

Fort Calhoun Elementary

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Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Your Principal: Mr. Drew R. Wagner

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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, 5th/6th 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



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

What's going on in the classrooms?

Early childhood - Mrs. Royuk

Preschool has been learning about the season of winter and animals that hibernate. We also spent a few weeks talking about different types of transportation vehicles. The morning preschoolers even got to bring a vehicle from home to use for a sorting activity at school. The afternoon got to complete a vehicle activity with their 6th grade Reading Buddy! During center time, we are still practicing our classroom rules based on our four school expectations. We practice being safe, brave, respectful and responsible. We have been practicing the letters H, T and Z. The preschoolers are identifying numbers and writing them. They have made great grains, I am very proud of them all!

Mrs. Royuk

Kindergarten - Miss Hall, Miss Shupe & Mrs. Leifeld

Reading:

Concept of the Week: The Four Seasons, What's the weather? Stormy Weather, Baby Animals, Pet Pals, Animal Habitats, On the move, My USA, Look to the sky

Essential Question: How are the seasons different? What happens in different kinds of weather? How can you stay safe in bad weather? How are some animals alike and how are they different? How do you take care of different kinds of pets? Where do animals live? What can help you go from here to there?

What do you know about our country? What do you see in the sky?

Category Words: seasons, weather words, question words, animal parts, pets, animal homes, ordinal numbers, distance, recognize

Vocabulary Words: weather, seasons, predict, temperature, safe, prepare, appearance, behavior, responsibility, train, habitat, wild, transportation, vehicle, country, travel

Phonics: b, l, initial

k, final ck, u, g, w, x, v, j, qu, y, z

High Frequency Word: is, little, she, was, for, have, they, of, said, want, here, me, this, what

Comprehension: main topic, key details, key details in a sequence, compare/contrast, character, setting, and plot, cause/effect, character, setting, plot, sequence, problem, solution

1st grade - Mrs. Spellerberg & Miss Rohrich

Reading

In reading, the students have continued focusing on long vowel sounds with the "magic e". This includes long e, o, and u. They have also worked on the /u/ and oo sounds. The first graders are reading words with variant vowel spellings with digraphs and the inflectional endings -ed and -ing. They are getting a lot of practice with sequencing. The students are using the words first, next, then, and last to tell what happens in a story. Each week we add new vocabulary words that go along with the essential question.

Grammar

In grammar, the students are recognizing that "is" and "are" as present-tense verbs. The first graders are also focusing on contractions. They are able to recognize that a contraction is a form of two words put together to form one word.

Math

In math, the first graders have been adding tens and ones and as well as regrouping. Students have gained confidence in adding two double-digit numbers! Students are now subtracting groups of ten. They will be counting money next!

Social Studies

The first graders have been comparing and contrasting seasons as well as discussing weather within the seasons. Next, students will learn about wants and needs as well as the importance of saving.

Science

Students just finished up exploring light in science. They learned about shadows, reflection, and the importance of light. Moving on to the next topic, we will be talking all about the sky and the earth.



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+ Achieving
= Productive
PIONEERS!**

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

Language Arts

- *Comprehension skill – Problem & Solution
- *Silent Letters – Variant Vowels Patterns (ow, ou, oi, oy, au, aw)
- *Vocab strategies – Contractions & Homophones
- *Pronouns & Possessive Pronouns
- *Idioms – “easy as pie,” “it’s raining cats and dogs”

Math

- *Place Value to the thousands
- *3-Digit Addition strategies with Regrouping
- *Subtracting and adding 3-digit numbers with regrouping
- *MEMORIZE FACTS

Social Studies

- *Natural Resources
- *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Science

- *Earth’s Water and Land
- *Earth’s Processes – How the Earth Changes

We would like to thank you for all of your donations for the Valentine’s Day Party! It was a huge success and the kids had a great time! Another huge thank you for attending Parent Teacher Conferences! We thoroughly enjoy these conversations with you about all the progress and wonderful things your students are doing! We are looking forward to these next 3 months as we continue to prepare the kids for the big step up to 3rd grade!

