class (PM) – 12:15-3:15 PM	(4 year olds)

The preschool calendar runs on the same schedule as the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School district calendar regarding vacation days, early outs, and snow days. However, preschoolers will start school one week later than K-12 students. Home visits by the preschool teachers will be conducted during the week prior to their first day. Teachers will contact you to set up a time and/or there will be a sign up sheet at the open house prior to school starting.

### CAN I CHOOSE WHICH SECTION MY CHILD WILL BE IN (AM/PM)?

Since we always have more interest for the morning sections, and we need to balance the classes, you are not able to choose a preference at this time. Students attending the major daycare centers such as First Steps, Imagine Learning Center, Tender Years, Traditions, Learning Tree, Tender Hearts, etc. will automatically be placed in the afternoon session.

### HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Please refer to the [Registration Webpage](#) and follow the process for either an existing family or a new family to the district.

### HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD IF I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER OR HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

There will be registration kiosks available at South Prairie, North Ridge, Dallas Center Elementary, Middle School, Meadows, and DC-G High School. Please come between 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM starting on March 1, 2017.

### I HAVE OLDER CHILDREN ALREADY ENROLLED AT DC-G SCHOOLS. CAN I REGISTER THEM ALL AT ONCE WITH MY PRESCHOOLER?

Yes! Please refer to the [Registration Webpage](#) and follow the process for an existing family. Just be sure to add your preschool-aged child to the list of students you're registering for the upcoming school year.

### WHAT PAPERWORK SHOULD I HAVE READY BEFORE REGISTERING MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Existing families with Parent Portal accounts will need a digital copy of your child's **birth certificate** and your child's **immunization record**. (We are hoping this step will be available and ready March 1)

New families will need the paperwork listed above and additionally will need a digital copy showing **proof of residence** (ex: a scanned copy of a utility bill with your name and address.)

### WHAT IS THE COST FOR MY CHILD TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?

The current cost for the 3 year old program is \$175/month plus a \$25 one-time registration fee. However, these amounts could be subject to change.

At this time, the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds our district's 4 year old program, and the only cost to parents is the \$25 one-time registration fee. We are unable to fully guarantee this funding for next year.

### WHEN WILL I KNOW THE LOCATION AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR MY PRESCHOOLER?

Due to increasing enrollment within our district, you will not find out until mid July at the earliest. You will receive an email, letter, or a phone call once the decisions have been made.

### IS MY CHILD GUARANTEED A PRESCHOOL SLOT IF I REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 18TH?

As long as you [register online](#) before the deadline, you should be fine for the 4 year old classes. If we have more registrations than anticipated, however, we will create a wait list that will allow us to fill the spots when available. The 3 year old classes are filled by a random drawing system only, so your child is not guaranteed a slot.

### I JUST REGISTERED MY PRESCHOOLER. WHY DON'T I SEE THEM IN MY PARENT PORTAL?

Your preschooler will not be visible in your Parent Portal until the 2017-18 school year, which starts July 1, 2017. This is the same reason you cannot pay registration fees for them until July 1, 2017.

### WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Please contact April Heitland or Deanna Sandegren at the North Ridge office (515-986-5674) if you have any further questions regarding our preschool program.

# Staff Professional Development

By: Greg Carezza

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that it is January of 2017 and we are almost halfway through our school year! This is such an important time of the school year as we return from winter break and turn our attention back to teaching and learning across the district. It is also important as we start to think about the upcoming Iowa Assessments and other district assessments. Regardless of the work that lies ahead, we continue to focus on providing staff with high quality professional development opportunities that support the work we do in our classrooms and with our students each and every day. I would like to take a moment to detail our upcoming staff development.

For our early dismissal professional development on January 11, a major focus of our PD time will be spent with classroom teachers K-12 participating in an English Language Learners (ELL) training focused on how teachers can best support EL learners in the classroom. This training, led by EL staff and other teachers in the district, will be an extension of training the EL teachers have received in high quality instruction. Our encore teachers will be meeting together to continue to learn more about the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process and how it can be used to support student learning in the content area. More specifically, we will review the importance of these teams developing a collaborative culture to examine student learning. These teams will also have time to work together, as a K-12 group, to support student learning.

Finally, as part of our Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) grant, I will be working with our district PLC Leaders to learn more about the training and supports they need to lead their PLC teams throughout the year. The PLC Leaders serve a critical role in helping to support their teams in addressing student needs and support of their work is critical moving forward.

In closing, January is the perfect time for individuals to set some meaningful goals for the upcoming year and to think about how we can continue to get better both personally and professionally! It is important in our district that we look to our student performance data to make decisions about our goals and steps to achieving those goals.

I am extremely appreciative of the support of our district administrators and our instructional coaches as they provide valuable input in helping us to determine the best staff development for our teaching staff. Together we are working to make learning meaningful for all of our staff members.

I want to wish you all a happy and healthy 2017! I look forward to the learning opportunities that lay ahead this year!

## MUSTANGS FINISH ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON



*The DCG Football team would like to thank all the families that came out to support our teams this fall. From camps, fundraisers, and game nights, your support has always been outstanding. Thank you, and we hope to see you again next fall.*

*-Coach Heitland and the DCG Football Coaches and Players*

### Post-Season Honors/Awards

#### All State

Trey Washington – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team INA selection

#### All District

Trey Washington  
Trent Carpenter  
Coty Lemon  
Ben Fisher

Nathan Brown  
Spencer Hansen  
Ryan Johnson

Football Team GPA – 3.13

19 Academic All District performers

Team MVP: Offense – Nathan Brown

Defense – Trent Carpenter

Special Teams: Ben Fisher/Trey Washington



The 2016 Mustangs finished the season at 6-3 and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in what many called the toughest district in the state in Class 3A. While the season fell short of a post-season birth, there were many exciting moments. With a large number of starters returning in 2017, the future looks exciting! A special thank you to our seniors this year for their time and dedication to our football program. Your contributions are appreciated and exciting futures are ahead for each one of you. Look for 2017 football camp information in a spring issue of the Mustang Monthly.

