

Niobrara Public School

September 2016

Parents Please Talk to Your Children About School Bus Safety at the Start of the School Year

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, from 2001 through 2010, 1,368 people died in school transportation-related crashes—an average of 137 fatalities per year.

"As families begin to prepare for children returning to school, it's important for parents and children to go over school bus safety tips together," says Dawne Gardner, injury prevention coordinator, [Comprehensive Children's Injury Center](#), Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. "This will help ensure a safe, enjoyable start to the school year for everyone."

According to Gardner, many injuries happen when children are boarding or exiting the bus. "A blind spot extends about ten feet in front of the bus, obstructing the driver's view," she says. "Often times, children are not aware of this blind spot and might mistakenly believe that if they can see the bus, the bus driver can see them," she explains.

Gardner offers the following suggestions to parents on how they can ensure their child is safe before, during and after their school bus ride.

While Waiting for the Bus

- Children should arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is expected to arrive. Early arrival helps children avoid running across the street to catch the bus or running after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Parents should encourage their child to avoid horseplay while waiting for the bus to keep children and/or their belongings out of the road and away from traffic.
- Teach kids to stand at least three giant steps back from the curb as the bus approaches and to never move towards the bus until it has stopped and the driver opens the door.
- Children should avoid the school bus "danger zone" by staying 10 feet away from the front or back end of the bus so that the driver can see them.

During the Bus Ride

- If a child drops something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.
- Children should always use the hand rail when entering the bus.
- Check that drawstrings, backpack straps, scarves and loose clothing cannot get caught on the bus handrail, door or the seats.
- Parents should teach children to never push or shove other students.
- All children can help prevent falls on the bus by keeping the aisles clear of backpacks or books that can trip someone or block the way to the emergency exit.
- Children should remain seated, facing forward at all times during the bus ride.
- Shouting should be avoided to avoid unnecessarily distracting the bus driver.
- Parents should discuss the importance of never throwing any objects into, out of, or inside the bus.

After the Bus Ride

- Children should never leave their seat until the bus makes a complete stop.
- Remind kids to use handrails when exiting the bus.
- If your child needs to cross the street after exiting the bus, he or she should take five giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the bus driver and cross when the driver indicates it's safe.
- The child should not talk to strangers when walking to and from bus stop.
- Teach kids to look left, right and left again before crossing the street.

Reminder to Drivers: It is unlawful to pass a bus when red lights are flashing and the **STOP** sign arm is extended.

September Birthdays

Jacob Tuttle - 9/03

Rolando Jaimes, Delani Runnels- 9/04

Jayna LaPlante - 9/5

Angel Grant - 9/11

Raquella LaPointe - 9/12

Pearl Klug- 9/15

Cole Swanson - 9/17

Brooklyn Denny - 9/20

Kalyn Nielsen - 9/21

Kennedi Reynolds, Austin Avery - 9/22

Ozlitia Hernandez - 9/23

Courtney Hrbek - 9/28

JoWen Chiang - 9/29

Attention Parents/ Guardians Lifetouch Picture Day

Tuesday, September 27th at 8:15 a.m.

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Class Representatives

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- ☆ Student Council ☆
- ☆ **President** - Ashley Guenther ☆
- ☆ **Vice President** - Bryce Stark ☆
- ☆ Members ☆
- ☆ Shania Redowl, Nate Sandoz, Ember Key, ☆
- ☆ JJ Moose, Abby Swanson, Karla Gonzalez, ☆
- ☆ Camden Eisenhauer, Stran Fritz, Emily ☆
- ☆ Parks, Daniel Redowl ☆
- ☆ Senior Class Officers ☆
- ☆ President - Ashley Guenther ☆
- ☆ V. President - Masi LaPointe ☆
- ☆ Secretary/Treasurer - Shania Redowl ☆
- ☆ Junior Class Officers ☆
- ☆ President - Isabel Rife ☆
- ☆ V. President - Christian Swalley ☆
- ☆ Secretary /Treasurer - Brooklyn Denny ☆
- ☆ Sophomore Class Officers ☆
- ☆ President - Erika Kitto ☆
- ☆ V. President - Abigail Holz ☆
- ☆ Secretary - Jolee Crosley ☆
- ☆ Treasurer - Brooke Swanson ☆
- ☆ Freshman Class Officers ☆
- ☆ President - Ken Justo ☆
- ☆ V. President – Wambdi White ☆
- ☆ Secretary/Treasurer - Robert Reyes ☆
- ☆ 8th Grade ☆
- ☆ President - Makenna Guenther ☆
- ☆ Vice President - Chakira Ferris ☆
- ☆ Secretary/Treasurer - Kiera Moody ☆
- ☆ 7th Grade ☆
- ☆ President - Tierre Kitto ☆
- ☆ Vice President - Octavia Bluebird ☆
- ☆ Secretary/Treasurer - Gabby Swalley ☆
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The **seventh grade language arts** students started the school year by going on a Blind Date with a Book. Books were wrapped so students could not see the cover or the title of the books. They were given clues about what each book would be about and then chose a book. The students were then required to “date” their book for at least 30 pages. After the 30 pages they decided whether or not they wanted to continue to date their book until the end. If they decided to end their relationship, they wrote their book a break-up letter to tell the book why it wasn’t for them.

