



**Holdingsford Elementary School
Principal's Newsletter
February 2018**



Happy Valentine's Day!

I am thoroughly convinced that Holdingsford Elementary has the greatest students in the world! I love everything about our school. I love our work ethic. I love our kind Husker hearts. I love that I have an amazing teaching and support staff. I love that we have learned to say thank you, please, and I am sorry. I love that a Husker sorry means not only an apology, but a commitment not to make a poor choice again. How is that for Valentine love? Please keep supporting our staff and our school. Thank you for your kindness, smiles, and support with behaviors, homework, and modeling the importance of a solid education.



Huskers Unplugged in February!

Turn off the TV, put away your tablet, quiet your phone and social media and cuddle up with a good book to help celebrate I Love to Read Month. Once again, Husker Unplugged has fostered a renewed love of reading and good will to all of mankind! Okay! Okay! "Mankind" might have been a little heavy! But hey...never underestimate the power of a good book! A huge thank you to our families, staff, and PTA for planning and promoting this event. Kids, feed your brain by reading every night and maybe, just maybe, your grade level will win a fun-filled Husker surprise!



Welcome New Staff Members:

I am super excited to introduce our newest members of our Husker Teaching Team. Monica Pick has taken the place of Doris Campbell in our Title 1 Reading program. Theresa Purkat is our new 5th grade teacher that will be helping shape and grow our 5th grade students' writing and social studies skills. A sincere thank you to the fifth grade team, children, and our fifth grade families for helping out and pitching in. I am proud of you! Last, but not least, I would like to introduce Ms. Samantha Lake. Ms. Lake will be taking Mrs. Johnson-Kolbs place while out on her maternity leave. During spring conferences, please stop on by and welcome Ms. Pick, Ms. Purkat, and Ms. Lake to our learning community.

Parent
Teacher
Conferences
Homework

Behavior
Teamwork
Grades

Progress
Goals
Achieve

Communication

Parent Teacher Conferences:

January's rain and clouds seem to have made the school year go by quickly. You just can't beat 70 degrees and always sunny inside Holdingford Elementary School! I can't believe it is February already and spring conferences are right around the corner. I thank you for taking seriously the responsibility of wellness vs. importance of your child's education. Our teachers, support staff, and children work extremely hard to maximize learning experiences in hopes to set the tone for positive, productive spring conferences. Thank you very much for your continued support and helping maintain a high standard of care for our children. At every turn in the road, I notice the many wonderful attributes that make us a strong learning community. Together children, families, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, teachers, and support staff work to bring out the very best in our children and each other. I am blessed to be your principal and grateful for your support. Holdingford Public Schools has moved progressively to meet the needs of our children and families and is 100% committed to helping students grow socially and academically. Way to go, families and staff! Together we make a difference and grow a stronger community!

Conference Dates:

February 26th 1:00-8:00 pm

March 1nd 1:00-8:00 pm

No School March 2nd



I LOVE TO READ

February is I LOVE TO READ MONTH at Holdingford Elementary. Students and staff will be celebrating the joy of reading and the gift of literacy throughout the school. On Tuesday, March 7th from 6-7:30 PM, the Husker PTA will be hosting a fun-filled Library Night. Activities are planned for children of all ages and we hope your family is able to attend. Please check out the cool list of things to do!

- Guest Readers!
- Popcorn and Lemonade!
- Free Books and Book Exchange!
- iPads will be available so kids can play word games!
- E-Books will be available in the computer lab for children and families to enjoy!
- A craft table with the supplies needed for creating a book mark!
- Please stop on by the continuous story board. Share your imagination!
- Great River Regional Library will be on hand to help families sign up for library cards!

We hope to see you there! Thank you to Ms. Anna and our PTA members for all you do to support our teachers and children.



I LOVE TO READ MONTH? I LOVE TO READ EVERY DAY!

I have always found it strange that only one month of the year is designated as I Love To Read Month. We should teach our children that every day is an I Love To Read celebration! As a father of three, I know this is a lot harder than it sounds. Maybe this I Love to Read Month can be the beginning of something wonderful. I Love To Read, Every Day! Research tells us that children who read often for enjoyment perform better on standardized tests and report cards. From my family to yours...let's try to put down the cell phones, DS games, and the Wii and enjoy a good book from the elementary library! It's free! It's quality family time, and given the option of reading books or doing dishes, cleaning out the cat litter, vacuuming, folding laundry, or dusting, I know my kids are grabbing a book and camping out in their rooms!