***GO MUSTANGS!***

# HIGH SCHOOL/MEADOWS NEWS

## High School Semester Test Schedule

### Thursday, January 12, 2017

8:10 - 8:25	Study Hall (in media center and commons) This is also a time to visit with teachers.
8:30 - 9:50	1st Period Test
10:00 - 11:20	3rd Period Test
11:20 - 12:20	Lunch/Study Hall
11:50 - 12:20	Teachers in rooms available to help.
12:25 - 1:45	5th Period Test
1:55 - 3:15	7th Period Test

### Friday, January 13, 2017

8:10 - 8:25	Study Hall (in media center and commons) This is also a time to visit with teachers.
8:30 - 9:50	2nd Period Test
10:00 - 11:20	4th Period Test
11:20 - 12:20	Lunch/Study Hall
11:50 - 12:20	Teachers in rooms available to help
12:25 - 1:45	6th Period Test
1:55 - 3:15	8th Period Test

**Please note Meadows will be running their regular schedule during Semester Tests.**

## **Semester Test Waiver**

The semester test waiver is being used as a positive reinforcement to all students who have outstanding behavior.

### Provisions that must be met to waive a semester test:

Grade of A- or better

A student cannot waive a final if:

- One or more suspensions (in-school or out-of-school)
- Three or more unexcused tardies for that period
- Two or more cell phone violations in that semester
- One or more Good Conduct Code violation

### Other notes:

1. A student who qualifies for the waiver option may decide to take the semester test, but it will be counted only if it *improves* the final grade.
2. Students may not opt out of a project.
3. A student cannot waive the semester test both semesters of a year-long course.
4. Forms requesting permission to waive final exams are due in the Main Office on designated dates in January for first semester, and in May for second semester. Opt-out forms will be distributed in Advisory.
5. Students must take a minimum of two tests each semester

**\*NOTICE: Students taking a class for dual-credit courses are not eligible to waive the exam for that class. This includes second semester seniors.**

## **2016-2017 Drivers Education for Dallas-Center Grimes High School and Meadows**

We will continue to offer four sessions of driver's education each year, if we have enough interest. The cost at the present time is \$320 for each session. Fees for out of district students are \$375. Students must be at least 14 years old and have a permit to sign up, as well as a signed parent permission slip. Students in grades 8-12 may sign up for each session. Usually the fall and spring session are the busiest. Please call the Meadows school office at 986-0105 to sign up your child for any of these programs. All payments and permission slips should be made or turned in before the first classroom. Payment plans may be arranged with the office. Below you will find information about each remaining session.

**Winter Session 2017-** The winter program begins in early January and ends before spring break in March. There was a meeting in December to hand out information and collect payment. Classroom days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:45 to 8:00 a.m. Most students will drive during their study hall times. If this can't be worked out, before or after school times may be arranged. All students who drive during study halls will drive at least once on Saturday for 2 hours in downtown Des Moines. Shuttle bus service from Dallas Center will also be available in the morning to bring students to classroom. Class size is limited to 40 students. Home school students are welcome. Classrooms are held in the Meadows media center. If we don't have at least 12 students sign up the session will be cancelled and the next session will be the spring session.

**Spring Session 2017-** The spring session will begin after spring break and end in May. There will be a meeting before spring break to hand out information and collect payment. Classroom days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:45 to 8:00 a.m. Most students will drive during their study hall times. If this can't be worked out, before or after school driving may be arranged. All students who drive during study halls will drive at least once on Saturday for 2 hours in downtown Des Moines. Shuttle bus service from Dallas Center will also be available in the morning to bring students in early for classroom work. Class size is limited to 40 students. Home school students are welcome. Classrooms will be held in the Meadows Media Center.

**Summer Session 2017-** Our summer program is held during the months of June and July. Class time will begin Monday, June 5 and end on Friday, June 23. Classes will be every day for the first three weeks from 7:00-9:00 a.m. Driving times will be (6) two-hour periods with a driving partner (example: a student might drive from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on a Monday). Driving times will be scheduled until 3:30p.m. and may also be on a Saturday. If you live in Grimes, your child may be picked up at a central location such as Casey's, True Value, or Kum and Go, and then be dropped off there when the driving lesson is over. This needs to be prearranged with the instructor. Driving groups will be able to change times with other groups if necessary. Students will draw numbers for driving times the first day of class. They will choose their own driving partner and driving times. Class size is limited to 48 students. Home school students are welcome.



## Positive Culture, Positive Mindsets

Creating a positive culture and building positive self-esteem is a large focus of the work we do at Meadows. Through advisory activities, small groups, and individual conversations, the Meadows student services team works together to build a safe and positive culture for all.

As we get further into the semester (and winter), your student may start to struggle or feel overwhelmed by homework, friendships or personal concerns. Please encourage your student to try the following:

- Get Involved! There are numerous activities eighth and ninth-graders can participate in. Please contact the Meadows main office to get a list of all the activities.
- Reach out to a positive adult or contact the Meadows Counselor or Dean if your child is struggling emotionally or academically. We hold Mustang Café every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3:15- 4:30 pm for students needing support to get their work completed. We also have a variety of resources and supports for students with Mental Health needs.

In addition, please look to the DCG Family Resources page on our website for additional supports ([www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com) - Parent Resources - DCG Family Resources).

As we start the New Year, we are going to be working with a new college and career database. Family Connection will be available to Meadows families this winter. We are excited about this tool and the multiple supports it will provide students as they start their career and college planning. More information will be given to you as we start using this program.

As always, please reach out to us if you have any celebrations, questions, or concerns. We look forward to working together to assure your child is successful at school.

Marc Juergens- Dean of Students, [mjuergens@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:mjuergens@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)  
Emily Judd- School Counselor, [ejudd@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:ejudd@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us)

## High School November Students of the Month

High School staff members are proud to recognize students who deserve to be celebrated for the work they are doing in class. Students below were selected for qualities such as leadership, work ethic, and peer support during the month of November.

Agriculture: Jacob Majava

Art: Brooke Kramer

Band: Noah Huff

Business: Elaina Bayse

Family & Consumer Science: Callie Wych

Industrial Technology: Levi Willrich

Language Arts: Grace Robbins

Math: Rachel Lowary

Physical Education: Caiden Mandernach

Science: Dakota Miles

Social Studies: Joshua Jones

Vocal: Sierra Brown

World Language: Elizabeth Bryant-Tapper



Mustang Monthly

## DCG Key Club

**By: Joanna Poole**

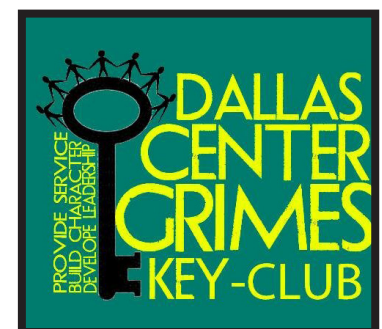
The DCG Key Club has had a busy fall season! On October 8, Key Club members participated in the Walk to Defeat ALS. We had a total of 19 people walk half a mile around the Des Moines area to raise about \$250 for ALS. The money went to local care services and research facilities. The weather was a bit chilly that day, but that didn't stop everyone from having a great time! The turnout was amazing and we got to bond as a club, as well as help others. The fundraising earned at the annual Students vs. Staff basketball game held in March supports the DCG team.

