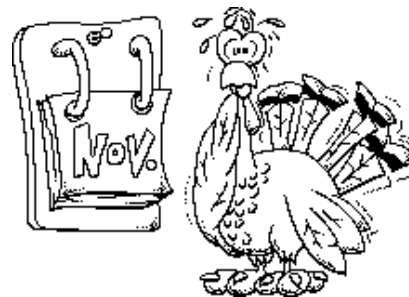


Howells-Dodge Consolidated Jaguar Bulletin November 2015



From the Principal's Office.....

It is hard to believe that we are already a couple weeks into the second quarter of the school year. Midterm grades were handout last week. If you have not viewed these yet please talk to your children about this. I want to stress to everyone that if you feel like your student is struggling in the classroom to have him or her go talk to the teacher to ask for extra help. Our teachers do a great job and are willing to help as needed, but it is the responsibility of the students to go seek that assistance. The midterm grade is just a snapshot of the semester and students have seven or eight weeks left. I believe that our students are working hard and doing great things. I urge them to keep giving effort in class and always strive to be better in the classroom.

On November 23rd, we will be having a 2-hour late start to provide some professional development for our teachers. The purpose of this is to work with teachers to look at MAP and NeSA data to see where we are at as a school district and areas in which we need to improve. This is an area that our AdvancED evaluation stated we needed improvement and this is a way for the administration and the ESU to work with the staff toward improvement in this area.

National Honor Society applications were handed out to eligible juniors and seniors in late October. The due date for applications is November 11th at 3:00 p.m. Any junior or senior who has a grade point average of 92% or higher is eligible. Once we have received all applications a teacher committee will evaluate the applications and make selection on NHS members. If you have any questions about this process please feel free to contact me.

A book fair will be hosted in the library from November 18th-23rd at the Howells site library. The book fair will be open after school on Wednesday (18th), Friday (20th), and Monday (23rd) from 3:30-5:30 P.M. It will be open Thursday night from 3:30-7:30 p.m. (during the Family Literacy Night), and Saturday during the Junior High Wrestling Meet from 8:00-4:00. There will be a family literacy night on Thursday, November 19th from 6:30-7:30.

Veterans day program will be held at the Howells site on Wednesday, November 11th at 10:00 a.m. We take this opportunity to honor the men and women who are serving and have served for our great nation.

I wanted to say congratulations to the softball team on a great season this year. We really accomplished a great deal including a few 1st places at tournaments and being ranked in the top ten in the state at one time. Great job ladies, we are all really proud of how you competed all year long. I also want to wish the football and volleyball teams the best of luck as they enter state playoffs and district competitions.

Dates of significance:

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|---------------------------|--|
| • November 2, 3, & 5: | Volleyball Sub-Districts & Districts |
| • November 4, 10, 16, 23: | State Football Playoffs |
| • November 9: | Conference Honor Choir |
| • November 11: | District Mock Trial |
| • November 11: | Veterans Day Program |
| • November 11 & 18: | Quiz Bowl |
| • November 12-14: | State Volleyball |
| • November 18: | County Government Day |
| • November 18-23: | Book Fair |
| • November 19: | Literacy Night |
| • November 23: | 2-Hour Late Start – Teacher In-service |
| • November 24: | Conference Play Production |
| • November 25: | 1:00 Dismissal |
| • November 26-27: | Thanksgiving Break |

Thank You

The Howells-Dodge FCCLA Chapter would like to thank everyone who purchased items from members for the FCCLA Food Sales. Your support is greatly appreciated!

BETWEEN THE LINES

By Superintendent Jeff Walburn

POLITICS, STATE and FEDERAL LEGISLATION does affect small local schools such as HDC. On the national government level; the gridlock between Democrats and Republicans, not only has debilitated every facet of our government including education. Educators and schools are entrenched in multiple unfunded mandates for the sake of "accountability" without quantitative measurements. The *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* referendum was a failure from its inception and it was up for reauthorization from Congress eight years ago. There has been recent movement to this end but politics has stagnated the legislation for nearly a decade.

I bring this topic up because in the very near future I will send out letters to our elementary parents and also place the letter on our school's website specific to Title I. We are deemed as "Needs Improvement" with regard to our reading NeSA scores. Ironically, our scores have improved from the 2013-14 test year to the 2014-15 testing year. I suggest "ironic" because I believe that improvement is success. For that reason I believe that our MAPS testing that we administer twice a year is a much more valid test that demonstrates individual student achievement and improvement. Student success is demonstrated in growth and improvement.

Presently, nearly 75% of Nebraska schools are deemed as "Needs Improvement" because as we entered 2014, the *NCLB* required that 100% of the students taking the NeSA test had to be "Proficient". One child in each of the testing grades that performs below proficient may qualify the school as "Needs Improvement". Impossible over multiple years. If *NCLB* remains as it is, within a couple of years virtually every school in the nation will be considered as "Needs Improvement". The fallacy of our legislators thinking many years ago! The real failure and "Needs Improvement" is in Washington D.C.

THANKSGIVING: With the advent of November upon us, I remind you as I remind myself to live with gratitude in your heart. Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. It is a time for reflection and a time to prioritize what is truly important to us. It is a time to set aside our complaints and negative thoughts regarding what we do not have; but to be grateful for the many blessings that we possess. Thanksgiving is a time for family, friends and faith. I personally have many things to be thankful for, one of which is the pleasure of serving the Howells-Dodge communities, patrons, parents, staff and especially our great students May each and all have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday!

It Is A Great Day To Be A JAGUAR!!

"Get the Inside Scoop on Scholarship Applications"

On Wednesday Nov. 18 at 7:00p.m. at the Nielsen Community Center in West Point, there will be a program presented to help assist families as they complete scholarship applications for students that are entering and continuing their college educations. Topics to be covered include how to find scholarships, put together quality applications, answer questions wisely, tips on completing application, and following through with applications and setting up files for scholarship organization. The team will present a thorough step-by-step coverage of the scholarship application process. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend with their parents to receive this valuable information. If interested sign up in Mrs. Bazata's office.

Also, if you are interested in receiving emails about scholarships and college information that is sent to the students, please email Mrs. Bazata at pbazata@hdcjags.org and give her your email address so you can be put in the email group.



Book Fair!

Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools will host a Scholastic Book Fair from November 18-23 at the Howells site library. There will be a great selection of books for sale for students or you may purchase books to be used in the classroom. The book fair will be open after school on Wednesday(18), Friday(20), and Monday (23) from 3:30-5:30 P.M.. It will be open Thursday night from 3:30-7:30 p.m. (during the Family Literacy Night), and Saturday during the Junior High Wrestling Meet from 8:00-4:00.

Students in grades 2-6 at the Dodge site will be visiting the book fair Thursday afternoon. If you have any questions, contact Mary Lou Benesch at the school or email (mbenesch@hdcjags.org).

Family Literacy Night

Elementary teachers, PreK-6, will be hosting a Family Literacy Night on Thursday, November 19, at the Howells site. Family Literacy Night begins at 6:30 and will conclude at 7:30. This is a family event. Come join the fun. There will be four different activities celebrating reading. The teachers are excited to have this opportunity to encourage students to read. You will also be able to visit the Book Fair in the library. .