

Special Recognition . . .

Anna Taylor and **Alayna Prunty** took 1st Place and **Brooke Johnsen** and **Eva Hansen** were Runners-up in the local Spelling Bee. They competed in the Washington County Spelling Bee where Eva placed 4h.

Wesleyan University Honor Band participants, who were selected by audition, are **Aaron Johnson**, **Avery McKennan**, **Kenzie Hansen** and **Keagan Hunter**. Elkhorn Band Olympics participants also were successful with 3 medal winners. **Jayden Hunter** earned 5th place, **Lizzy Pace** earned a Silver Medal, and **Savannah Lukasiewicz** was the Gold Medal winner in the Baritone Saxophone Solo division.

From over 3700 total entries in the Nebraska Scholastic Art Competition, 11 of the Fort Calhoun pieces were accepted and all 11 earned recognition. **Gold Key: Avery McKennan - 2; Silver Key: Shelby Altstadt**; Honorable Mention: **Kloey Appel, Kennedy Bradburn, Zach Imig - 2, Alyssa Mitchell, Anna Polesky, Evelyn Roehr, Alyssa Wright**. Congratulations to these students. Stop by the high school to see their works.

Three Fort Calhoun boys wrestled their way to participate in the State Wrestling Tournament. They are **Tyler Curtis, Ronnie Albertson** and **Joe Garcia**.

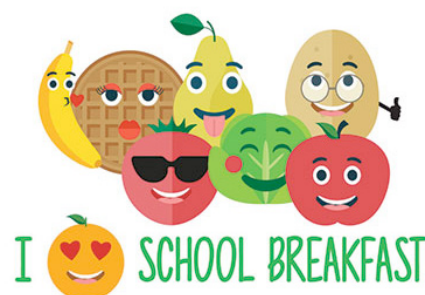


Fort Calhoun **Kindergarten Roundup** is just around the corner. Our community is growing and we want to be prepared. We are counting students in our District to begin the process for 2018-19 and to determine future needs.

Residents: Please help us with our child count by reporting your children up to 18 years old, who intend to be enrolled in Fort Calhoun Schools for the upcoming school year. If you have not already notified us through the census or there has been a change in your household, call the District office at 402-468-5591 with your information. **Families will be notified by letter when Roundup is scheduled.**



3/1	Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
3/8	Teacher Inservice-No School
3/9	Spring Break - No School
3/11	Daylight Savings Begins
3/12	School Board Meeting
3/13	Jr-Sr High Science Fair
3/24-25	Prom/Post Prom
3/30-4/2	No School - Easter



NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK!
March 5-March 9



Fort Calhoun Schools use an automated calling system to disseminate information or to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. Make sure all your contact numbers are up-to-date by calling your child's respective schools.



The Fort Dispatch

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Fort Calhoun Community Schools

March 2018

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Responding to Chaos

The recent school shooting in Florida has created a heightened sense of alarm across the nation's schools and in our very own community. The scare last week tested our system and our ability to handle threats at the local level. Fort Calhoun acknowledges the trust you place in us to take care of your children while they are at school. There is no higher priority for us than the safety of our students and staff.

When we hear about school violence or face threats in our very own district, it naturally raises concerns for our students, staff and community. These acts prompt us to review, discuss and improve our local safety and security measures. The safety of our students is so important that the board at our board retreat this past summer set a goal to: "Complete a comprehensive school safety program and communicate it to all stakeholders in the school district". For safety reasons, it is not advisable to share specific details about school crisis plans; however, we can share information about some of the security measures we have in place and in use on a daily basis:

- Just over 100 well-trained, professional and caring employees who build positive relationships with students by getting to know them and understanding their individual needs.
- Staff members and students trained in "ALICE" training for an active shooter situation,
- District Crisis teams trained in dealing with crisis situations for both students and staff.
- Students practicing a variety of emergency lockdown drills and other drills related to emergency-type scenarios.
- An automated notification system for emergency communication.
- School rules and Board of Education policies that identify expectations and consequences.
- School Resource Officer in the buildings and on call.
- Security cameras in entries, hallways and parking lots.
- Strong relationships and open communication with all stakeholders.
- Safety and Security audits on a yearly basis.

