

Fort Calhoun Elementary

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Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Your Principal: Mr. Drew R. Wagner

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-Elementary News-

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Happy Fall Y'all! Thank you for being a Pioneer! The pride of being a pioneer is priceless. We hope you all feel the same way as we continue our journey together.

There continues to be a plethora of events happening at the elementary in the month of October. Homecoming events to Fire Department visit to Morning with mom to Parent/Teacher conferences to Career Readiness Day. Those are just a few of the many events that occurred. I would like to elaborate on Parent/Teacher conferences and Deputy Greg, our new School Resource Officer. As usual if you have questions/feedback on either of these topics or other topics around the school please let someone know so we can attend to them appropriately.

We piloted a new platform for parents/guardians to sign up for P/T conferences this year. Most of you are aware of this new platform by now. The new platform is called Signup.com. This new platform has been efficient up to this point in many ways from saving time to friendly reminders to parents as the conference was getting closer. Our plan is to use this same platform for the spring conferences. If you have any questions on this please contact the elementary office. We are always striving to make processes, like this one, run as smooth as possible for your convenience.

Did you get a chance to meet our new School Resource Officer during conferences? If you missed him don't worry Deputy Greg Byelick is around and ready to keep our environment safe. Deputy Greg is new to our district this year and it fitting right in. He has introduced himself to each classroom and continues to build relationships each day with our students, staff and community. He also recently discussed "Safety Tips" with each classroom, if students are out and about during Halloween. Deputy Greg will continue to visit classrooms formally and informally. If you haven't met him please take time to introduce yourself to him. He is here to help!

As I wrap up this communication, we want to thank our fabulous PFE for another successful Walk-a-thon (September 20) and Morning with Mom (October 18). Another way our PFE continues to support our positive school culture and build relationships. Thank you!

Keep smiling! Each day brings new endeavors. Remember to be a problem solver not a problem sharer! We appreciate your support!

Drew R. Wagner
Your Elementary Principal



**A
positive
attitude
will get
you
anywhere!**

What's going on in the classrooms?

Early childhood - Mrs. Royuk

We had a great beginning of the preschool year! In the month of September, we talked about similarities and differences among friends and practiced how to be a good friend by using kind words and taking turns. The preschoolers also visited Super Bee apple orchard! We learned about different types of apples, compared and taste tested them. We worked on the letters F, A, M and D and identified numbers. Thanks for making preschool so exciting!

Kindergarten - Miss Hall, Miss Shupe & Mrs. Leifeld

Reading:

We are Special, My family and me, I can, Make new friends, Get up and go, Use your senses, Tools we use, Shapes all around, World of bugs, Rules to go by, Sounds around us, The places we go

Category Words: Names, Numbers, Days of the Week, family words, senses, color words, shapes, movement words, action words, sound words, sequence words

Phonics: Letter Recognition: Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd, Ee, Ff, Gg, Hh, Ii, Jj, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, Oo, Pp, Qq, Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu, Vv, Ww, Xx, Yy, Zz; Initial/final m, Initial/medial a, Initial/final s, Initial/final p, Initial/final t, Initial/medial i, Initial/final n, Initial/final c

Phonological Awareness: Rhymes

Concepts of Print: Book Handling, finger spaces

High Frequency Words: I, can, the, we, see, a, like, to, and, go

Vocabulary Words: friend, problem, adventure, movement, senses, explore, tool, discover, materials, nature, curious, observe, cooperate, rules, listen, volume, routine, neighborhood

Comprehension: Key Details, Character, Setting, Events

Math:

Numbers 0-5

Comparing Numbers 0-5

Numbers 6-10

Compare Numbers 6-10

Classify and Count Data

1st grade - Mrs. Spellerberg & Mrs. Rohrich

Reading

The first graders have dove into our first unit in reading! The students have learned the short a, short I, and I-blend sounds. They have been doing a great job reading and finding the key details in their stories.

Grammar

The students have been practicing writing sentences. We make sure to have a capital letter, punctuation mark, and a whole idea every time we write. We are beginning to talk about different kinds of sentences. The students will practice writing statements, questions, and exclamatory sentences.