This activity helped students to see why it’s important to not judge a book by its cover. It also taught them that some books take longer than the first couple pages to get interesting so they shouldn’t give up on a book so quickly.

Mrs. Janak

PRESCHOOL 2016-17



Back Row: JoWen Chiang, Jaxon Smith, Kendrick Denney, Isaiah Rodriguez, Unique DeCory, Douglas Widow, Jason Avery
Front Row: Morrison Klug, Ella Crosley, Jade Brandt, Gunnar Nielsen, Wesley Sahra, Wyatt Hernandez
Not pictures: Braxtyn Mitchum

SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE

Weekly school surveillance is conducted every Wednesday by North Central District Health Department, which is our local health department. Information is collected from the schools every Wednesday throughout the school year regarding the number of students absent for that day and the reasons for the absences. Additional information will be collected if there are clusters of illness.

School surveillance is a state-wide effort that is used for early recognition of disease outbreaks throughout Nebraska in order to treat the diseases, such as influenza, promptly and stop the spread of the disease as quickly as possible. It is important to remember, when you call the school to let them know your child is ill, please let them know what symptoms your child is experiencing. If your child has vomiting, diarrhea and fever, let the school know these specific symptoms. This information is very beneficial in tracking different types of illnesses.

Homecoming Week is October 3-7.

Many of the plans are already beginning to take shape for a great Cougar celebration. Student Council chose the theme "Toon into Homecoming" for the event. Theme Days will be: Monday – Game Day, Tuesday – Super Heroes Day, Wednesday – Flash from the Past, Thursday – Opposite Gender Day and Friday – Blue, Black and Silver Day. Monday, October 3 will be the coronation in Verdigre in conjunction with the JV football game. This will allow the royalty to reign all week again as was done in the past. October 4th the Student Council Jersey Auction will follow the volleyball games in Niobrara. Student Council decided to have a more traditional homecoming this year, going back to some activities that students enjoyed in the past. Classes will be making posters to build spirit. Friday's activities will begin with a tailgate party – grilling burgers and hot dogs. This will be followed by a pep rally with skits and competitions. The dance will be in Niobrara after the completion of the game in Verdigre with food and drink. Soundz Unlimited will provide the music. Watch for the October newsletter for updated times and more information. Go Cougars!

Miles of Smiles

North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) will offer the *Miles of Smiles* program at Niobrara Public School in October. *Miles of Smiles* is a school-based fluoride dental program, available to preschool, elementary and middle school students within the nine county health district.

Miles of Smiles utilizes Public Health Authorized Registered Dental Hygienists to conduct a dental screening, fluoride application, and give a toothbrush and toothpaste to students. Fluoride can be applied 4-6 times per year and can decrease cavity development by approximately 38%.

North Central District Health Department is an approved Medicaid Provider. A \$15.00 donation is requested for children **not** covered by Medicaid/Kids Connection, but there is no fee to participate in the program and **children will not be denied services due to inability to provide a donation.**

NCDHD offers clinics in all schools that are interested across the 9-county health district. For more information about the *Miles of Smiles* program, contact Sara Twibell, Outreach Coordinator for NCDHD at (402) 336-2406.

Upcoming Events:

Activities get rolling in September. Be sure to check the calendar in this newsletter. There's football, volleyball, and cross country scheduled for students in grades 7-12. Come to the games and cheer on the cougars!



Middle School Math and 8th Grade English

This year, the middle school has grown a lot due to the incoming 6th grade class. The 6th grade class has 22 students and I look forward to getting to know them all. The classroom is quite full but a welcoming sight to see that many students. Each class has gone over their classroom expectations and has indulged into their subjects! One way to get to know what your child is doing in their classes is to ask them how their day went and what they did in class. Another way to keep up on your child is to check in Powerschool to see how they are doing in their classes too. You are more than welcome to come visit the class or just have a conversation with me. Again I look forward to this year and the experiences they will get in middle school. *Mr. Eisenhauer*