Tips to change habits and perceptions:

1. Let your child see how important reading is by doing it yourself.
2. Read to your child every day.
3. Make reading a family pleasure.
4. Give books as gifts.
5. Arrange your home and children's bedrooms to encourage reading.
6. Help your child become an author.
7. Select media games that promote reading and academics.
8. Make library visits a regular routine.
9. Books on tape can help pass time on long road trips.
10. As children get older, read longer chapter books and poetry to your children.

Reading is essential to learning and a source of lifetime enjoyment as well. Although there is a great deal of emphasis on teaching reading in school, the basic building blocks are put in place long before our children ever enter the classroom. Do your child a favor: use some of these tips to prepare them for a lifetime of learning and adventures through reading.



Kindergarten Information Meeting

This is one of my favorite nights of the school year! Our annual information meetings will take place in the Elementary Media Center on March 5th at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. These meetings are for parents of children who will be enrolling in kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have friends, neighbors, or relatives with eligible kindergarten students, please share with them that Holdingford Elementary School would be honored to be their school of choice. The meeting will provide you with valuable information and help prepare for a smooth transition into kindergarten. You can make your child's move to kindergarten a success by visiting the school. Check out the beautiful student art work adorning the halls, visit the media center and computer labs, walk down our sparkly clean hallways, and poke your head inside the doors of a classroom to see the neat learning environment unique to each grade level and teacher. Please remember to be a positive role model about the upcoming changes and challenges of kindergarten.



Developmental Screening

Early childhood screening is mandatory before entering kindergarten. The purpose is to identify children that have health or developmental concerns in the areas of vision, hearing, speech, or socialization. The state recommends that children

receive screening by their 4th birthday. Our final screening date this **school year is set for March 26th**. Please call elementary secretary, Ms. Christy, at 746-4462 to schedule an appointment.



Parental Requests

It is hard to believe our staff and school board are already starting conversations about next year's budget, staffing needs, and student placements. Our elementary staff uses a variety of measures, standardized assessments, and academic, social, and behavioral indicators to generate the most productive and educationally sound classroom environments. Please know we will take parent requests into consideration when placing students, but will never jeopardize effective class make-up to do so.

Parents/guardians who feel the need to request their child's teacher for the upcoming school year must make an appointment with the building administrator, Jim Stang (ext. 4461), during the month of March. In submitting the request, it will be necessary to give educational reasons and describe unique student needs pertaining to the specific request. After March, our staff, school social worker, Sheila Johnson, and I will begin generating class lists for the 2018-2019 school year.



Spelling Bee

A huge Husker Thank You goes to Cindy Lonneman and the Language Arts committee, and those assisting with the coordination and performance of the annual Spelling Bee. I would also like to thank and congratulate those that stepped out of their comfort level and competed with their peers. Your confidence and excellence are admired and appreciated. Way to go! Congratulations to our winner, Maddie Mitchell, and our runner up, Aiden Pellett. We wish you the best of luck at the Regional Bee.



Summer School Dates

Yep, the year is flying by and folks here at the elementary are starting to plan and organize Targeted Services Summer School programs. During conferences, our teachers will speak with many about the academic, social, and behavioral benefits provided by the summer school program. The office will send out the initial confirmation letter of attendance in March. Summer School is scheduled for July 9th - 27th every Monday – Friday, from 8:30-11:30 am. Holdingford Elementary staff is 100% committed to helping students that need the extra boost to maintain academic skills and will be providing transportation and snacks to all participants.



A Note From Your Husker High Five Team

One of the places we find warmth and comfort is in our very own school cafeteria! As the winter season keeps snowing on, please have a warm and friendly chat with your children about what the Husker High Five means in the cafeteria. Teaching our children the expectations in the cafeteria can increase positivity, friendship, and

will reinforce our children's feelings of community. The cafeteria is a place where all students can go to feel the security in their daily routine!

I show my Husker integrity by:

- Being Ready
- Being Respectful
- Being Responsible

Every Day and Everywhere!

Being Ready: Ask your children how they get ready to have lunch at their school. Stress the importance of washing their hands and waiting patiently in line for their meal. Encourage your child to try new fruits and vegetables each day. By encouraging your child to wash their hands and select healthy choices you could prevent the flu bug from hitting your household!