On October 31, the Key Club participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. The club raised \$1,167.28, the second highest total in club history. We would like to thank all community members who helped us reach this goal by donating money when we visited their houses on Beggar's Night.

In November, seven members attended Key Leader camp at Sunstream Retreat Center in Ogden, IA. The campers: Kara-Lyn Moran, Kirsten Snyder, Liza Bryant-Tapper, Jonah Schaeffer, and Kathryn McLaughlin, as well as their facilitators, Sierra Brown and Dori Clause, spent three days developing their leadership skills and relationships with other students.

Other service projects that the Key Club is involved in are helping the Salvation Army with their Red Kettle Campaign by bell ringing outside of Fareway in Grimes and spreading holiday cheer at the local assisted living centers. This is the 7th year the DCG Key Club has helped the Salvation Army with their Red Kettle Campaign. We appreciate all the help the community gives to us during this event.

On December 8, the DCG Key Club members gathered together to create holiday greeting cards. They then shared the spirit of the holidays with the residents at Kennybrook Village and at Spurgeon Manor by giving these cards to them while visiting with them.



## DCG Business Department Hosts Two Entrepreneurs

By: Sandy Barker

In the 9-12 business department, we have many courses available, which are taught by Buck Nelson and Sandy Barker. Our Introduction to Business class recently studied a unit about small businesses and entrepreneurship. We were fortunate that two successful entrepreneurs agreed to come and speak to our classes. On October 19, Jane Foreman, owner of Jane Foreman Designs and Art Happy in Grimes spoke to our classes, and on October 25, Mike Draper, owner of Raygun in Des Moines spoke to our classes.



Jane's business is located on Main Street in Grimes, and she is so passionate about her venture that she said, "I don't feel like I work." She began by designing jewelry in 2008 and continues to grow every year. Her advice: 1. You have to spend money to make money; 2. Success doesn't happen overnight; 3. Sales is always a part of a business; 4. Be open to change and inspiration; 5. Be ready to wear many hats; and 6. Give back in some way. Jane spoke about knowing your brand and market, the advantages of economies of scale, learning your craft and doing it well, having a business plan with a mission and vision, doing due diligence, and the importance of being good to your customers. Jane's energy and enthusiasm carried through to the students and they all took her message to heart.

Mike Draper of Raygun built his business from startup cash of \$150. He sold t-shirts on a college campus street corner, and eventually was able to travel to New York to sell his shirts. He eventually decided that he wanted to return to the Midwest, where he found his niche in clever sayings about his home state. It was a hit that now has turned into a multi-million dollar business. Mike spoke about the climb from doing everything himself and being willing to do the work and put in the hours. He spoke about having a vision and using creativity. He stressed the importance of being a good employee – being someone who shows up every day and works hard. And he joked about how he doesn't use social media and that he expects his employees to be fully engaged while they are at work – they have their off hours to be on their phones! Mike's presentation was filled with great information

and humor that the students hung on to and enjoyed immensely.

Our last units of the semester will be in the areas of advertising, marketing, and promotion. If you know of any local business owners that would enjoy speaking to our classes, please contact either teacher at the high school at 515-986-9747 or by email: [sbarker@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:sbarker@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us) or [bnelson@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us](mailto:bnelson@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us). It's always great to get a real world perspective on the topics about which we are learning! Pictured is the Meadows class and Mr. Nelson enjoying their time with our speakers.



## Connecting Classroom Learning to Latin America

By: Erin Lane

The Spanish IV class at Dallas Center-Grimes High School just finished a unit where the students learned vocabulary relating to technology, read articles about modern and ancient forms of technology and discussed their own personal use of technology. In addition to the vocabulary, readings, and discussions, the students reviewed the use of the present subjunctive and indicative in complex sentences. They also reviewed how to create and use commands with pronouns. At the end of the chapter, the students had to create a project to demonstrate their learning. Instead of taking a test, they created movies, presentations, and essays that incorporated everything that we had learned in the chapter. The final challenge put the students outside of their comfort zones and made them apply their learning in a real world situation. Each student was assigned a native Spanish speaker from either Mexico, Nicaragua, or Costa Rica. They had to contact that Spanish speaker and ask them about themselves and their use of technology, as well as the availability of technology in their given country. It was a challenge for the students, as they were asked to create something that incorporated all of the learning that we did in the chapter, as well as having to take a leap and contact a native speaker of Spanish. The students liked the opportunity to apply their learning into a real-world application, and it gave them the opportunity to communicate with someone living in the Spanish speaking world. They were able to make connections and comparisons to their culture and that of Latin America. Students gained confidence in using their Spanish in real life and grew from pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones.

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## Large Group Speech

By: Anne Frett

The high school Large Group Speech team is off to a great start. Over 100 high school students auditioned for the speech team in early November. These students were placed into 22 groups, each with their own script and category. These groups are now working to prepare a contest entry for the District Speech Contest on January 21.

This year the speech team will be taking entries to contest in the following categories: One Act Play, Choral Reading, Reader's Theater, Ensemble Acting, Musical Theater, Radio News, TV News, Improvisation, and Short Film

Because of the growth of the team this year Ms. Sarah Schaefer was hired as an assistant coach. Ms. Schaefer brings years of experience in theater and is a great addition to the directing staff.

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School

## 2016-17 High School Writing Goals

Each year, the DCG High School ELA department works to enhance building and department goals to improve learning opportunities and practices for students. As more and more students take AP and dual-credit courses, the need for analytical thinking practice has become even more apparent. It is common for students to need support in thinking beyond what is explained or summarized when dealing with complex texts. No matter the content of the class, analysis shows up on quizzes, tests, and essays. This year, the ELA department is specifically focusing on writing an effective analysis.

Since analytical thinking is not something easily taught, how are teachers structuring the process for students to learn and practice? Teachers have started the process by reviewing summarizing. After summarizing, teachers are working to break down analytical prompts. ELA teachers are helping students identify effective elements of example analysis responses, while also practicing building and writing individual analytical responses. Teachers provide weekly opportunities for students to practice analysis, and then teachers work together to enhance instructional strategies and prompts.

The goal for each grade level is to have 75% of our ELA students demonstrate analytical thinking on at least one summative, end-of-the-unit assessment. High school teachers continue to scaffold analytical thinking processes and practices for grades 10-12.