Math

The first graders have been digging into addition and subtraction. They have been using different strategies like counting on, counting back, using a number line, doubles, and making a ten to find the sum and difference. We have also been learning how addition and subtraction are related.

Science

The first graders have been learning all about sound. We are learning how to describe the different sounds that we hear everyday. We will discover why certain things make the sounds that they do. Lastly, we will explore the many uses of sound and why it is so important!

Social Studies

The students have been learning about families and community. We have talked about events that can bring families and a community together.



Engaging + Learning
+ Achieving
= Productive
PIONEERS!

2nd grade - Ms. Ebner, Mrs. Hallberg & Mrs. Hodson

Language Arts

- *Comprehension skill – Ask and Answer Questions, Identifying Key Details, PLOT, Making Predictions
- *Phonics Skills – Short and Long Vowels
- *Vocab strategies – Root Words, Prefixes
- *Different kinds of sentences – statements, questions, exclamations
- *Subject/Predicate, Nouns, Verbs

Math

- *Adding Facts Fluently to 20
- *Number Sentences, Word Problems, Math Vocabulary
- *Mental Math Strategies – using hundreds chart, break apart ones and tens, open number line to add 2-digit numbers

Social Studies

- *Communities – How to get along in different communities
- *Timelines

Science

- *Classification of Matter
- *Solids, Liquids, Gases

We have truly enjoyed getting to know your students these past two months. We have jumped into all subject areas quickly and the students are doing a great job and meeting our 2nd grade expectations. We look forward to seeing you at Parent-Teacher Conferences!

3rd grade - Mrs. Benoit & Mrs. Szlachetka

“TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More”

We have 2 third grade pets. Benoit: Solar, the Bearded Dragon and Mrs. Szlachetka: Twinkie, the Beta Fish

Math:

- We can use addition or multiplication to join equal groups
- We can use a number line to represent and solve multiplication facts
- We can use arrays to show and solve multiplication problems
- We multiply factors in any order to solve multiplication problems
- We can use objects or pictures to show how objects can be divided into equal groups
- We can use repeated subtraction to understand and solve division problems

Reading:

- We can Sequence a story
- We can retell
- We can tell the difference between a Realistic Fiction and Biography
- We can read chapter books independently and take an Accelerated Reader comprehension tests over each book

Grammar/Writing:

- We can identify types of sentences
- We can punctuate sentences correctly
- We can identify the subject, predicate, and verb in sentences!

Social Studies:

- We can tell about Communities

Science:

- We can model attributes of force and motion



4th grade - Mrs. Omer, Mrs. Schleifer & Mrs. Beacom

August and September have been busy days full of new adventures in fourth grade! Students are adjusting well to the classroom routines, procedures, and are working to do their best. Language Arts is an adventure of investigating our Reading Wonders series through technology. Already we have studied 5 genres: Fairy Tales, Realistic Fiction, Expository Text, Narrative Nonfiction and Persuasive Text. Our marvelous mathematicians are passing timed tests, mastering place value, rounding, comparing and writing numbers in different forms. The students are learning new problem solving techniques, plus reviewing long addition and subtraction skills. We just began our adventure into multiplication! In science, we are investigating how motion and energy are related. We are going to put our knowledge to the test and create a safety feature for a car. During Social Studies, our student explorers have had an overview of how the wonderful nation we live in was born. Stay tuned for more exciting adventures of the fabulous fourth grade Pioneers!

5th grade - Ms. Carlson & Mrs. Romans

We've had a great start to fifth grade! We are working hard! In math we began with reviewing place value and learning strategies to correctly add and subtract decimals. Now we're working, in depth, on multiplication (including multiplying multiple digits and multiplying decimals). It's so important to get those basic facts memorized!

In language arts we have been studying different types of sentences, compound subjects and predicates, and how to combine phrases using conjunctions. We've read and discussed biographies, narrative nonfiction, and realistic fiction. Next we'll study persuasive articles and persuasive writing.

In Social Studies, we have completed our unit on Native American history. We are now beginning to learn about the discovery and exploration of America.