Being Respectful: Kind and helpful words go a lot farther in the lunchroom than loud and hurtful words. Ask your children how they want to be treated in the lunch room and ask them to follow that example. Children show respect in the lunchroom by listening to adults and following directions. Children can respect the lunchroom by volunteering to wash tables. Being respectful means offering to let someone sit with you even if you don't really know them.

Being Responsible: Students who return their tray and silverware neatly show us that they are being responsible. Ask your child to be aware of his or her surroundings. If there is garbage around, pick it up. If a friend spills, offer them your napkins. Students who are responsible in the cafeteria make it a point to use their manners by saying "please" and "thank you" to show appreciation for everyday things we might take for granted. Being responsible in the cafeteria means that students can ask for help if someone is being unsafe or needs assistance.

Students who practice being ready, respectful and responsible in the cafeteria at school will likely come home and practice the same kind and helpful behavior at the dinner table. Families that practice the Husker High Five way can also set a positive example for younger siblings who are not yet little Holdingford Huskers!



From The Desk of Mrs. Johnson-Kolb:

Please Spare the Silver Spoon Parents can teach the value of hard work to today's kids.

By Dr. Charles Fay

Parents can raise responsible kids who grow up to be responsible and independent adults. That is, only if they don't give them everything they want!

Today, more parents than ever before are able to give their children more of what they ask for. What's the result? More and more ungrateful youngsters who never learn the value of hard work and the struggle to succeed - youngsters who remain financially and emotionally dependent upon their parents well into adulthood.

Nobody sits down and plans to spoil their kids. Nevertheless, it's darned easy to feel guilty and give in when they say things like, "I really need these sneakers. All the other kids at school have them." That's why Love and Logic® offers five easy-to-learn steps for parents who need off the "hot seat" when their kids ask - or beg - for things they really don't need:

Step 1: Show your child you understand his or her desires.

This understanding is essential for maintaining a loving parent-child relationship. The next time your child wants something, make sure you provide plenty of empathy. For example:

Child: "Dad, I need that new video game. All of my friends already have it."

Father: "That is such a cool game! I can understand a kid wanting that one."

Step 2: Instead of giving in or saying "No," gently ask how they plan to pay for the item.

Child: "It is cool. You need to get it for me today. I need time to practice."

Father: "How are you going to pay for it?"

Step 3: When your child reacts, ask, "Would you like some ideas?"

Child: "What? I don't have any money. Why won't you buy it for me?"

Father: "Would you like some ideas about how to pay for it?"

Step 4: Give your child two or three possible options.

Child: "I guess."

Father: "Some kids decide to do extra chores to earn the money. How would that work?"

Child: "Awww."

Father: "Other kids decide to sell some of their old things to earn the money. How would that work?"

Child: "Why won't you just buy it for me?"

Step 5: Wish your child luck and don't get sucked into an argument.

Father: "I really hope you can find a way to earn that game."

Child: "This is so stupid. Why won't you just buy it?"

Father: "I love you too much to argue. I'll be happy to listen when your voice sounds calm."

At The Love and Logic Institute, we've received letter after letter describing how these five steps have changed parents' lives with their children. A mother noted that her kids were raised with this approach and as adults, all three are very thrifty shoppers! Love and Logic is easy to learn and can change your life too. The sooner you start, the more time you'll have to enjoy your kids, and they'll have to learn the value of hard work.



EASY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES...

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to help earn cash for our school. Each one is worth 10¢ for our school! Just look for the pink Box Tops on hundreds of products. All you have to do is clip them and send them to either the elementary or high school media centers.

For more information on Box Tops, including a list of participating products, go to BTFE.com. Be sure to sign up as a member (it's free!) so you can check out our school's earnings details and get access to coupons and bonus offers.

Our school also accepts...



Please check out our Shutterfly page at <http://holdingford.shutterflystorefront.com> and "like" our elementary school Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/holdingfordelementary738/>

We can no longer accept used cell phones or expired ink cartridges.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Upcoming Events:

- February 16 Open School 10:00 - 11:00 am
- February 19 No School President's Day
- February 26 AM School is in Session 1-8:00 pm Elementary Conferences
- March 1 AM School is in Session 1-8:00 pm Elementary Conferences
- March 2 No School Teacher Compensation Day.
- March 5 2018-2019 Kindergarten Information Night
- March 6 PTA I Love To Read Library Night 6-7:30 pm

School Readiness Quote of the Month

What do you like to do in the snow? I like to make snow Angie's!

Thank you, Littlest Huskers! You make us smile and proud!