## Ninth Grade Writing

**By: Karene Rosenbury and Bob Geurink**

Students in ninth grade English I class have been working on a Musical Interlude project for the Romeo and Juliet unit. In this project, the students use contextual clues to relate the Shakespeare text and current songs. The students have a choice to either create a playlist of song titles and artists for each scene in the play or to create an iMovie, which includes song choice and artist, copyright free pictures and an audio clip for 10 scenes in the play. No matter which option is chosen, all students will write explanations that draw evidence from the literary text to support analysis and reflection.

## Eighth Grade Writing

**By: Jordan Kirstein**

Students in the eighth grade writing class have been working on the elements of persuasive writing, specifically a letter written from one character to another in The Crucible. In this project, the students use logical, ethical, and emotional reasoning and evidence to support their claims as to whether John Proctor should choose his life or his legacy. Students also use their knowledge of the characters and their relationship to establish a 'voice' for John's wife Elizabeth and a point of view for their writing.

## High School Art Spotlight

**By: Mike Burgher**

This month's artist spotlight features Keegan Holdorf. He created this work as part of his AP Art studio portfolio. This is done in chalk pastel as an example of his artistic breadth of knowledge/skill. Keep up the great work!



## DCG DECA Program Raises Funds for Fallen Officers

**By: Buck Nelson**

DECA, a new business education club at DCG, recently raised funds for the fallen Des Moines area police officers' families. Buck Nelson, the DECA program coordinator, was approached by freshman Emily Rutter about doing this fundraiser to help the families of the fallen officers fund. Emily proposed creating blue ribbons and selling them for \$2 each, with all the proceeds going to the fund. She motivated her fellow 40 DECA members to help assemble and sell the ribbons, raising over \$369.00

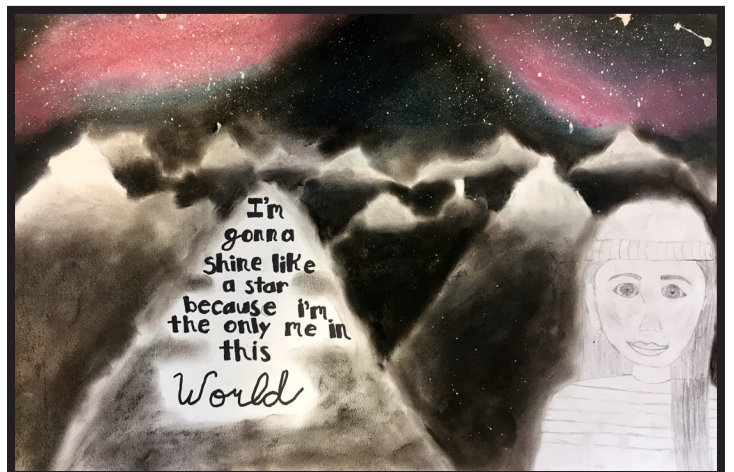


DECA is a co-curricular club that provides students with leadership opportunities in the areas of marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. The program is offered at both Meadows and the High School. For additional information or questions please contact: Buck Nelson at 515-986-9747 or [Buck.Nelson@dcdschools.com](mailto:Buck.Nelson@dcdschools.com).

## Meadows Art Spotlight

**By: April Busch**

This month's art spotlight is Megan Sterbenz. She used pencil, chalk pastel, acrylic and sharpie on her self-portrait. Great work Megan!



# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Middle School Counseling

By: Julie Kopecky

Middle school students are living in exciting times - expanding friendships, new opportunities and ever-changing technology. During this time of change and growth, middle school guidance is in place to help bridge the journey from childhood to young adulthood. The school-counseling program helps meet these needs in three areas - academics, social/emotional and career.

Academic support in middle school is provided on many levels. Scheduling keeps the middle school philosophy in mind. Teaming is done whenever possible to help the students and staff build communities during the year. Local and district-wide testing is supported through classroom and advisory activities. Data is used as a guide in accelerating students and also by giving needed support through academic interventions such as tutoring, guided study, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> hour, M & M and SOAR. Academic support is vital in the middle school setting.

Social/emotional programming is a second area in the middle school counseling program. Individual and small group counseling is available to all students. Advisory provides goal setting, character and teambuilding activities. The middle school also partners with the Dallas County Extension Office, United Way, Student Assistance Program, Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center, American Lung Association and the Iowa National Guard. These groups provide individual and group support as well as classroom curriculum.

In the career area, the district is implementing Naviance for much of the career planning. The curriculum that occurs during computers begins in sixth grade and uses a backward design. The students begin with interest and skills inventories, investigate career areas and clusters, and search post-high school institutions during the two years. Advisory also supports this topic with activities surrounding goal setting and teambuilding.

Middle school students are in a whirlwind of exploration, physical growth and self-identity. Through a comprehensive, developmental school-counseling program, the middle school works as a team with administration, school staff, parents and students to assist students in reaching their full potential.



## Middle School Band Receives Xylophone

By: Chris Crandell

Anna Kelly, seventh-grader at the middle school is pictured playing the new Adams Xylophone that was jointly purchased by the DCG school district and FOFA. Approximately 24 percussionists in the DCG sixth and seventh grade bands are currently using this xylophone. It is a super addition to our program. We thank all parties involved for this wonderful instrument!

## World Languages and Cultures

By: Kristine Jimenez

Research shows learning a foreign language is far more important in this day and age if your kids want to compete in the global society they are growing up in. During their food unit, sixth grade students used Google Draw to replace a pencil/paper brain assignment they used to do to learn fruit and vegetable words. This change made to incorporate more technology was welcomed and enjoyed by many. Seventh-graders end every quarter by creating a Fashion Show. This year we used the Chatterpix Kids app to create fun images that make it look like student's mouths are moving. Finished projects can be found at <http://www.dc-gspanish.yolasite.com>



# Writing at the Middle School

By: Elizabeth Reels, Bret Larsen, and Cate O'Donnell

At the middle school, we are dedicated to helping students continue to grow as writers. Increasing student engagement in authentic literacy and intensive writing is a primary focus across disciplines. In English classes, students have a continual focus on the 6 Traits of Writing. Students focus on improving their writing in the following six areas: ideas, word choice, voice, organization, sentence fluency, and conventions. In January, the seventh-graders will focus on persuasive writing during their persuasive writing unit. Students will research a topic, write a position paper, and present their findings to the class. The students also have practice writing arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence in social studies. The students at the middle school continue to write for a variety of purposes. As Ken MacLeod wrote, "The secret of becoming a writer is to write, write, and keep on writing."