The summary of the list of safety procedures above is not comprehensive. We understand that no matter how much a district plans, it cannot be prepared for every scenario. But we must rely on every member of our school community doing its part to be aware of what's going on around them, looking out for one another, and reporting anything that seems suspicious or concerning. Fort Calhoun Community Schools will always take threats seriously. When a threat is reported, we will immediately investigate the situation, and when appropriate, notify law enforcement.

A safe school is the foundation of a positive learning environment, and our school district will continue to do everything we can to maintain a safe school environment in which to learn and grow. Please contact me or your building principal with any questions or concerns about school safety.

Visit our website for all your questions
www.fortcalhouschools.org




Mr. Jerry Green
Secondary Principal

The Power of Thank You!

It seems simple enough and easy but many times it gets missed. Sometimes on purpose but other times it is just an oversight or we get caught up in the moment and the opportunity passes by. The moment might be gone but I don't think it is ever too late to say, THANK YOU. Thank you to our students who come to school with an attitude to learn and compete. Thank you to the teachers and coaches who push our students to reach beyond what they believe they can accomplish. Thank you teachers, coaches, support staff and all who tolerate little negativity and stand tall for ownership and responsibility. Thank you to the kitchen crew and custodial staff who somehow feeds and cleans up after 350 students. Not an easy job. Thank you to the bus drivers who drive our students safely to their homes and events. Thank you to the secretaries and office staff who keep it all together and give us the materials needed to do our jobs. Thank you to the administrative staff who provide each other with the support to get us through what can seem like some impossible times. Thank you to the parents for allowing us to do our very best for your children. Although we are not always in agreement I feel confident in saying that when dealing with some 350 students and some 700 parents I feel the staff of Fort Calhoun Junior/Senior High School works very hard to provide a rigorous, safe and caring educational environment.

Thank you to everyone who works so hard to raise, educate and lead the young men and women of today.

 **American Red Cross** March has been designated as Red Cross month by Presidential Decree since Franklin Delano Roosevelt's time in office.



MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Assistant Principal/AD

One thing that we are constantly trying to instill in our students is the ability to be great leaders. Our world is in need of people to step up in tough times and lead with optimism, enthusiasm and positive energy. Leadership is not just about what you do but what you can inspire, encourage and empower others to do.

Two ideals that will help you become a good leader:

People follow the leader first and the leader's vision second. It doesn't matter if the leader shares a powerful vision, if the leader is not someone who people will follow the vision will never be realized. As a leader, who you are makes a difference. The most important message you can share is yourself.

Great leaders know that success is a process not a destination. John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach, never focused on winning. He knew that winning was the by-product of great leadership, teamwork, focus, commitment and execution of the fundamentals.

As a leader, focus on your people and process, not the outcome.

I believe you become great when you help others become great.
Jon Gordon

(both ideals were taken from an article written by Jon Gordon.)



PFE NEWS

The elementary students are so proud of the Pointillism art murals they created with the help of our Artist in Residence, Julia Noyes. The murals are a beautiful addition to our school and really brighten up the walls. Next time you are at school, please check them out; they are hanging in the stairways. Thank you to all the moms and grandmas who came to help with this PFE-funded activity.

Students are currently working on their artwork for the Original Works Art Program. Order forms will be coming home on March 22nd.

PFE is excited to once again sponsor the *One School One Book* Reading Program. This year we are trying something new and the students will be read to from the selected book, *Clementine*, during school hours. Weekend activity sheets will still be coming home for students to complete at home and turn back in to their teachers for prizes.

Bring your Family and your Fun to the PFE Carnival on Friday, April 20th. PFE is hosting this event from 5:30pm-8:00pm at the Fort Calhoun high school gym. Wristbands will go on sale in April and concessions will be available for purchase that night.

We are in need of New PFE Officers for the 2018/2019 school year. Please consider a position so that PFE can keep doing all the wonderful fundraisers/events that we do and continue to help Fort Calhoun Schools make small capital improvements for the betterment of our students and teachers. Please contact us at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com if you would be interested or would like more information.

Next Meeting – March 14 @ 3:15-4:15pm (Elementary School)



POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The school district shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, sex or disability in its education programs, activities, or employment policies in compliance with Title VI and VIII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX, the Rehabilitation Act, the Nebraska Equal Educational Opportunity Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and all other relevant civil rights statutes and regulations.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a grievance using the district's grievance procedures.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act, Section 504, or Title VII may be directed to the superintendent.

Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.