

# Newsletter

Hershey Public Schools, P.O. Box 369, Hershey, NE 69143

[www.hpspanthers.org](http://www.hpspanthers.org) (308) 368-5572

We just completed the first nine weeks of the 2012-2013 school year. I want to thank everyone for all you have done to help make it a great start to a successful year. I also want to congratulate all of the coaches, staff, activity sponsors and students for all of their effort in the fall activities.

Hershey School will be having our five year Advanced Ed. visit on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. A team of six educators from across the state will visit our school for these two days. They will be reviewing our goal that we have been focusing on and make suggestions in that area along with other areas of the curriculum. The visit is part of our school improvement process which meets the requirements for accreditation with the Nebraska Department of Education and for Advanced Ed. accreditation.

We received great news on our 2012-2013 State Report Card. Our students met federal and state adequate yearly progress in all areas and sub groups. The state publishes student progress in reading, writing, math and science assessments as a school, by class and by sub-groups. It is very easy to be below the state average in just one sub group, which can throw the whole school into the “needs improvement” category. Fortunately, our staff and students worked hard preparing for the state assessments and made sure that the students were able to master the state standards in reading, writing, math and science. This progress indicator is measured by the percentage of students who meet or exceed the proficiency level of each state test.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> the Nebraska Department of Education will be making the NEPAS rankings available to the public. All schools will be ranked in thirty areas from number 1 to number 249. This is the first year that the Department of Education did rankings in so many areas. These rankings will be based upon the average of each students’ test scores. The rankings, along with the state testing proficiencies, will give us answers as to what areas need additional work.

November 12<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> is American Education Week. Make sure that you say “Thank You” to a teacher for everything they do for kids in the Hershey School District. Teachers put in a lot of extra time helping students and it is nice for them to hear positive comments from students, parents and patrons of the district.

I am always open to suggestions or comments on anything pertaining to school. Feel free to give me a call at 368-5574 or stop by the school. Have a great month!

Dr. Michael J. Cuning, Supt.



HERSHEY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2012

The Hershey Public School Board of Education held their regular meeting on Monday, October 8, 2012 in the board conference room. Official notice of the meeting was advertised in the October 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Courier Times and posted in three places within the Village. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the notification to those in attendance of the posted open meetings law poster. Members present were Steve Koch, Roger Stockall, Julie Boettcher, Floydene Brown, Bob Arnett and Traci Hoatson. Also present were Superintendent Cunning, Superintendent Elect Davis, Bookkeeper Konken, Principal's Calihan, Troxel & Thomas and one guest, Tammy Eshleman.

\*\*Approved the consent agenda that consists of the minutes from the September 10<sup>th</sup> annual budget hearing, the September 10<sup>th</sup> annual tax request hearing and the September 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, bills for payment in the amount of \$512, 333.50 and all financial reports.

\*\*Approved policies #607.02 – School Ceremonies & Observations and #804.03 – E-Mail Retention.

\*\*Excused board member, Floydene Brown, from the September 10<sup>th</sup> annual budget hearing, annual tax request hearing and regular meeting.

Principal's reported on the upcoming visit of Congressman Adrian Smith who will be visiting the school on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> to visit with Mr. Sokal's government class after the class members contacted Mr Smith about the federal lunch requirements & other items. SPVA volleyball will be held in Imperial on October 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, district cross country will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> and girls golf is finished for the season. Enrollment numbers, fire prevention week & upcoming Halloween costume parade. Congratulations to Alison Smith (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) who was chosen for the 2012 Readers Choice Award for Best Teacher.

Superintendent Cunning reported on area enrollments, upcoming NASB annual conference in Omaha in mid November, proposal from Dustin Jorgenson on mowing of school grounds, negotiations timeline (must meet before November 1<sup>st</sup>) & update on the viaduct.

Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 12, 2012 @ 7:00 PM.

\*\*Entered into executive session due to possible litigation and to protect the needless injury to an individual @ 7:40 AM.

\*\*Returned to open session @ 7:45 AM.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:45 AM.