## Sixth Grade Novelists

By: Cate O'Donnell

The sixth-graders at the middle school became authors during National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) this November.

Students created their own characters, plot, and conflict to write a novel for the month. Stories ranged from historical fiction about soldiers in WWII to fantasy about dragons and everything in between.



The focus of NaNoWriMo is on writing as many words as possible; each sixth grade student set their own goal and wrote anywhere from 2,000 to 50,000 words during the month. Over the course of a month, the students built a lot of writing stamina and some incredible stories. We can't wait to see some of these on bookshelves one day. Excellent work, sixth-graders!



# ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Spotlight on Writing

The elementary students began using a new writing curriculum this year called Write Steps. WriteSteps is a complete K-5 writing program with an unparalleled focus on every element of the Writing & Language Common Core Standards. WriteSteps includes day-by-day lesson plans with explicit instructions that incorporate best practices and strategies drawn from the 6 Traits of Quality Writing, Writer's Workshop, Madeline Hunter's Lesson Plan Format, Multiple Intelligences, and Bloom's Taxonomy. The WriteSteps print and online program provides students and educators with all of the tools they need to become effective writers and teachers in the 21st century.

## Kindergarten

By: Stacie Walker

Kindergarteners at South Prairie Elementary are excited to be using their new writing curriculum this year called WriteSteps. During our current unit, students have an opportunity to publish their writing. The students are creating a rough draft, and then they will conference and edit that draft with their teacher. After the conference, they will publish their work on special paper. The students are eager and excited to become published writers!



## First Grade

By: Michelle Rosenberg and Sarah Randol

First-graders are working hard on authentic writing this year! The first quarter was spent focusing on what good writers do. We learned and practiced re-reading, writing, using capitalization correctly, punctuation, spacing, and phonetic spelling. Through Common Core Writing Standards, students in first grade focus on several types of writing throughout the year. So far we have spent most of our time on narrative writing. The BME (Beginning, Middle, End) plan is used to organize our narrative stories. We will continue to work on different types of writing thought the year. First grade students are working on becoming better writers!



## Second Grade

By: Laurie Thompson and Mindy Greiman

Students in second grade have been working through the recently adopted Write Steps writing program. At the beginning of the year our students learned about the six traits of writing and organizing their writing with a beginning, middle, and end. They have written narratives and, most recently, have been working on informational pieces that include two paragraphs. The Write Steps program infuses grammar and punctuation instruction throughout each written piece, and gives opportunities for the students to revise and edit.



## Third Grade

By Ashley Sloan

Third-graders have been exploring the use of important traits of writing: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation. They have also learned different techniques to entice or "bait" the reader into wanting to read on in a story, as well as "catchy closures" to help create memorable endings. They have recently used all of that learning to create a personal narrative piece about a special object to them. This year we will continue to explore different types of writing: informative, opinion, and narrative. We look forward to watching our students grow as writers this year!

## Fourth Grade

By: Jeanne Peters

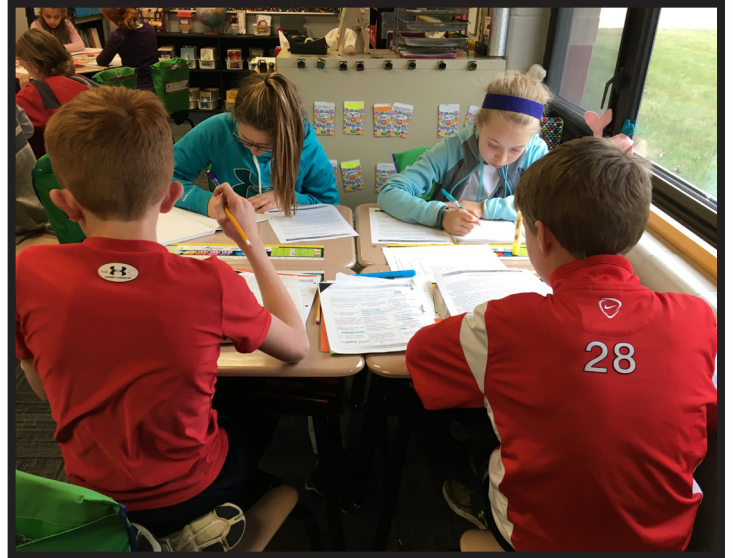
The writing program in fourth grade is based on the belief that students become better writers and readers through practice. The Write Steps program is a K-5 system that focuses on Common Core Standards. Write Steps uses the educational practices of Writer's Workshop, Madeline Hunter, and 6 Traits of Quality Writing as a framework for instruction, modeling, and student practice. Fourth-graders will write a real life narrative, an informational piece about their school, an evidence-based persuasive essay about zoos, and a research project presentation. They will also practice learning how to respond to reading. Technology will be infused in all of these projects. Students are also practicing keyboarding skills using Typing Club, a web-based program.

## Fifth Grade

By: Donna Gladfelder and Amanda Christiansen

After reviewing the six traits of writing, fifth-graders have been hard at work completing a personal narrative that describes a disappointing experience. This writing piece emphasized several important writing skills: dialogue, interjections, conjunctions, prepositions, figurative language, and the use of commas.

Our new writing series, Write Steps, introduces students to the craft of responding to text. Students will read various articles as they learn how to use text to support their thinking when responding to a prompt. The Common Core places an emphasis on students learning to write successfully about their reading. In order to do that, students need to be able to write well-defined pieces in which they make and support claims, analyze text, and incorporate evidence. This work, which is central to the Common Core in fifth grade, integrates cloze reading skills with informative writing skills.



## Dallas Center Elementary Guidance

By: Mandi O'Loughlin

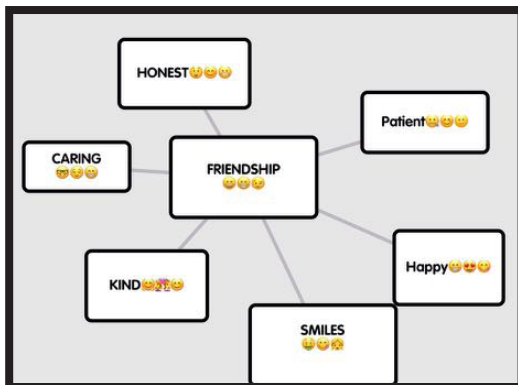
### K-1 Guidance

This month's focus is on appropriate classroom and recess behaviors. Students had the opportunity to use iPads to express their thinking about what is appropriate at recess and in the classroom using apps such as DigitDraw. Students draw out areas of the playground or classroom where they can use safe hands and feet. The students loved using iPads to share their thinking with their peers and teacher.