In Science, we have been learning about the properties of matter and how matter changes both physically and chemically. Soon we will be experts on the conservation of matter! NWEA and DIBELS testing are wrapped up. Fifth graders are diving into SeeSaw, a digital platform portfolio for students to share their work with their parents, teachers, and each other. We are excited to share even more information at our upcoming fall conferences.
Ms. Carlson & Mrs. Romans

6th grade - Mrs. Larsen, Mr. Mallette & Mr. Teeter

October is starting out busy and promises to stay that way! We start out with 6th Grade Conservation Day and then it will be time to prepare for our first Student-Led Conferences!

ELA: We are reaching the end of Unit One of Reading Wonders. We've been working to improve our comprehension using strategies (reread, visualize) and skills (main idea/detail, story elements) while reading fiction and expository texts. Our vocabulary work has involved creating Digital Dictionaries in Google Classroom.

Math is headed into integers and rational numbers. Remind your students about getting Pearson quizzes pre-checked and asking questions on things they are not certain of.

Science has wrapped up our first unit dealing with the Scientific Method. We are currently learning about the basics of "Living Things in the Biosphere." Please reach out to your child about what is going on in science. There are enrichment activities and videos online on Pearson for extracurricular learning. If there are struggles with understanding a concept please have your child or yourself email me.

CSD: Computer Science Discoveries (CSD) is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and fun. This class is taught by Mr. Mike Mallette and the HAL teacher, Mr. PJ Mallette, every Friday. We are wrapping up our first problem-solving project, PBIS instructional videos.

Career Day: We have 6 speakers coming in on Oct. 4 to discuss their chosen career. We will be doing this a couple of additional times throughout the school year. These days make great conversation starters for discussions with your student about what their vision of the future is.

Conservation Day Field Trip: We will be traveling to Summit Lake on Oct. 3 for our first field trip. The activities involved for this trip include hiking, identifying living organisms, and learning about how we can conserve the world around us. The students will need to have a cold lunch this day (there will be NO microwaves for heating up food). Please be alert for how the weather is going to be this day to allow for proper planning of what your child should wear that day, closed-toed shoes that you don't mind getting dirty would be advised (tennis shoes or hiking boots for example).



Introducing Mrs. Sara Ruthven - Part-Time School Nurse

My name is Sara Ruthven, I am excited to be working as the school nurse at the elementary school! My husband and I moved to Fort Calhoun two years ago, and we love calling this town home. I previously worked as a nurse at Children's Hospital and Medical Center, and before that I was a nurse at Methodist Women's Center. I keep busy with my 15 month old daughter, Olivia. You will often find us on walks or at the park. When I'm not working or taking care of my daughter, I enjoy gardening. Another hobby of mine is sewing, particularly making bows. I look forward to keeping your children healthy and safe!

From the School Counselor:

Wow! What a great start to the year. Elementary guidance has just finished our feelings unit and is headed start into our healthy living/substance awareness unit. This year we will cover a variety of topics including healthy foods and sometimes foods, prescriptions and over-the counters, and healthy drugs, "adult choice" drugs and illegal drugs. We will also spend our time doing role plays and discussing the rules you need to follow to keep healthy drugs from becoming unhealthy.

Mrs. Adams

High Ability Learners (HAL)

Our program at Fort Calhoun Elementary starts on Monday, September 30th. Each student (2-6) was ran through our identification process. The components of the matrix are listed below.

-NWEA (Reading), NWEA (Language), NWEA (Math), SAGES-2 (Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students), Dibels, Report Card, and Teacher Recommendation

I want to give a big shoutout to our HAL Committee Members: Mr. Mallette, Mr. Wagner, Mrs. Benoit, Mr. Mallette, Mrs. Larsen, and Mrs. Hallberg. Thank you for all that you do!

Please let me know if you have any questions about the program. We will be kicking the program off with our invention unit! Can't wait to see the next brilliant idea.

Behavior Interventionist (BI)

We love to reinforce positive behavior at our school. We have a school-wide initiative called PBIS and that is off to a phenomenal start! Students have been behaving very well overall! YAY! If some students need more support for other reasons then I work closely with the student, teacher, and guardians to provide a plan to better set students up for success in the needed area! We just love seeing students grow and improve each and every year. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to ask.

