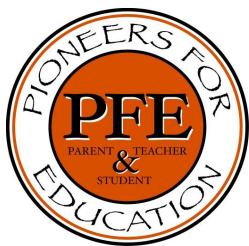




It's that time of the year for our students who have been accepted to participate in various Honor Choirs and Bands. UNO Honor Choir - **Malachi King** and **Cameryn Lewis**; Alternates - **Sophia Irvine** and **Morgan Miller**; Hastings Honor Choir - **Kayla DeLuca**, **Davan Goos**, **Sophia Irvine** and **Malachi King**; UNO Middle School Honor Choir - **Ellie Collins**, **Shelby Dorau**, **Samantha Ladwig**, **Kaylee Taylor** and **Samantha Thomas**. UNO Honor Band - **Savannah Lukasiewicz**, **John McKennan**, **Ryan Clausen**, **Ryan Swierczek**, **Nate Bonacci** and **Austin Altstadt**; Hastings Honor Band - **John McKennan**, **Nate Bonacci** and **Ryan Swierczek**; Wesleyan Honor Band - **Nate Bonacci**, **Austin Altstadt**, **Ryan Swierczek**, **Ryan Clausen** and **Savannah Lukasiewicz**.

Our Robotics Teams competed at the Benson Invite. The team of **Josh Nachtigall**, **Austin Altstadt** and **Craig Taylor** finished in the top third of the over 60 Metro schools which participated.

Both the Junior High and Elementary students participated in the Fort Calhoun Spelling Bee. Junior High - **Frances Holmstedt 1st**; **Adrianna Hernandez 2nd**. Elementary - **Aiden Tinkham 1st**, **Taylor Douchey 2nd**.



PFE held the first meeting of 2020 on January 20th. Among the items discussed were helping to fund a display case at the elementary and the exit at the conclusion of the school year of three PFE Officers who have served their terms. The Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions will all be open and need to be filled. After our meeting, PFE put the display case item to an online member vote. We're happy to report that 90 percent of voters approved PFE contributing \$2,500 towards a display case at the Elementary School.

February will bring two exciting new events to the school community: the Sweetheart Dance for Girls on February 7th, and the Sock Hop for Boys on February 28th. Both dances will be held at the

Fort Calhoun Community Building.

On February 18, PFE has invited inspirational speaker and author Garry Clark to present to our 3-6th graders about his personal journey from inner city Washington D.C. to Nebraska. Other events kicking off in February and March include The Original Artworks program and the One School One Book elementary reading event.

As you can see, PFE is a busy organization that is doing a lot for the students at Fort Calhoun. One of the most important parts of PFE being able to continue hosting great events is in having volunteers. Look for the signups, emails, and information online regarding signing up to volunteer at both dances, Donuts with Dad, the School Carnival, fish fry night and more.

Important upcoming dates for PFE:

February 7th- Sweetheart Dance

February 28th- Sock Hop

March 6th- Donuts with Dad

March 23rd- PFE Meeting at 6:30pm

March 27th- PFE Fish Fry night

PFE Officers: Denise Work, President Sarah Tinkham, Vice President Michelle Dill, Treasurer Natalie Cummings, Secretary Ronee Christensen, Communication Coordinator



# The Fort Dispatch

Volume 29 No 6

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

February 2020

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### Coming Soon!!!!

It is crazy how fast this school year is going. It seems like yesterday when we were lining up for our first National Anthem at the first Fall sporting event. Now we are within weeks of the Winter sports season coming to an end. We are far enough into the second semester that Parent/Teacher conferences are this month. Wrestling districts are just two weeks away and both Varsity Boys and Girls basketball will be having their district tournaments within this very month. Test season is starting and we are in the process of hiring new teachers for the 2020-21 school year, how crazy is that?

Weather permitting, we be starting our new four room addition at the elementary as soon as the ground thaws. The project gets us one step closer to having three classes per grade level. The board and administration have also planned out what we believe to be the last part of the elementary plan to complete the elementary footprint. The plan if approved would add a new full-length gym and would convert the existing elementary gym into the final two Pre-school classrooms, which would complete the elementary building. If the legislators in Lincoln don't pass LB 974 we should be in good shape and the District will be set for years to come.

Another event we are looking forward to (other than my retirement) is the first annual "Raising Kids in the 21st Century" conference. The conference will feature speakers and exhibits regarding the topics of mental health and student safety. We will have several breakout sessions as well as an exhibit room set up by the many mental health agencies in the area. Some of the topics for the breakout sessions include: Distracted Driving, Vaping, Bullying, Sexting & Dating Violence, Student Athlete Stress Management, Suicide Prevention, Online Safety, and others. It should be a very informative night and we are providing dinner and babysitting. Call if you have questions.

All of the above things keep life hopping around here at the "FORT". One more thing that Alice and I are excited about and definitely coming soon is our third grandchild. This Grandparent thing is really awesome!

Have a great February and live to make someone else's day a good one.

Good Luck and God Bless!

Dr. J



FEBRUARY 17, 2020



Mr. Jerry Green  
Secondary Principal

~~ Plant the Seeds of Greatness

Parents like to think their sons and daughters can do anything. And they can! But, this doesn’t just happen. They need encouragement and support—and helpful hints about the practical ways to get where they’re hoping to go.

For instance, do you know what goals your student is working towards, both personally and professionally? What does he or she want to achieve in life? This is important. You may have known that at age 7 he wanted to be a rodeo cowboy, or that she wanted to be the first female president of the United States. Although your student may still be harboring these goals, it’s quite likely that they have some other short-term and long-term goals in the mix too.