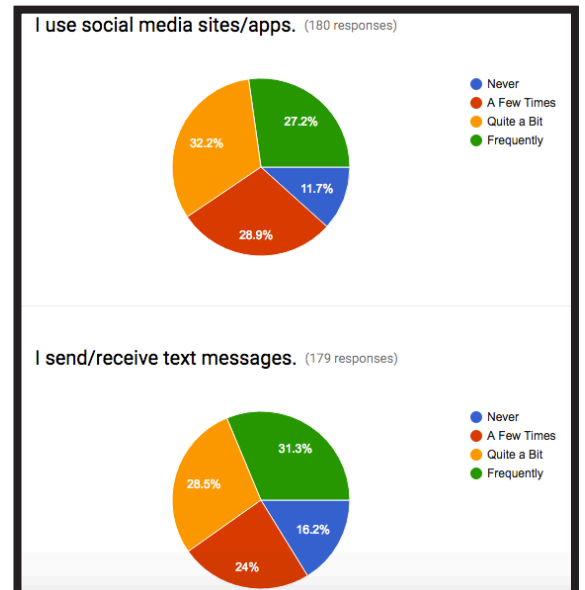
### 2-4 Guidance

What is a good friend?  
Am I a good friend?  
What are qualities I should look for in a friend? That's the focus of Guidance this quarter. Students used Google Classroom to first reflect, am I a good friend? Then they picked out friendship qualities that are important to them. After that, we used an app called Popplet to describe what a friend is and using emojis of course to illustrate that.



### 5th Guidance

During fifth grade guidance we are discussing cyber bullying. What it is, how to deal, and what really is a friend? Students used Google Classroom to learn about cyber bullying and how it can be prevented. Mrs. O'Loughlin had the students complete a survey to find out how many students are actually using social media and text messages. On the right you will see the results. Check out netsmartz.org to learn more about how to help your child prevent and handle cyber bullying.



## Fifth Grade Music Program

By: Bonnie Ihde

Members of the Dallas Center Elementary fifth grade class would like to invite you to their upcoming music program entitled "Shalom". Filled with song, dance, and plenty of laughs, this musical journey follows an enthusiastic crew of students who want nothing more than to travel and see the world. Through the universal language of music, they discover the customs, cultures and languages of countries from all over the world, to include Russia, Israel, Japan, South Africa and many more. Throughout the course of the 40 minute show, the students learn a bit about themselves and how even one SMALL person can make a big difference in a BIG world.

"Shalom" performances will be held in the High School Auditorium on Thursday, February 23. Red quad students (Christiansen, Clark, Nims, and Pickell) will perform at 6:00 pm, and silver quad students (Behnkendorf, Fangman, Gladfelder, Grant, and Mateer) will perform at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

## North Ridge Elementary Artist of the Month

By: Kayde Sberal

Second-grader Izzy Blix was chosen as "Artist of the Month" for her Vincent Van Gogh inspired pet portrait. Students in second grade used basic shapes to create their pet then completed them with a warm or cool color scheme.

In third grade Kaylie Freeman was awarded "Artist of the Month" for December for her outstanding symbolism in her Native American inspired sand art. The students studied Navajo sand art to inspire a symbol of their own that represents them. Gracie said, "My symbol means I protect my brother from a bad dog."



Fourth-grader Addalcy Snoberger was also awarded "Artist of the Month" for December for her craftsmanship and creativity on her pumpkin. The students studied light and value to create their oil pastel drawings.



## North Ridge Guidance

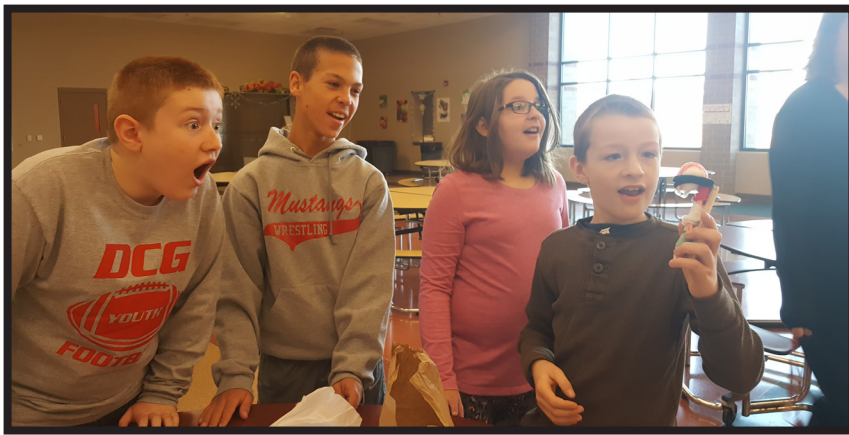
By: Adam Jones

At North Ridge we have been spending some time organizing different ways to support our community and others in need. This past October, we tried to prove that the smallest acts of love, like donating a pair of socks, can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors who are homeless. We teamed up with the Kid President and Soul Pancake and donated 2,000 pairs of socks to the Central Iowa Homeless shelter as part of *Socktober*.

Currently, we are supporting families in Grimes by participating in the donation drive for the Food Pantry at the Grimes United Methodist Church. Classrooms are collecting canned goods, boxed goods, toiletry items, hats, and gloves. The goal is to donate 300 items per grade level to a tremendous cause!

These are just two examples of how the students and staff at North Ridge are showing their great character and supporting our community!





## Meadows and North Ridge Students Collaborate in Reading and Writing

Students in Mrs. Rosenbury's first period English I class have been working collaboratively with Mrs. Peters' fourth grade class on reading and writing skills this semester. This December, the ninth-graders visited North Ridge to work on a STEM activity called The Candy Cane Calamity. The students collaboratively designed and built a way to "safely" mail two candy canes in one paper bag package without breakage using materials including cotton balls, popsicle sticks, tissue paper, and pipe cleaners. After testing their design, the students recorded their results.

Evidence-based writing using the RACES strategy from the new elementary writing curriculum was the result of this experiment. The ninth-graders helped the fourth graders develop a topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, and concrete details.



## Dallas Center Elementary Art

By: Amy Cory

Brrrrr, it's getting cold. So cold the kindergarten's snowmen just won't melt. We have been working on drawing a circle and adding details to our pictures. They have been doing a wonderful job.



Second-graders have been working on clay turtles. These little turtles are waiting to go into the kiln and be turned to stone. When they are done we will be glazing them. I can't wait to see how they turn out!

