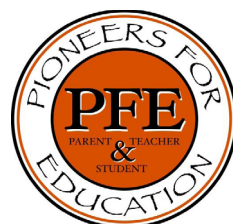




The Nebraska Capital Conference has released its Basketball awards. **Zane Schwarz** and **Brant Hilzendeger** were selected 2nd Team All Conference, **Carsen Schwarz, Kaden Therkildsen, Kennedy Bradburn** and **Kinsley Wimer** were all selected Honorable Mention All Conference. The *Omaha World Herald* named its All Omaha Area Basketball teams. Earning Honorable Mention are **Kennedy Bradburn, Kinsley Wimer, Zane Schwarz, Brant Hilzendeger** and **Carsen Schwarz**. **Kennedy, Kinsley, Zane, Brant** and **Carsen** were also All State Honorable Mention in the *Omaha World Herald*. In addition **Zane, Kennedy** and **Kinsley** were named Class C-1 All State Honorable Mention in the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Fort Calhoun Jr-Sr High held its annual Science Fair. Junior High Winners: 1st - **James Miller**, 2nd - **Anna Taylor** and **Samantha Thomas**, 3rd - **Ellie Collins** and **Natalie Reichert**. High School Winners: 1st - **Grace Genoways** and **Sam Genoways**, 2nd - **Dylan Boldt** and **Alex Negus**, 3rd - **Austin Welchert** and **Sam Halford**. The Overall Winner was **Adrianna Hernandez**.



Greetings from Pioneers for Education! We hope this finds you in a place where you are getting used to your new family routines during this time of Covid-19 restriction. With the guidance from our amazing school district, we will all get through this!

Before we were all put on quarantine restrictions, there were a couple of PFE events that took place. On February 28th, there was a Glow dance for the elementary boys and one special guest. There was an awesome turnout for the dance with 95 students attending, and 85 adults joining in on the fun. PFE would love to support another event for boys next year. If you have ideas of a fun boy/adult event, or would like to help PFE organize this please reach out! Many thanks to Kelli BenSalah, Ronee Christensen, Lisa Weiss, and Rochelle Wray for spearheading the girls' and the boys' dances for 2020!

Thankfully, we were able to have our last donut event of the year in early March. Donuts with Dad had over 400 happy attendees. PFE Appreciates Cortney Raether and Alicia Minow for organizing Donuts with Dad, and thank you to all that volunteered for the event!

PFE has officer positions open for the 2020/21 school year. It's rewarding to volunteer for PFE, we are constantly working towards doing great things that help every student and staff member at the schools.

Scholarship applications for this year's High School Seniors can still be submitted! The deadline for submitting is April 15th to pioneersforeducation@gmail.com

Unfortunately, most all spring PFE events have been cancelled, or are up in the air at the moment. We will keep everyone up to date via our Facebook page, and by emailing PFE members. We definitely plan to honor the amazing Staff and Teachers. Please be on the lookout for information regarding Teacher Appreciation from PFE in the near future.

We had a public meeting scheduled for March 23rd, with school closed this turned into an officer's meeting via zoom. We have our fingers crossed that our final public meeting of the school year can be in the High School library in May.

If you have questions for us, please contact pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Stay Healthy!

All schools with meal programs must adhere to the USDA Rule of 2016 which requires a Wellness Policy and making the patrons aware of its components and our compliance. Ours is 5052-Wellness Policy and is on our website under Board of Education, Policies. The assessment may be found on the website under School, Food Service.



Fort Calhoun Community Schools are using a new automated calling system to communicate with families. Call your child's respective schools with updated contact information or if you have questions. You now have the option to get alerts sent to your phone, and by e-mails or texts.



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 29 No 8

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

April 2020

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Pioneer Proud

In trying times families come together! I am so proud to be a part of this community. During my thirty-year career here at the "FORT" there have been a lot of things that have made me proud to be a part of this community. But as I sit here today and having just walked through the kitchen where we have been holding our school closure Food Pantry I can't help but to get a little emotional. The kitchen is jacked full with food donated by our community. After our first week with the food pantry we distributed a ton of food (Thanks to the Catholic Church, Joseph's Coat and few other community members) and I was concerned that our inventory for this week would be too low and families would go without food. So I made some calls and we made a plea to our community and quite honestly we were amazed at the response of this community. The amount of food we have brought in in two days far surpassed our greater hope. Thank you so much and God Bless you for blessing others who are need in our community and beyond.

We are living in unprecedented times and quite honestly it can be very unsettling. But like every day before the closure we have a choice to thrive or just survive. Choose to THRIVE! What does that look like? Get outside, workout more, possibly even talk to your siblings or parents (scary right). Alice and I have been taking long walks and have done some exploring, it's been pretty cool! I also got a new chainsaw and have been enjoying catching up on my dead tree population.

I would be remised if I did not shout out to my Board of Education, my custodial crew, my cooking staff, the paras and teacher volunteers and all of the district office personnel who have helped in feeding our kids during this closure. We are distributing food both from the High School and from the Forget Store in Ponca Hills and we have increased of the number of kids we are feeding on a weekly basis. We need to continue our efforts to feed kids and families because that's the right thing to do for kids. Thank you to all the people that have been a part of this Herculean effort.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote "Hope itself is like a star – not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be discovered in the night of adversity." This saying rings so true through this community's efforts during these trying times to take care of our family here at the "FORT"!