## November Newsletter

“Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in. That everyone may receive at least a moderate education appears to be an objective of vital importance.”

~Abraham Lincoln

I started teaching in 1971. As a beginning teacher, I thought that I was going to save the world and make sure every one of my students was successful and learned everything they needed to become a successful adult. This was an admirable goal and one that we should always strive for, but the reality is that success is difficult to define and success to one person will not be success to another. In America we teach the masses and try to see that each student is ready to move on to the next level, whatever that might be; military, technical school, liberal arts college, work force, etc. In this process, we continually dwell on the problems of education.

The following are things I have heard through the years concerning education:

\*I have heard some people say that teachers are the problem and that labor unions are so strong that we can't get rid of bad teachers.

\*Some say that the children are the problem. Many children are disrespectful and unmotivated to do the work.

\*Others say that parents are the problem. Parents are not involved enough in their children's education. They don't set priorities in the home and they don't show up in school unless there is a problem.

All of this bickering makes me angry to the point of wanting to puke in my boot.

Without children, we have no system and no future; no government, no families, no society. We can't continue to blame the kids.

There are millions of teachers throughout this country teaching millions of students every day. How can all of these professionals be replaced? We can't, so we have to learn to work with them.

We can't simply blame parents either. If parents are the “backbone” of the system, in that nothing really works as it should in a school unless parents are involved, then we need to find a better way to work with parents.

As parents, we try to teach our children how to deal with and solve their problems. Most parents try to teach them to do so in a diplomatic way. Fight or compromise? Share or keep everything to themselves? Beat each other up or talk with one another to solve their problems?

Maybe as adults, we need to pay close attention to what we tell our children to do and practice what we preach. Are you able to do what you tell your children to do?

Michael Troxel

High School Principal

### News from the Activities Director



What an amazing first quarter we have had at Hershey Public Schools. The students have been diligent in the classroom and in activities. In activities it has been an amazing and very successful fall season for all activities. All coaches and student-athletes have worked very hard and I am proud of the time and effort they have put into to this fall season.

Congratulations to the Hershey Football team for winning their first ever State playoff game and now we will be hosting the first ever home playoff game at Hershey. I am so proud of these young men and coaches for the effort they have put in this year. What this group of seniors did as leaders was remarkable. They worked hard all season and through the hard work of those players and coaches they are moving on in the playoffs and representing this community with great pride!

The band did the best they've ever done at State this year. Our overall score was a 74.65 – 75.00 is a superior, which is the highest rating any band can receive. We missed getting a superior by .35 of one point! There were 11 bands in class C and only 3 bands received Superior ratings. It puts us in 4th place overall, if they did rankings (which they don't). The band performed really well this year and improved their overall score from last year by a total of 6.15 points. Mrs. Evan's has done another great job with this group of students and I look forward to seeing them play at our activities and competitions the rest of the season.

The volleyball team has worked very hard and is heading into the postseason with lots of confidence. I have seen great leadership from this group of seniors and seen it translate to the rest of the team. The entire team as a whole has stepped up and been playing some great volleyball. I know they will represent this school with great pride and Coach Beyer and her staff will have them ready to go.

Both the golf team and the cross country team finished their season and saw lots of improvement. The golf team played extremely well down the stretch and will be returning many golfers with lots of experience. Coach Rotert did a fantastic job with the girls. Cross Country started with five girls and due to injuries they only had one runner participate at Districts this year. They all trained very hard and Coach Rasby had them improving their times each week.

Both junior high football and volleyball had very good seasons and finished the season very well. I see great student-athletes for the near future in our high school activity programs. All the student-athletes progressed and the coaches did a great job working with them.

I want to remind everyone that here at Hershey Public Schools we make it a point to teach our students to present themselves in a positive manner and to always show great respect and sportsmanship to other teams and officials. We have had many coaches, officials, parents, and media compliment on how impressed they are of our students and the way they present themselves on and off the field of activities. I know as parents you are devoted to this program and want to see us succeed but our coaches and student-athletes must have your full support. Even though you may be upset either by a call, coaches' decision, or at a player, we expect our spectators to cheer on our teams instead of criticize them, which will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the facility and possible future activities.