So, how can you help plant the seeds of greatness? Doses of reality interspersed with permission to dream work really well. Also, a little bit of encouragement goes a long way.

- This month, consider:
- Asking your student what his or her current short-term and long-term goals are.
  - Discussing the practical strategies being taken to accomplish these goals.
  - Asking if there are ways you can help achieve these goals.
  - Talking about both good and bad habits and how they are contributing to or hindering their ability to achieve these goals.
  - Offering suggestions and alternative ways of thinking about things.
  - Sharing some of your own short-term and long-term goals.
  - Reminding your student to have dreams -- they are important.

And remember, there’s nothing wrong with thinking big! Who knows what great accomplishments are yet to come.



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|-----------|--|
| 2/12      | Washington County Spelling Bee<br>@ Fort Calhoun High School |
| 2/14      | HAPPY VALENTINES DAY   |
| 2-19 & 20 | PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES 2:00 - 8:00 PM<br>Early Dismissal |
| 2/21      | NO SCHOOL  |
| 2/29      | LEAP DAY   |



Nick Wemhoff  
Assistant Principal/Ad

All of our school activities are published on the school website using the “RSchoolToday” website. This website offers a variety of functions that includes: printing of individual sport schedules, looking ahead on the calendar to future dates, and also email and text message reminders, alerts, etc. If you would like to sign up for alerts and reminders, you can do that directly through the website. On the top right of the calendar click the “notify me” link. Go through the steps and set up an account. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

One of the awesome features this website offers, is a mobile app. The app is called activity scheduler. It is a free app. The logo for the download is a blue hat with “rST” written on it. You can download the app. You will have to set it up for our school and that is an easy process to do. When you set it up, select Nebraska for state, then Nebraska Capitol Conference, then Select Fort Calhoun. This app gives you a 1-week schedule. It will include whatever is on the school calendar from activities to lunch menu. You can also search schedules by individual sports. Again, if you have questions on it, feel free to give me a call.

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For all the latest going on at  
“The Fort” visit  
our website at  
[www.fortcalhounschoools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org)

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If you are new to the area or have a change in your household please contact the school with your family’s information. We use this information to keep you informed of the happenings in the District and to notify you of important information from the schools. We also publish the *Dispatch* monthly and mail it 4 times per year.

You may either call the school at 402-468-5591 with the information or go to our website [www.fortcalhounschoools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org), under School, Enrollment, fill out #4-Census Informaion and mail it to Box 430 Fort Calhoun, NE 68023 or fax it to 402-468-5593. Call if you have any questions.

**Elementary News**

**Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner**

*Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!*

Greetings! Happy February! Life at the elementary continues to be full of learning opportunities. We are looking forward to activities that are happening around the building this upcoming month. A few of them we want to keep you informed with are: Parent/ Teacher Conferences, County Spelling Bee, Sweetheart/Sock Hop Dance hosted by our PFE, and the start of our additional classrooms on the northwest side of the building. From the listed items we would like to elaborate on P/T conferences and the upcoming construction.

The first round of P/T conferences was a success! We piloted a new platform called SignUp.com to sign up for your conference. Of course when change happens there are nerves and anxiety that impact that change. I personally want to say “Nice job and Thank you for having a growth mindset.” We made it through that first round together and now maintaining that mindset will set us up for success moving forward. We recently sent home the updated information and link to sign up for the next round of conferences in Thursday folders. We will continue to utilize the Signup.com platform. Our hope is the first experience with Signup.com in October was positive. Please click on this website to get started: <https://signup.com/go/KmXkRXN>. Once you click on this link you will be directed to the teacher page to sign up. Click on your classroom teacher and then click on your requested slot. That is it! This is all confidential. Additionally, Signup.com will send you a reminder of your meeting time if you prefer to put your email or phone number in the system. If you do not have access to the internet please contact the elementary office for assistance. We hope this continues to be successful for all.

Another activity that will be happening in the building is the addition of classrooms on the northwest side of the building. We are anticipating this construction to begin in March. Of course the timeline is always subject to change so we hope it begins in March. This construction will physically only impact that portion of the building. It will impact a few other operating areas of the building temporarily, such as Mrs. Leifeld’s classroom, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Band, and Music classes. When the construction begins Mrs. Leifeld’s class will be moving to the music/band room. Due to the necessity of the construction starting in Mrs. Leifeld’s room that ignites a shift of classrooms. Then, all music classes will be held in each of the classrooms according to the regular schedule. Lastly, band classes will be held in the lunchroom. Furthermore, if your child attends Kids Club the entrance/exit will continue to be available during this construction. We hope this is a mellow transition. Of course the end product will be amazing. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact the elementary office. We will continue to send information home as we get more defined plans of the start of this construction.

As we wrap up this communication please be aware of the communication tools the school provides throughout the school year. Here are a few: Parent Newsletters, District Dispatch, School Twitter account, Marquee, Thursday Folders, Phone/Emails and of course through personal conversations. We will continue to strive to maximize our communication with you. If you have any suggestions please contact Mr. Wagner.

Thank you for your support! It’s a great day to be a PIONEER!  
Respectfully,  
Drew R. Wagner  
Your PROUD Elementary Principal

- Upcoming Events**
- February 7-Sweetheart Dance hosted by the PFE
  - February 12-County Spelling Bee at the High School
  - February 19 & 20: Parent/Teacher Conferences; 1:15pm dismissal both days
  - February 21: No School