NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Niobrara is committed to Every Student, Every Day, SUCCESS!

When states and districts agree to accept federal funds, there are strings attached. Attached to the Title I Funds under NCLB is the stipulation to have statewide assessments and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) decisions for every public school in the state. The proficiency goal for the 2014-2015 school year for reading and mathematics was set at 100%. Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act every student regardless of disability, English language proficiency, or other life-impacting circumstance—must be proficient in reading and math. Because of this unrealistic goal, a number of schools will be labeled as *In Need of Improvement*.

With the newly authorized Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is preparing for the state and local control to become more active in the achievement goals for students. The passage of ESSA has relieved states of the unrealistic and harsh consequences of the old NCLB law. The goal for Nebraska is to build a quality accountability system that is meaningful to Nebraska and Nebraska schools. The AQuESTT system focuses on six tenets which are part of two broader principles. Those principles are *Student Success and Access* and *Teaching and Learning*.

Recently, the Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) results have been released for the 2014-2015 school year. Niobrara Public Schools as a district was ranked into the *In Need of Improvement*. Niobrara Elementary School was also ranked as *In Need of Improvement* and Niobrara High School was ranked as *Great*. This was based solely on the test scores of the NeSA assessment taken during the spring. With the new AQuESTT system there is an opportunity for schools to have their ranking system increased or decreased according to their self-assessment results. Niobrara Public School results have been based primarily on the one time test given in the spring.

Parents, patrons and caregivers, you are encouraged to look at your own child's individual growth and learning along with the evidence provided by Niobrara Public Schools. Use this information and compare it to your child's progress. Niobrara Public Schools also asks that you work with the teachers to ensure that your child is challenged, supported, learning and thriving in school. At Niobrara Public Schools we are committed to continuous improvement. We also realize that tests are an important part of teaching and learning, but we also understand that basing student's achievement on a single assessment test does not reflect everything that is important for our children's learning journey.

Congratulations 2015 Fall NSAA Winners!

^^^^^^

Football - Nate Sandoz

Volleyball - Ashley Guenther

One Act - Brittany Eisenhauer and Larissa McCardle

January Birthdays

\$\delta\$ \$\d

Payten Nielsen - 4

John Moniz-Thomas - 9

Courtney Thomas - 12

Alan Henry - 13

Johnathan Freiburghouse - 14

Cooper Holz - 18

Masi LaPointe - 19

Rhianna Bickerstaff - 21

Addison Peed - 23

Joseph Moose, Tianna White - 25

Robert Reyes, Emil Brandt -26

Gwen Bonham - 27

Dillan Hrbek - 28

Landon Rouse - 29

Gabriela Swalley, Brady Pike - 30

William Ferris - 31

A Monster Success

The Scholastic Book Fair started off slowly with two snow days. But as soon as everyone was back in school, students, staff and community members began dropping by to check out the books and make their purchases. We needed to sell \$2,200 to meet our goal. With the extra sales after the Music Concert, we made it. When everything was finalized, we took in \$2,792.56. With our extra bonus, we will be able to purchase \$1,536.77 from Scholastic for the library collection. Students also raised money for All for Books. Kindergarten, second and third grade were able to get some books from their class wish lists with the money they contributed. Second grade was the overall winner. Plus, Scholastic will match that amount for needy children. A special thank you to the ladies who helped run the fair and who helped box the books on Tuesday night, so they could be returned the next day. It was greatly appreciated. It truly was a Monster Success!

******** 2015-16 Speech Team

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\swarrow}$

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$

This up and coming Speech season will be one heck of a dozy? We are so excited and looking forward to see what the future holds for our team. This year, we have nine students out for Speech, and I couldn't be happier. We have students entered into ★ almost every available category. There are roughly seven meets we are trying to attend this year. (Hopefully, we can get first ★ at each one.) We aim to attend our first meet January 16th at Pierce. Participants are, Tommy Stark, Karla Gonzalez, Shaylee ★ Campbell, Abby Swanson, Bryce Stark, Isaac Justo, Isabel Rife, JJ Moose, and Ember Key. If you have a free Saturday between January and March, come out and support the team!

Dates to Note in January

4th - Teacher Workday

☆

- 5th School Resumes Students
- 5th JV/Varsity G BB @ Verdigre
- 7-9th Wausa BB Tournament
- 9th Wrestling @ Winside
- 11th JH BB @ Orchard
- 12th JV/Varsity G/B BB @ Wynot
- 15th JV/Varsity G/B BB vs. Elkhorn Valley @ Niobrara
- 16th Wrestling @ Battle Creek
- 18th JH BB @ Wausa
- 19th JV/Varsity G/B BB vs. North Central @ Springview
- 22nd- JH Boys vs. Bon Homme @ Niobrara
- 23th JV/Varsity G/B BB vs. Creighton @ Niobrara; Wrestling @ Nel-Oakdale
- 25th JH G/B BB @ Bloomfield
- 26th JV/Varsity G/B BB vs. CWC (Chambers) @ Verdigre
- 28th JH G/B BB vs. Santee @ Verdigre; Varsity G/B BB vs. Santee @ Verdigre
- 29th JH Boys BB @ Bon Homme (Tyndall)
- 30th Wrestling @ Plainview; NVC BB Tournament

Page 2 Niobrara Public School