Jeremy Thomas

Activities Director/7-12 Assistant Principal



## **NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**

As always, October came and went in a blur and the Holiday Season is now upon us. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays and we have so much to be thankful for at Hershey Public Schools. Thank you to the parents for the time and effort you give to your children; your commitment to your kids strengthens Hershey Elementary one student at a time. Thank you to the bus drivers for getting our students safely to and from school. Thank you to the HELP Club for your unwavering support. Thank you to our teachers and staff for your amazing work ethic and commitment to our children. Last, but

certainly not least — thank you to the students for making Hershey Elementary the wonderful school that it is!

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. I want to sincerely thank all parents for their commitment to meet with their child's teacher. The new online registration portal for scheduling has been a huge success! We hope it was easier for parents to schedule conferences and we look forward to those meetings. Although the district only hosts parent-teacher conferences twice per year, we know that communication must be frequent and ongoing. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss progress. Of course, parent communication is not limited to conferences. Our teachers use a variety of tools to share student progress and classroom happenings such as monthly/weekly newsletters, PowerSchool, class blogs, phone calls, email, and progress reports.

On Friday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, your child received his/her first quarter report card. Please take some time with your child to reflect upon his/her progress and growth. This is a great way to highlight your child's strengths and let them know how proud you are of his/her progress. A second copy of the report card will be available at parent-teacher conferences.

Our fast pace doesn't seem to slow down but I hope that on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, you will take time to reflect on the joys and pleasures you have with family and friends. Have a wonderful November and a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Educationally Yours,

Jason M. Calahan  
Elementary Principal



## Appreciated

The elementary school would like to thank the following for their contributions:

- The Hershey Volunteer Fire Department for their presentation and viewing of equipment at the fire hall during Fire Prevention Week. Several of the volunteer firefighters gave up their day to work with the Pre-K-3 students, which was much appreciated.
- The ELKS club for donating a student dictionary to every student in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- The HELP Club for conducting the annual Book Fair during Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- The HELP club for sponsoring the upcoming "Raptor Recovery" assembly for grades K-6 on November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. McConnell and her high school students for supplying materials and arranging an assembly for all students during Red Ribbon Week.
- Patrons who attended the Parade of Costumes on Halloween.
- Parents who supplied treats for the various Halloween parties.



## American Education Week

November 11-17 marks American Education Week. It is a good time to reflect on what a good educational system we have here at Hershey. We would like to, first, thank all the teachers for a job well done. Secondly, to parents who support the school and see that their children complete homework and stress doing their best. And lastly, to the students who cooperate, show respect for one another and take on the responsibility to get good grades. All three entities are necessary if we want to celebrate during American Education Week.

## VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

A Veteran's Day program will be held for all K-12 students on Friday, November 9th, in the east gym beginning at 1:30p.m. The program will be presented by the Hershey American Legion in conjunction with our Fine Arts Department.

## Mid-Term

The middle of the second quarter is Wednesday, November 14. Progress reports will be handed out the following week and parents are encouraged to look over the reports with their child. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the teacher.



## Student Grades

Parents of students in grades 2 through 12 are reminded that they can access their child's grades by going to the Hershey school web site and click on the Power School button. Once there you will enter your login name and password (which are on the report card) and you can monitor grades on a daily basis if so desired. It is a good way to keep up on your child's progress. If you click on the particular grades, it will show you how or why they received that grade.

## NOVEMBER CHARACTER COUNTS PILLAR – RESPECT

The Character Counts trait for the month of November is Respect.

To kick off the month and emphasize the pillar of Respect, students are asked to dress in yellow on Tuesday, November 6th, 2012.