A Message From The Nurse

Let's say "BOO" to the Flu! – The Centers for Disease Control advise everyone 6months of age and older to get a flu shot during the months of October and November. Talk to your doctor.

- Please keep all sick children home from school, especially if they are exhibiting respiratory and stomach symptoms! If you are unsure – stay home and call your healthcare provider or school nurse for advice.
- Allergy & Asthma season is hitting us HARD this year. Monitor all symptoms closely and follow your health care provider's advice. If your child has asthma, and needs to keep an inhaler at school, we need a current Asthma/Allergy Action Plan from their physician.
- We can protect and strengthen our own immunity by eating nutritious foods, taking daily walks, sleeping 8 – 10 hours a night, reducing stress, and smiling daily :)

Kids learn best if they're healthy and happy! Feel free to check in anytime if you have any questions or concerns.
-Sara Ruma RN BSN



PFE NEWS

It's been a busy start to the school year for PFE. PFE sponsored two staff events prior to students arriving. PFE along with some help from Scooters delivered coffee treats to the staff on their final workday before students arrived. Kelli Shaner, with support from PFE, hosted elementary teachers and administrators for dinner and conversation prior to their greeting students at Back-To-School night.

Great job to all of the K-6th graders who continued learning throughout the summer through Summer Bridge. In August, students who turned in their certificates were treated to an ice cream social as a reward for their hard work. Dara Waters chairs all PFE Summer Bridge activities.

PFE has partnered with Mr Paul High Horse to offer an exciting new program, Art After School. Students in the 3rd through 6th grade who registered for this program have been working with Mr High Horse and Mrs Rutledge learning about art history, technique, and working on a project to take home at the end of their 6 week session. There will be four sessions throughout the school year. Michelle Dill spearheaded this great effort to bring Art to our students at the Fort.

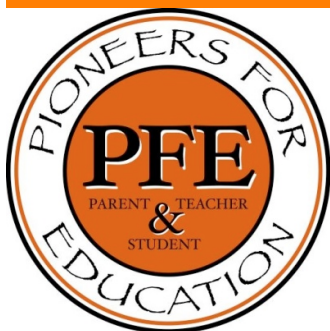
PFE's first public meeting was held on September 16th. It was well attended with important votes being held amongst the members and committee in attendance.

On September 20th, the elementary had their 3rd Walk-a-thon. Our elementary students raised just over \$13,000. Prizes were given and drawings were held as incentives to keep the fundraising momentum at a peak. Our walkers had a special treat as the Pioneer mascot joined them as a walking partner! PFE lined up an excellent Walk a Thon committee that made it all run smoothly.

The PFE will have a float in the homecoming parade this year to show support for FC athletics and alumni. PFE members who wish to decorate or walk with the float as part of the parade should contact any member of the officer team or email us at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com

There is still time to become a PFE Member for 2019-20! Membership forms can be found on the school website. Becoming a PFE Member is a great way to support activities throughout the year. Many of the activities would not be possible without your active membership!

Denise Work- President
Sarah Tinkham- Vice President
Michelle Dill- Treasurer
Natalie Cummings- Secretary
Ronee Christensen- Communication Coordinator



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ELEMENTARY**

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**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!
VISIT OUR NEW
WEBSITE:**

**[www.fortcalhoun
schools.org](http://www.fortcalhoun
schools.org)**

REMINDER

All Fridays during the year are early outs. The Elementary will dismiss students at 1:15 pm.

Upcoming events:

Upcoming Events

November 8: Little Pioneer Playgroup (Preschool Activity)

November 19: Health Screens

November 21: Thanksgiving Feast

November 27: Early Dismissal; 1:15pm

November 28 & 29: No School

December 10: Health Screens

December 12: Winter Music Concert (@ High School)

December 23-January 6: No School (Christmas Break)

****All dates are subject to change. Also refer to our district master calendar for all other dates.**



Our Mission at Fort Calhoun Schools:

Foster Learning in an inspiring and caring environment, provide

Opportunities For All Students to be successful, instill the attributes of

Respect and Responsibility among staff and students alike, and present students with the

Tools to Succeed in life.

Our Purpose:

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!