3rd grade - Mrs. Benoit & Mrs. Szlachetka

“TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More”

Math:

- We can memorize multiplication facts!
- We can memorize division facts!
- We can find equivalent fractions

Reading:

- We can make predictions while we read!
- We can identify the characters, setting, and plot in a story we are reading!
- We can ask and then answer questions while we are reading a story!
- We can name the Main Idea and Details in a passage.
- We can identify the Cause and Effect in a passage.
- We can identify the Problem and Solution in a passage.
- We can identify Text Structure
- We can identify Author’s Purpose

Grammar/Writing:

- We can identify the adjectives in a sentence!
- We can identify the adverbs in a sentence!
- We can replace nouns with pronouns!
- We can combine sentences to make more interesting sentences!
- We can identify the subject, predicate, and verb in sentences!

Social Studies:

- We can tell how the United States grew into a country.

Science:

- We can name different ways to be safe during storms.
- We can tell when different weather occurs



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

This winter, the fabulous fourth graders studied the different aspects of National and state government! Spring will bring all the lessons we'll need on our wonderful state of Nebraska! With Nebraska's birthday on March 1st, we will be studying what makes our state so unique in the coming months.

Math has included multiplication, division, problem solving and fractions everywhere! In the spring we will begin practicing our time, money and algebra skills. As always, these skills are aligned to the Nebraska state standards. Spiral review helps keep all skills fresh. Students are passing timed tests with flying colors.

Our fourth graders practiced their summarizing, cause/effect, idiom, genre, point of view, Greek and Latin roots, and vocabulary skills in Language Arts. Comparing texts and author's point of view keeps everyone thinking!

Our little scientists have been busy investigating energy in many different ways. As we wrap up our waves and information topic, we will be moving on to learn all about our planet Earth. We'll finish the year with the different systems of the human body. Looking forward to all the fun experiments they will be diving into!

4th grade field trip to Lincoln is scheduled for March 17th! More information to come!

5th grade - Ms. Carlson & Mrs. Romans

Happy 2020! It's hard to believe we are halfway through fifth grade. We are so proud of the learning that has taken place and we will continue to work hard!

In math we have been studying fractions, fractions, and more fractions. We have learned how to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers (whole numbers with fractions such as $3\frac{1}{2}$). Now we are studying fraction multiplication. Soon, we'll be learning how to divide fractions and mixed numbers too.

In language arts, we have been studying many kinds of verbs and how to use them correctly in different tenses. We have been reading expository (informational) text as well as persuasive articles. Soon we will be studying folklore genres including fairytales, folktales, fables, legends, and myths. We will also be learning more about figurative language.

In Social Studies, we are studying the United States Constitution and the Louisiana Purchase.

We just wrapped up our Science unit on Earth's resources and human impacts on Earth's systems. Next we will be studying our solar system and patterns in space. Be on the lookout for some fun 3D projects!

A reminder that Lexia Reading and Math IXL are great online resources that can be utilized at school and at home. Your students should know their usernames and passwords to access these programs. We look forward to the learning that is in store for us this quarter!

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

The 6th grade represented themselves well on the Symphony field trip (once we got to go). Celebrate!

Conferences will be student-led again. Watch for sign up times and remember your student needs to attend.

Math class is finishing up ratios and will be heading into percent. We will also be starting some practice for state testing. If you can continue to work with your students on math facts that will help them with growing mathematically.

ELA's newest resource is newsela.com which provides access to curated, leveled text. The high interest content (from current events to primary source documents) is updated daily. Ask your student to show this to you and poke around with them! We are finishing the Accomplishments unit in Reading Wonders and will then move into the Challenges theme.

In the wonderful realm of Science, we have been working hard on learning about the Human Body Systems and how they interact with one another. Please be sure to ask your students about what they are experiencing in class so that they can work on the skill of "teaching" -- in a sense allowing for them to express what they know of the topics.



Corrective Reading

This semester Fort Calhoun Elementary School is excited to adopt Corrective Reading as our supplemental reading program for grades 4 and 5. Staff who would be involved with implementing the reading program attended an all-day training on January 6th and began implementing the program with students on January 21st.

Corrective Reading is a support curriculum designed to provide additional decoding and fluency instruction for learning readers that need direct instruction in addition to the grade-level reading curriculum. The program is differentiated so that instruction occurs at the correct level for each student to best learn. Students in grades 4 and 5 who are selected to participate in Corrective Reading are identified using district assessments. As students progress through the program, their progress will be monitored and each student will have the opportunity to track and monitor their reading growth. The end goal of this program is for students to be reading at grade level with appropriate fluency.

By adopting this program we are increasing our continuum of supports for reading instruction and extending the supplemental reading supports provided to students beyond third grade. Student who have received extra instruction through Early Interventions in Reading (EIR) in third grade will recognize the format of Corrective Reading. In the future this program may additionally be expanded to include 6th grade.

