



88 MUSTANG MINUTES WINTER 2013 ISSUE



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Superintendent's Corner
- Volleyball Schedule
- School Events
- Service Learning
- Lego League
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Thursday, December 19
— Christmas Program
— 6:30 pm
- Friday, December 20 —
2:00 pm Early Dismissal
- Friday, December 20—
Friday, January 3 —
Winter Break
- Monday, January 6 —
School Resumes
- Friday, January 10 —
2nd Quarter Awards
Assembly 8:30 am
- Monday, January 20 —
No School in
Observance of Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Already we are at the halfway point of the 2013-2014 school year! This school year has been flying by and filled with improvements that will benefit the entire NH-M learning community!

First of all, our new secure entrance is now fully functional and in effect. Our front doors lock at 8:20 am each day, securing our school entrance. Anyone else visiting the school after this time must press a button located between our 2 sets of doors in order to request entry. Additionally, this door is manned by a fully viewable camera.

Our school now has a functioning intercom system over which to read the daily announcements and other important announcements. In addition to being extremely convenient, I believe these features also make our school a safer place for our kids.

While these improvements were

made possible with a School Maintenance Grant last year, our District continues to explore additional grants available in order to provide the kids of NH-M with the very best education possible for your tax dollars. We just received a \$20,000 grant from Monsanto Seed in Mason City to enrich our Science and Math furnishings, and have recently submitted a \$250,000 Energy Efficiency Grant to hopefully fund a new heating and possible air conditioning system. As always, more good news will follow!

From all of us at NH-M ESD #88, thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year— enjoy the time with your families!

Respectfully yours,

Todd Dugan

Todd Dugan

MEET THE MUSTANGS

Each issue, we will spotlight a member of the NH-M faculty/staff in this column. This month, we will meet **Ms. Diane Bicknell**. Originally from Atlanta, Illinois, Ms. Bicknell began her career at NH-M in 1993 teaching Title I and Reading. Since that time, she has taught 1st grade, 2nd and 4th grade Reading, Junior High Literature, and now Title I, Literature and Primary PE. She is a huge supporter of Service Learning, and feels especially passionate about supporting the Humane Society of Logan County. Ms. Bicknell is also a licensed EMT as well as a pharmacy technician. She loves NH-M because of the kids and also the small-town atmosphere of our school district.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The NH-M Christmas Program will occur at **6:30 pm on Thursday, December 19** at the NH-M School. The traditional Grandparents' Lunch will unfortunately not be held this year due to Lincoln Community High School's discontinuation of their catering service. School will be dismissed at regular 3:10 dismissal time on this day. Students should report to the school **no later than 6:15 pm.**



SERVICE LEARNING

Service Learning has been and continues to be an integral part of the learning program at NH-M. Past projects have included supporting the Ronald McDonald House, the American Cancer Society and local charities including the Logan County Food Pantry. Beginning in January and throughout the month of February, NH-M will again be collecting pet food, supplies and loose change to help the Humane Society of Logan County. This year, NH-M will be giving a percentage of all items/cash collected to a Pet Rescue Group that is searching for people's lost pets after the devastating tornado in Washington last month.



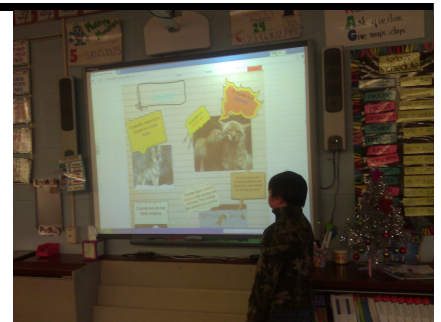
BETA CLUB

The NH-M Beta Club continues to promote community involvement and service to others. Most recently, the Beta Club braved the elements to march in the New Holland Christmas Parade in downtown New Holland on Saturday, December 7th. With temperatures in the teens and wind chills making it feel in the single digits, our students participated in the parade, followed by a visit with Santa Claus at the New Holland Fire Department. Pictured to the right is the Beta Club and Sponsor Sallie Traeger on their Christmas float.



NEW TECHNOLOGY

New technology continues to be implemented at NH-M on a daily basis. As of the time of this newsletter, all students in grades 6th thru 8th have been issued Google Chromebooks. Shown left below, 8th graders in Creative Writing created research papers and saved them "on the cloud" under their school-provided Google docs account. 4th grader Lucas Hurt is shown to the right proudly displaying his *Glogster* created for Science class. To the right and below, 7th graders are shown reading "*Al Capone Does My Shirts*" on the new grant-funded Amazon Kindles. While not a substitute for good teaching, this exciting new technology greatly increases student engagement, thereby increasing their love of learning and achievement.



WEATHER CLOSING INFORMATION

In the event that a school day must be cancelled because of inclement weather conditions or other emergencies, the following stations will be notified by 6:30 am whenever possible:

WTAX (1240 AM) WDBR (103.7FM) WABZ (93.9 FM) WQQL (101.9 FM)
WYMG (100.5 FM) WJBC (1230 AM/93.7 FM) WBNQ (101.5 FM) B104 (104.1 FM)
WICS Channel 20 Springfield WCIA Channel 3 Champaign WHOI Channel 19 Peoria
NH-M will also be using its automated system *One Call Now* to notify parents of school closings.

NH-M/4-H LEGO LEAGUE

This year, NH-M in cooperation with the Logan County 4-H Chapter, sponsored a First Lego League for interested students. Students met weekly after school with Mr. Cole Withrow and Mrs. Kirsten Larson, as well as parent volunteers Rusty and Stacie Skelton and Rick Deters. Students created a lego robot that completed tasks, such as creating a tsunami, getting branches off power lines, etc. On Saturday, December 14th, the group competed at Hope Academy in Decatur, Illinois and received "Most Creative Pit Area" and are awaiting confirmation of 5th Place. Special thanks to John Deere from Champaign, Illinois for sponsoring this opportunity!



GYM FLOOR

As you may have heard, our school gym floor took some extensive water damage this fall. This was caused by unattached flashing from a summer roof replacement over the stage. While unattractive, the gym floor is now usable and the District will be replacing the floor with a new one to be completed before the end of Summer 2014 at no cost to the District. The old green and red lines will be replaced with black, white and gray school colors, coupled with the NH-M Mustang logo proudly displayed in the center of the court. We will be proudly displaying this to the community in an open house next fall. Stay tuned!



NH-M #88
Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

