

NEWS FROM MRS. SANDOZ: Many places seem to have the phrase this time of the year... Out with the old and in with the new. That is quite different at Niobrara Public School. During the New Year, as I reflect it is easy to see that this is a time to be thankful for what we have, as well as what we will become.

At Niobrara, the teachers defy the stereotype of an educator that swoops into a district, spends three or four years there, and moves on to a new job in another district. Many of the Niobrara Public School current and past teachers were at one time students in the same district in which they now teach. Many of our current staff members were born, raised, and have graduated from Niobrara High School; Margaret Sandoz, Janell Ruda, Stephanie Moody, Penny Reynolds, Amanda Koehn, Samantha Beaudette, and Dave Stout. Some of them, including Niobrara Elementary teachers Jaime Guenther and Jenny Bauer, have spent their entire professional careers here. Guenther currently active 15 years and Bauer, 5 years. Chelsey Chohon serves the district as the School Nurse has shared 9 years as an RN at Niobrara Public Schools. These types of educators bring a deep understanding to our school that comes from growing up and experiencing the school from the inside.

Longevity does not come lightly with the staff at NPS. Teacher Mona Weatherwax is in her 36 year of teaching at Niobrara Public School. While Kandi Eisenhauer having 23 years of experience and her husband Rick Eisenhauer currently is in his 22 year of teaching. Sharla Hanzlik started in the school as the high school secretary, went back to school and remained working full time and is now in her 19th year with the district. Janell Ruda and James Parks share 18 years in the district and Jill Stark has contributed 16 years. The remainder of the teachers and years of experience are as follows: Nephys Justo, 10 years; Jennifer Pritchett, 7 years; Dianne Kalkowski, 6 years; Todd Runnels, 6 years; Emily Janak, 5 years; Tami Heiser, 4 years; Chelsea Wagner, 4 years; Valerie Mullanix, 3 years; Wanda Dekay, 3 years; Teri Schacht, 3 years; Alison Pavelka, 2 years; Raeanna Carbaugh, 2 years; Jon Bos, 1 year; Hilary May, 1 year and Lauri Spencer, 1 year. Educational Service Unit #1 also has been dedicated to keeping our staff stable by allowing our school psychologist Heather Barron-Galvan to serve the past 9 years and Haley Schmidt, Speech Therapy serving 11 years.

Instructional Support Staff members range from 19 years to only serving their first year. The following is the period that our support staff have been employed at NPS: Isabelle Knori – 17 years; Robyn Rettig—13 years; Ranessa Kracht—10 years; Stephanie Moody—6 years; Penny Reynolds—6 years; Terry Zach—6 years; Amanda Koehn—5 years; Angie Barta—4 years; Samantha Beaudette—4 years; Jenny Motacek—4 years; Sharon Wilson—4 years; Jeff Bauer—3 years; Katie Ryan—3 years; Dave Stout—3 years; Laurie Stout—3 years; Beth Rioli—1 year; Loretta Zelasney—1 year. In addition to the staff members Carrie Hanzlik is in her third year of working with the pre-school.

Stability and dedication of the administrative team holds the foundation and expectations for the district in check. Angie Guenther, 6-12 Principal is currently in her 13th year as a Niobrara educator, while Margaret Sandoz, Superintendent and PK-5 Principal is in her 15th year of serving the district in leadership roles. Dee Kemp, Secretary has served 12 years and Susan Hillman, Business Manager is currently in her 9th year of working with the school.

Teacher longevity along with a love of learning have a greater chance of effecting change and maintaining district stability. Constancy and ownership create a culture of expectations where everyone is actively engaged.