From the School Counselor:

We are currently starting to wrap up our friendship unit. We have been discussing many different aspects of friendship ranging from sharing and taking turns to healthy versus unhealthy relationships. We have had a blast defeating One Sided Sid (who only cares about himself) and DOF the Destroyer of Fun. The sixth graders are taking on a new project researching an activist of their choice. They are working diligently.

High Ability Learners (HAL)

Students are currently working on our **coding** unit. They are learning to write programs, solve problems while expanding their coding vocabulary. As the challenges become more difficult the students are remaining resilient while persevering with whatever comes their way. Some other students are learning about **scaling**. We will be enlarging and reducing chosen "gems" of the word while doing some research about those places. Lastly, we have our 6th-grade group developing their own **business**. They are defining their business while creating a name, logo, catchphrase, business cards, website, and marketing strategy.

Problem Solving Process:

Define
Prepare
Try
Reflect

21st Century Skills:

Collaboration
Communication
Creative Thinking
Critical Thinking

Mr. Mallette

Behavior Interventionist (BI)

My goal with this role is to continue collaborating with teachers to best assist and support students. Our focus is always 4 to 1 positive to negative interactions. Research shows that when you ignore negative behaviors and reinforce positive behaviors consistently then that is when you see behaviors change. Some methods we use to support students are behavior charts, check-ins, goal-setting, rewards, peer models, walk and talks, etc. I would also like to note that we consistently are building positive relationships with students because without that none of the above works effectively. If you have any questions and need to contact me please do not hesitate.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

This year our school undertook the addition of positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) to our building. As part of PBIS the school adopted four school-wide behavior expectations: safe, brave, respectful, and responsible. Signs can be seen throughout the building outlining what it means to be safe, brave, respectful and responsible in different areas of the elementary. Additionally, students have been given a common language of voice levels (0 through 4) so that they know what voice level is appropriate in all areas of areas of the building. In addition to learning and practicing what these expectations look like around the building at the beginning of the year, students also received a refresher after Christmas break.

Throughout the school day students can receive tickets for demonstrating behaviors that are safe, brave, respectful, or responsible. Every day eight students are drawn from the tickets turned in to be pioneers of the day and two students are drawn each monday to be pioneers of the week. Students have also taken on the challenge of filling a 5 gallon bucket with tickets. Once the tickets reach the top the entire school will earn a celebration. So far this year students have earned 14,028 tickets! The bucket is very close to being full and we will soon be planning a school-wide assembly to announce what the celebration will be.



PFE NEWS

PFE held the first meeting of 2020 on January 20th. Among the items discussed were PFE helping to fund a display case at the elementary, and the exit of three PFE Officers who have served their terms at the conclusion of the school year. 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.

The Original Works program will kick off in February. Original Works has been at Fort Calhoun for over 9 years. Students create a drawing or painting piece of art that parents can order onto magnets, pillowcases, mugs, and much more. Look for your child's masterpiece and an order form to be coming home at the end of March.

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, we hope to see you there!

One School One Book information will also be sent home in February. One School One Book is a school wide event where every classroom reads the same book together, along with participating in book related activities.

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.

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. Planning and running events for hundreds of students and their families requires a lot of work. 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 28th- Let's Glow Crazy-A night for the boys!

March 6th- Donuts with Dad

March 23rd- PFE Meeting at 6:30pm

March 27th- PFE Fish Fry night

PFE Officers:

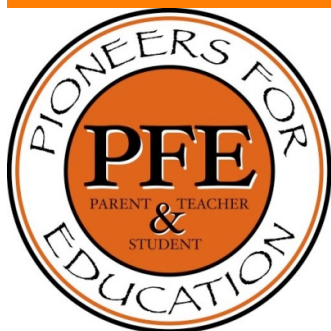
Denis Work, President

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.fortcalhounschools.org)**

REMINDER

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

Upcoming events:

February 21: No School
February 28: Let's Glow Dance hosted by PFE
March 2-6: Preschool Registration
March 2-6: Book Fair
March 6: Donuts with Dad
March 20: Malcolm Band Contest
March 26: Talent Show
April 16: Spring Music Concert @ High School
April 17: School Carnival
April 17 and 24: Kindergarten Round Up
May 1: Field Day
May 19: Last Day of School

****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!