People who are respectful treat others with respect and follow the Golden Rule. They are also tolerant of differences, use good manners and do not engage in the use of bad language. They are always considerate of the feelings of others and don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone. They also deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

## ACCELERATED READER POINTS

Students in grades K-6 who have earned AR (Accelerated Reader) points since the last newsletter include:

**10 Points:** Bailey Bell– 1J  
Heaven Hutchison – 1J  
Ali Vaughn – 1W  
Tyler Whiting – 1W  
Madison Guernsey – 2T  
Lanie Allen – 6H  
Diego Trevizo – 6K

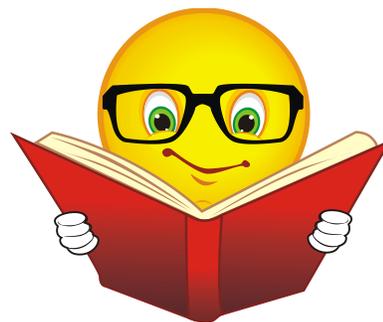
**20 Points:** Peyton Fisher – 1J  
Dusty Brown – 1W  
Maci Cox – 1W  
Chase Moorhead – 1W  
Jane Fischer – 2T  
Derik Kennicutt – 2T  
Jace Zahl – 2T  
Pake Dewey – 2T  
Memphis Biere – 4S

**30 Points:** Kaitlyn Hendricks – 2T  
Jaylee Lashley – 2T  
Jarrett Sexson – 2H  
Landon Hart – 3R  
Isaac Weekly – 3R

**40 Points:** Eve McCreery – 1J  
Brodey hund – 1W  
Cydnie Wilson – 2H  
Emily Brott – 4K

**50 Points:** Destiny Fries – 2T  
Tyler Abbott – 3D  
Emma Smith – 3R  
Philip Cordova – 4S  
Austin Hoelscher – 4S

**100 Points:** William Huebner – 5G  
Varsha Huebner – 5K



Hunter Trusty – 5K

Ashley Hassett – 6K

150 Points: Aaron Melvin – 5K

200 Points: Carly Sexson – 4S

Rachel Abbott – 5K

300 Points: Braden Dominguez – 4K

Chase Leibhart – 4K

400 Points: Austin Kennicutt – 5G

800 Points: Brooke Bode – 4S

850 Points: Dalton Ebmeier – 6K

Congratulations to the students for their effort and dedication to reading. All students are working hard and many are on their way to the next level.

## **DESTINATION IMAGINATION (DI)**

The DI teams are formed with a total of 5 teams that will participate this year. Those who will participate include:

### **TEAM 1**

Brooklyn Dominguez

Mekenna Fisher

Brecken Glos

Macie Ebmeier

Zachariah Saathoff

### **TEAM 2**

Reace Anderson

Braden Dominguez

Joslyn Glos

Stevie Goff

Reagan Hudson

Wendy Trevizo

Shayla McConnell

### **TEAM 3**

Raleigh Rawles

Rachel Abbott

Kinsley Ballentine

Colton Linse

Kail Howell

William Huebner

Justin Jorgensen

### **TEAM 4**

Gracey Hoatson

Clayton Glos

Dalton Ebmeier

Diego Trevizo

Kiara Clements

Jenny Moenning

Katelyn Moenning

### **TEAM 5**

Chandler Pederson

Katie Hoatson

Shianne Hoatson

Lexi Wiezorek



A huge thank you goes out to all the team managers as well as Deb Pederson who serves as the DI Coordinator!

## News for Vocal Music:

Congratulations to Malachi Murtaugh for being selected an alternate to 2012 Nebraska All-State Chorus!

Swing Choir is busy working on their show for a competition Sat. Nov. 3 at Scottsbluff

Jr/Sr. High Choirs are preparing a great concert for Nov. 6, "Country Style".

Veteran's Day concert at school will be Nov. 9 @ 1:30 unless volleyball qualifies for state, then a date will be decided.

The elementary classes have begun practice on their Christmas concerts. The Pre-K -3 will present "Flakes" on Dec. 4 @ 7 p.m. Grades 4-6 will present "A Pirate's Christmas" on Dec. 11 @ 7 p.m.