Grade School, Middle School and High School are not perfect for everyone; however, most students will tell you that there were some rough patches, but that everyone is treated like a family and everyone is welcomed with open arms. We are a **FAMILY!**

No matter how you look at the New Year 2017, there are so many blessings that the Niobrara School should share with our community. We hope to see you at our school supporting our activities, engaging in our educational process, and striving to support our goal.... *The students at Niobrara Public Schools will continuously show growth in academics and character throughout their educational journey.*

FBLA Holds Food Drive

The Niobrara Future Leaders of America (FBLA) held a food drive in December. Boxes were placed in the school office, Trading Post, and Farnik's Market. Over 60 items of food were donated. The food will be taken to a food pantry in Bloomfield where it will be distributed to Knox County citizens. The FBLA would like to thank everyone that donated



Scholastic Book Fair is Finalized

We hosted the Scholastic Book Fair from November 28-December 3, 2016 with our Family Night on December 1st before the varsity basketball games and our Grand Event on Santa Claus Day, December 3rd. This year's event was a huge success. When the book fair was finalized and everything was tallied, we took in \$4382.13, well above our goal of \$3000. This allowed us to receive 55% of the total or \$2410.18 in Scholastic Dollars to purchase books for the school library. This is almost \$900 over last year. Plus, students, staff and community members raised over \$80 for All for Books to help needy children. The second grade was our overall winner for this charity effort. A special thank you to everyone who helped to work the fair and to Alan and Connie Kemp for sharing their pirate ship to add to the theme. It was greatly appreciated!

Congratulations 2016 Fall NSAA Winners!

Football - Nate Sandoz & Jace Fritz

Volleyball - Ashley Guenther

Cross Country - Genesis Saul

One Act - Nate Sandoz & Ashley Guenther

January Birthdays

Payten Nielsen - 4

Skye Denney - 7

Dakota Denny, Alan Henry - 13

Johnathan Freiburghouse, Andrew Atkins - 14

Ella Crosley, Cooper Holz - 18

Billie Pritchett, Masi LaPointe - 19

Rhianna Bickerstaff - 21

Addison Peed - 23

Joseph Moose - 25

Robert Reyes, Emil Brandt - 26

Gwen Bonham - 27

Dillan Hrbek - 28

Gabriela Swalley, Brady Pike - 30

William Ferris - 31

CONGRATULATIONS

Nate Sandoz & Ashley Guenther!



2016 One Act Season

The 2016 One Act season was one for the record books. This season, the kids did very well. At the NVC East competition, the cast received Runner-Up. At the D2-3 districts, Niobrara received 1st place and found themselves on the road to State One Acts! All of those long hours of rehearsal, all of those Sundays and late nights, finally paid off. But, the cast's work was not complete. They had one week to complete some fine tuning and prepare for a larger stage, a larger crowd, and a larger title, State Champion.

At State, the cast took 3rd place. Nate Sandoz was recognized as the D2 Outstanding Male Performer, and the technical crew, Shania RedOwl, Isabel Rife, Brooklyn and Eva Denny, and Abbi Holz received D2 Outstanding Technical Crew. Nate Sandoz and Ashley Guenther were both recognized as Outstanding Actors within the cast.

2016 was the first time since 1999 that Niobrara has made the trip to State One Acts. In 1999, Niobrara placed 5th, and the male lead, Craig McGuire, received Outstanding Male Performer. Next year, the One Act team plans to bring home some hardware!

CONGRATULATIONS Brooklyn Denny, Shania RedOwl, Isabel Rife, Evalyn Denny, and Abigail Holz!



Cultural Heritage On Display in the Library

Niobrara Public School students had a unique opportunity this past week. The Santee Tribal Museum is hosting items from the B.Y. High Collection of the Nebraska State Historical Society and they shared these items with us. They were displayed in the library for a day. All of these items of the Dakota people are at least 100 years old with some items more than 150 years old as they came from Minnesota. Students of all ages had many questions. It was amazing how brilliant the colors of the quilling were after all the time that has passed. The craftsmanship of all the items could truly be appreciated in this up-close view. It was also an opportunity for many students to share stories of their heritage with their classmates and friends.