The third grade class has been learning about the Native American culture. In the art room we learned about sand painting and radial design. Students chose their own symbols and incorporated them in the design they drew.



Don't forget to make  
half your plate  
FRUITS &  
VEGETABLES

# Dallas Center Grimes Lunch Menu

In addition to our daily entrée choices,  
we also offer a sandwich and/or salad

# January 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
No School <sup>2</sup>	Roasted Hot Dog OR BBQ Chicken Sandwich OR Turkey BTL Salad OR Deli Sub  Savory Baked Beans <sup>3</sup>	<b>HOM ~ Avocado</b> <sup>4</sup> Italian Meatballs in Bread Bowl OR Hot Ham Bagel OR Chef Salad OR Pretzel Bits with Cheese Corn Firenze Salad *Guacamole & Chips*	Chicken Nuggets & Soft Pan Dinner Roll OR Philly Flatbread OR Taco Salad OR Deli Sub  Cheesy Mashed Potatoes <sup>5</sup>	Pizza Parlor <sup>6</sup> OR All American Burger  OR Crispy Chicken Salad OR Yogurt Pack  Garlic Herb Broccoli
<b>Thank Your Customer</b> <sup>9</sup> French Toast Sticks Sausage Patty OR BBQ Riblet OR Chicken Caesar Salad OR Deli Sandwich  Breakfast Potatoes	Popcorn Chicken Bites & Soft Pan Roll OR Hot Turkey Sandwich OR Turkey BTL Salad OR Deli Sub Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  *Brownie* <sup>10</sup>	Pulled Pork Sandwich OR Southern Chicken & Biscuit Sandwich OR Chef Salad OR Yogurt Pack  Savory Baked Beans Creamy Coleslaw <sup>11</sup>	Beefy Nachos with Homemade Cheese Sauce OR Crispy Fish Sandwich OR Taco Salad OR Deli Sub  Roasted Corn <sup>12</sup>	Cheese Bread with Marinara Sauce OR Italian Meatball Sub OR Crispy Chicken Salad OR Deli Sub  Garden Salad <sup>13</sup>
No School <sup>16</sup>	<b>HOM~Lemon &amp; Thyme</b> <sup>17</sup> Lemon Herb Chicken and French Bread Slice OR Cheese Calzini OR Turkey BTL Salad OR Deli Sub  Garlic Mashed Potatoes	Soft Shell Tacos with Lettuce, Cheese & Salsa OR Roasted Hot Dog OR Chef Salad OR Deli Sandwich  Spiced Pinto Beans <sup>18</sup>	Toasted Cheese Sandwich OR Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich OR Taco Sallad OR Deli Sub  and Tomato Soup *Harvest Bar* <sup>19</sup>	Cheese Pizza Slice OR Cowboy Burger  OR Crispy Chicken Salad OR Deli Sandwich  Roasted Broccoli <sup>20</sup>
Crispy Chicken Nuggets with Fresh Bread Slice OR Roasted Vegetable Focaccia OR Chicken Caesar Salad OR Deli Sandwich  Sweet Potato Fries <sup>23</sup>	Country Chicken in a Bread Bowl OR Salisbury Steak with Dinner Roll OR Turkey BTL Salad OR Deli Sub Mashed Potatoes Green Peas <sup>24</sup>	Walking Taco with Lettuce and Tomato Sloppy Joe Sliders OR Chef Salad OR Yogurt Pack  Black Beans <sup>25</sup>	Fish Nuggets & Soft Roll OR Chicken Bacon Ranch Melt  OR Taco Salad OR Deli Sub Ranch Potato Wedges <sup>26</sup>	<b>Chinese New Year</b> <sup>27</sup> Chicken Fried Rice and Breadstick OR Golden Corn Dog OR Crispy Chicken Salad OR Deli Sandwich  Stir-Fried Vegetables *Fortune Cookie*
Chicken Bites with Lo Mein Noodles OR Toasted Ham & Cheese Sandwich OR Chicken Caesar Salad OR Deli Sandwich California Blend Vegetables <sup>30</sup>	Pizza Bagel <sup>31</sup>  OR Chicken Gyro OR Turkey BTL Salad OR Deli Sub  Kale Salad	Homemade Chili in Bread Bowl OR Roasted Hot Dog OR Chef Salad OR Deli Sandwich  Roasted Corn *Rice Krispie Bar* <sup>1</sup>	<b>National Kiwi Day</b> <sup>2</sup> BBQ Rib Sandwich  OR Chicken Waffle Sandwich OR Taco Sallad OR Deli Sub Breakfast Potatoes *Fresh Kiwi*	Italian Meatball Sub <sup>3</sup>  OR Mexican Pasta Bake OR Crispy Chicken Salad OR Yogurt Pack  Lemon Garbanzo Bean Salad

PRICES	
Regular	\$2.60
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$3.50
Milk	\$0.50
Extra Entrée	\$2.25

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

## Lemon Avocado Thyme

EXTRA INFO

Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate  
Skim is included with lunch.  
Entrée Salads are served with Dinner Roll  
For questions or comments, contact Food Service Office at 515-986-9747x 162  
or email [dsevenich@dc-grimes.k12.ia.ua](mailto:dsevenich@dc-grimes.k12.ia.ua)



Menus are subject to change without notice. This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

[www.taher.com](http://www.taher.com)

Follow us on Twitter @dcdnutrition for daily menu postings.

Note: Weekly breakfast menus are posted on the website.