Good Luck and God Bless!

Dr. J



- 4/10 Offices Closed-Easter Holiday
- 4/12 **Happy Easter**
- 4/13 School Board Meeting



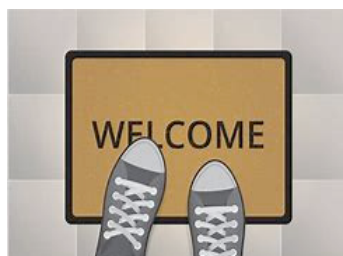
Mr. Jerry Green
Secondary Principal

Tough Times

Does anyone ever remember having the thought, “I wish I didn’t have to go to school.” Careful what you wish for! This is not what any of us expected, wanted or maybe even thought could happen. It’s happening and it is more difficult than any of us could have imagined. Sometimes it is hard to understand the magnitude of the pandemic. It literally is impacting the world.

Over the past few weeks we have worked hard to navigate through the “educational dilemmas” caused by the pandemic. We are using words like E-Learning, working remotely and continuity of learning. We are working to make sure people are being fed and have basic necessities. We are suffering the loss of activities, social events and just seeing our friends. While all of these actions and feeling are real I am reminded on a daily basis that there is a significant tragedy happening daily. People are dying.

Keep the big picture in mind. COVID-19 is real and it knows no boundaries. Please continue to remain safe, practice good hand washing and social distancing. We are all suffering on some level and those are real losses for us. My hope is that we can all survive this pandemic and not have to suffer a significant tragedy. My thoughts are with all of you at this time. Stay Safe.



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, under School, Enrollment, fill out #4-Census Information and mail it to Box 430 Fort Calhoun, NE 68023 or fax it to 402-468-5593. Call if you have any questions.

Nick Wemhoff
Assistant Principal/AD

My family and I wish everyone health and safety as we all face this pandemic. This is something we have never seen before and hopefully something we will never see again. There are no words to describe the feelings and emotions that I have on a regular basis. Students - I want you to know that I think of everyone often and that I miss each of you every day! I cannot wait until we can get back to school! Staff - Thank you for all the extra work you are doing and the extra time you are putting in to provide our students with great opportunities to continue learning. You are all amazing and this is what makes the staff at the FORT so special! Parents and community members - Thank you to everyone who has stepped up throughout this time and have offered help and donations for those who are in need. This goes to show how great our community is!

Abraham Lincoln once wrote: “I fully appreciate the present peril the country is in, and the weight of responsibility on me”. I could not say it better myself. We all need to recognize our responsibility through this time. Stay home, not only to keep yourself safe, but to keep others safe as well. We are all in this together and we each need to do our part. For students, make sure you continue to work on your education. Do the enrichment activities. You will thank yourself in the future for all the hard work you do now!

I look forward to returning to the way things were before all of this. We WILL get through this together. We will one day see how this tragedy has made us stronger.

“If you know something will eventually come to an end, you can handle it.”

- Karen Harrington

April is National Humor Month



Remember----

“Laughter is the Best Medicine”

Elementary News
Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner
Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Dear Parents/Guardian,

As we continue to navigate through this historic time of our lives I would like to sustain our communication and positivity at high level. I wish to notify you on the elementary supports in place during this time and an update on our construction project. My hopes this presents a power of positivity during a challenging time.

I would like to start with STAY STRONG! There is no doubt in my mind that this will test our patience and stress us out. I have been reading and educating myself on how best to support students and their families during this school closure. My hope is we provide one more resource to all that encourages stability, positivity, and possibility. Two of the most common themes is for everyone to stay strong and calm while finding a “new normal.”

A few additional suggestions:

- Take time to schedule the day/week with your child(ren). It’s ok if this changes from week to week. Don’t worry!
- Set goals and expectations! Once your child meets that goal remember to follow through with the reward.
- Smile and Laugh! Research continues to support these impactful gestures. Laughing is contagious!
- Let positivity pave your path! You determine what that looks like.
- Use your resources. Teachers/staff are here to help. We do have limitations, but we will provide feedback and keep our communication high.
- Find your (Parent/Guardian/Support) “Happy Place.” It is vital to lead by example. Children are looking for normalcy and routine. That means if you are not finding your happy place then you can’t model the positive expectation your child needs.
- Please continue to read to your child and keep their brain active. (Don’t pull this one out unless you really need it. Do you need to see Mr. Wagner? Ha!)

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER! I continue to highlight this active component from our school family and our community family. It is time to step up and be the solid rock our children need.

Moving onto some positive information. The construction on our building’s addition is a silver lining to our closure.

The dirt work is getting accomplished with additional footings being poured this week. There is a lot of movement outside and it is nice to see people. So if you need to get some fresh air and take a stroll please don’t hesitate to check out the progress. The goal is to have the project completed by the start of the 2020-21 school year. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress.

As I wrap up our communication please continue to stay STRONG! COVID-19 will impact us all in different ways, but remember our kiddos need us right now so please make sure you stay healthy, safe and equipped to take on this battle. Like we say in the military, One TEAM One fight! Thank you for your time!

Drew R. Wagner

It’s a great day to be a PIONEER!

Upcoming Events

****ALL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS ARE CANCELED AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**