Help is needed to decorate for both of those concerts, so if able to help, please contact Mrs. Rotert at school.

Jr/Sr High Christmas concert will be Dec. 18 @ 7 p.m.

## Blood Drive Thank you!

Thank You to all those that participated in the October 16<sup>th</sup> Hershey Blood Drive! We met our Goal!

## IMPORTANT YEARBOOK INFORMATION:

The Hershey journalism class will no longer be in charge of selling yearbooks. Instead, Jostens Direct Solutions, a program which assists the school with yearbook sales, is allowing the adviser and staff to spend more time focusing on the yearbook cover, content, photos, etc. You will be contacted by Jostens, either by phone or by mail, about purchasing a 2013 yearbook. Thank you for your time.

## Sr. Baby Ad

To: Parents / Families of Class of 2013  
From: Hershey High School Journalism Staff  
Date: 29 Oct. 2012  
Re: Yearbook Advertisements

The Hershey yearbook class is once again offering senior baby ads for purchase. The senior pages will feature a senior photo and baby photo for each senior. If you would like to include a message for your senior, please fill out the form below and send \$30 (make checks payable to Hershey Public Schools) to:

Hershey Journalism Staff  
c/o Kristi Leibhart  
Hershey High School  
301 S. Lincoln  
Hershey, NE 69143

### Sample message:

Dear Jim,

We are so proud of the young man you have become and we know that you will be successful in the future. We all love you so much!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Joey and Buddy

---

---

---

---

---

## H.E.L.P Club News

The H.E.L.P. Club would like to thank you all for the support you have given to our No Sales Collecting Programs. It really makes a difference when parents and teachers show their support! I will be sending off the last of our Box Tops next Friday to go towards our 1st check we will get between Dec./Jan. I am happy to report it will be over \$1200!

I would also like to thank you for the Campbell's Labels for Education program has been doing really well this year too. We have been able to buy new balls for the playgrounds and tether-balls, 15-Slot Classroom Drying Rack , and a Writing Center by redeeming 29,550 points! We currently have 19,545 points banked and I have more to send in.

Our next H.E.L.P. Club meeting will be Nov. 13th at 4 pm in the Elementary School Library. Childcare is provided and It's free no membership required!

Thank You again

H.E.L.P Club

### EducationQuest Foundation

#### College Planning Bulletin

*A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students*

November 2012

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

College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will start hitting this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

**Contact your top colleges NOW** 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.** Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay, and an interview.

**Update your *Activities Resume*.** Because extracurricular activities are an important part of the admissions application, keep them up-to-date by using the [Activities Resume](#) at **My.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

Juniors and seniors - to learn about financial aid and other college funding options, attend an EducationQuest **Financial Aid Program** with your parents or an adult who can help you with college planning. Find dates and locations in the [Upcoming Events section](#) at **EducationQuest.org**.

#### Juniors...start researching colleges

If you can narrow your 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 going to an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program at <http://msep.mhec.org>.

**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.

### **November "To Do" List**

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

\_\_\_ Seniors, [register](#) by November 2 for the December 8 ACT.

\_\_\_ Seniors, [register](#) by November 1 for the December 1 SAT.

\_\_\_ Apply for scholarships. Visit free sites such as [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [My.EducationQuest.org](#).

\_\_\_ Meet with college representatives who visit your school.

**For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:**

<b>Kearney</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Omaha</b>
308-234-6310	402-475-5222	402-391-4033
800-666-3721	800-303-3745	888-357-6300

[EducationQuest.org](#)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

*EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.*

**We need the alumni to keep us informed of their name, CURRENT mailing address, and the year they graduated. Send the information to Loren Johnson, 304 Nansue Rd, Hershey NE 69143 or [ljohns@hersheytel.net](mailto:ljohns@hersheytel.net). Our phone # is 306-368-5440.**

**Newsletter information? Email Diana Connell at [dconnell@hspanthers.org](mailto:dconnell@hspanthers.org)**

**Help save our planet! Go paperless our website is [www.hspanthers.org](http://www.hspanthers.org)**