# January Activity Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No School-Winter Break	2 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Boone</b> @ Boone High School 4:45pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Boone</b> @ Boone Middle School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Boone</b> @ Boone Middle School 6:00pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Boone</b> @ Boone High School 7:00pm FOFA Meeting @ High School Band Room 7:15pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Boone</b> @ Boone Middle School 7:30pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Boone</b> @ Boone High School	3 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Boone</b> @ Boone High School 4:45pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Boone</b> @ Boone Middle School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Boone</b> @ Boone Middle School 6:00pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Boone</b> @ Boone High School 7:00pm FOFA Meeting @ High School Band Room 7:15pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Boone</b> @ Boone Middle School 7:30pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Boone</b> @ Boone High School	4 Bowling 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Ankeny Centennial</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 6:30pm Wrestling-JV <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 6:30pm Wrestling-Varsity <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 7:00pm Basketball-B/JV <b>Johnston</b> @ Johnston High School	5 Bowling 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Ankeny Centennial</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 6:30pm Wrestling-JV <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 6:30pm Wrestling-Varsity <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 7:00pm Basketball-B/JV <b>Johnston</b> @ Johnston High School	6 4:45pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School 7:30pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School 7:45pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School	7 Boys Swimming Show Choir at DM Christian SCIBA Honor Band 9:00am Basketball-B/JV <b>Norwalk</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 9:00am Wrestling-JV <b>Ogden</b> @ Ogden High School 9:30am Wrestling-Varsity <b>Benton Community</b> @ Benton Community High School 6:00pm SCIBA Honor Band at Ames
8 8:00pm HS Cheerleading 8:00pm 8th Grade Cheerleading 8:00pm 8th Grade Cheerleading	9 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Pella Christian</b> @ Pella Christian High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Pella Christian</b> @ Pella Christian High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Indianola</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 7:15pm Basketball-B/JV <b>Indianola</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym	10 Bowling 4:45pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Pella Christian</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Pella Christian</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 7:45pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Norwalk</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School	11 Dismiss at 1:00-Staff Development	12 Boys Swimming 4:15pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Perry Community</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School 6:00pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Pella</b> @ DC-G Northridge Elem. gym 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Pella</b> @ DC-G Northridge Elem. gym 6:30pm Wrestling-JV <b>Oskaloosa</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 6:30pm Wrestling-Varsity <b>Oskaloosa</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 7:15pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Pella</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School	13 Waukee Jazz Choir Festival Bowling Kids Wrestling Tournament @ DCG Meadows Gym End of 2nd Quarter/End of 1st Semester 4:30pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Boone</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Pella</b> @ Pella High School 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Pella</b> @ Pella High School 7:45pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Pella</b> @ Pella High School	14 Boys Swimming Show Choir at West Branch 9:00am Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Urbandale</b> @ Urbandale High School 10:00am Wrestling-Varsity <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 10:00am Wrestling-JV <b>Greene County</b> @ Greene County High School
15 Dorian Music Festival at Luther College	16 Dorian Music Festival at Luther College No School-Teacher Workday 6:00pm Large Group Speech Open House @ DCG HS Auditorium	17 Beginning of 3rd Quarter/2nd Semester 4:15pm Basketball-B/8th Grade <b>Ballard</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 4:30pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Norwalk</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School 4:30pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 4:30pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 6:00pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 7:30pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School 7:30pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Adel DeSoto Minburn</b> @ ADM High School	18 Boys Swimming	19 Bowling 4:15pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Ballard</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School 4:30pm Basketball-B/8th Grade <b>Waukee Prairieview</b> @ Waukee Prairieview School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Waukee</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Norwalk</b> @ Norwalk High School 6:30pm Wrestling-Varsity <b>Pella vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ Pella High School 6:30pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Norwalk</b> @ Lakewood Elementary School 6:30pm Wrestling-JV <b>Pella vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ Pella High School 7:15pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Norwalk</b> @ Norwalk High School 7:30pm Basketball-B/JV <b>Southeast Polk</b> @ Southeast Polk High School	20 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Norwalk</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Norwalk</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 7:45pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Norwalk</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym	21 Boys Swimming District Large Group Speech Contest DCG Take 2 Show Choir Contest @ Multiple locations 9:00am Wrestling-Varsity <b>Urbandale</b> @ Urbandale High School
22 4:30pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Indianola</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School 4:30pm Basketball-B/8th Grade <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola Middle School 7:00pm School Board Meeting @ DCG High School	23 4:45pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Newton</b> @ Newton High School 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Newton</b> @ Newton High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Newton</b> @ Newton High School 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Newton</b> @ Newton High School 6:30pm 6/7 Vocal Concert @ DCG Middle School Gym 7:30pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Newton</b> @ Newton High School 7:45pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Newton</b> @ Newton High School	24 Bowling Dismiss at 1:00-Staff Development	25 Bowling 4:30pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Fort Dodge</b> @ Fort Dodge Middle School 4:30pm Basketball-B/8th Grade <b>Urbandale</b> @ Urbandale Middle School 5:30pm Wrestling-JV <b>Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 5:30pm Wrestling-Varsity <b>Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym	26 Bowling 4:30pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Fort Dodge</b> @ Fort Dodge Middle School 4:30pm Basketball-B/8th Grade <b>Urbandale</b> @ Urbandale Middle School 5:30pm Wrestling-JV <b>Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 5:30pm Wrestling-Varsity <b>Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym	27 Valley Jazz Choir Festival 4:45pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Oskaloosa</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Oskaloosa</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Oskaloosa</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Oskaloosa</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym Basketball-9th Grade <del>(Cancelled)</del> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 7:45pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Oskaloosa</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym	28 Dance Marathon @ Multiple locations State Jazz Band Festival 9:00am Wrestling-JV <b>Valley</b> @ Valley High School 10:00am Wrestling-Varsity <b>Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym
29 5:30pm Wrestling-JV <b>Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools</b> @ DCG-Meadows Gym 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School 7:15pm Basketball-B/JV <b>Indianola</b> @ Indianola High School	30 4:00pm 7th Grade Band/Vocal Solo Contest 4:30pm Basketball-B/8th Grade <b>Pella</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 4:30pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Pella</b> @ Pella Middle School 4:45pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 7:30pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 7:45pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School	31 4:00pm 7th Grade Band/Vocal Solo Contest 4:30pm Basketball-B/8th Grade <b>Pella</b> @ Dallas Center-Grimes High School 4:30pm Basketball-B/7th Grade <b>Pella</b> @ Pella Middle School 4:45pm Basketball-B/10th Grade <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 4:45pm Basketball-G/JV <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 6:00pm Basketball-B/9th Grade <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 6:15pm Basketball-G/Varsity <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 7:30pm Basketball-G/9th Grade <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School 7:45pm Basketball-B/Varsity <b>Grinnell</b> @ Grinnell High School				

Go to [www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com) and select 16-17 Activities Calendar under the Calendars Tab for the weekly DCG Activity schedule.

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

### South Prairie “Artists of the Month”

**By: Danell Duncan**

Congratulations to the “Artists of the Month” at South Prairie Elementary! While studying Vincent Van Gogh, second-grader, Addie Abens made this lovely sunflower painting. Students learned that Vincent used bright colors and showed his brushstrokes in his work.

All of the first grade students created clay pinch pots. Logan Murphy succeeded in making his a bit different than everyone else, by forming a square shaped pinch pot. The students also added beautiful colors using glaze.

June Koelling created this delicate snowflake in kindergarten art after reviewing line and shape types. Students were shown how they could also use patterns to make their snowflake.

Wonderful work by all the South Prairie artists!

