



All Husker Parent Hands On Deck! Help and Support Needed!

What apps does your child have downloaded on their phone or personal device? If you do not know...please read on. If you think you know...please read on! With Christmas right around the corner, I am asking all Husker parents and guardians to check on their children's internet usage. Please research and look at your children's personal devices and make sure that the sites they are visiting and **apps they are downloading** are school, age, and family values appropriate. If not, please remove them. By doing this, we keep our children safe and protect them from digital violence, inappropriate language and at risk behaviors, as well as help stop cyber bullying. Let's please stick together and protect our children. Take a moment to teach Husker character and remind your children that we have 4-year-old Husker School Readiness students riding the bus...Let's treat them well and expose them to top notch Husker friendship and family values!

Tech tip to help parents: Common Sense Media. Check it out at <https://www.commonsensemedia.org>. It is a great guide to age appropriate apps and other media including books and movies.

Together...we create better tomorrows! Thank you! .



Christmas Concert Updates and Changes, please Read:

All K-5 graders performing for the Christmas Concert will need to be dropped off in the HS Little Theater. Students will then be escorted to and from the theater and gym by classroom teachers in hopes of creating better seating arrangements. At the end of each concert, all students will be brought back into the gym to sing one last song for the audience. After the concert, parents will be able to pick their children up in front of the risers. Please stay for the entire program and thank you for supporting these changes. We hope these small changes will improve sound quality and seating.



Santa's Naughty List:

It is with heavy heart that I announce Ms. Christy and Ms. Johnson are both on Santa's Naughty List. Ms. Christy, being new, is kind of a surprise. Please share the office heavy lifting on Mondays and Fridays by helping out with announcements. Ms. Johnson, after 6 years, there is little to say. Keep on practicing the Husker High Five. Santa is watching and sees everything! Better luck next year! Way to go rest of the staff! I am so proud!



Holdingsford Elementary School Principal's Newsletter December 2017

Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings!

The Holdingsford Elementary staff would like to wish you the very best this Holiday Season! We are proud to report that 99% of our staff made Santa's "Nice List"! I heard that the Minnesota Department of Education just released that the state's "Nice List" average for schools was a measly 54%! Way to go, Holdingsford Elementary! Our hard working and caring staff and students continue to shine and make each day Husker bright. We hope your time with family and friends is joyous and you are able to count your blessings by the thousands.

Christmas Choir/Band Concerts: In advance...A huge thank you to all of our supportive families and community members. We appreciate your efforts to brave the cold. A huge Husker High Five "THANK YOU!" goes out to our talented and dedicated music teacher, Ms. Hamann, and our gifted children. Your beautiful voices and musical talents will be the highlight of the holiday season! We are proud of you and thankful for your commitment to the arts!

The Scholastic Elementary Book Fair: was a HUGE success once again this year, with a total in sales of \$10,800! Wow! Of that, over \$6,000 will go to purchasing books for our media center and classrooms. We truly appreciate your support and thank you for helping our PTA make this event a huge Husker success! I would also like to thank all the volunteers that put in countless hours during Parent/Teacher conference week. Your energy and generosity are greatly appreciated! You help make a great school an even better place for students and staff! Thank you!

Pennies For Preschool: During the book fair we raised over \$388.00 for our Littlest Huskers! A very sincere thank you goes out to all of our generous children, families, and community members. Fourth Graders raised the most money and earned a super duper yummy popcorn party! Way to go fourth graders. Your Husker Spirit is inspirational!

Parent Teacher Conferences: Amazing! Thank you! WOW! Fall Parent/Teacher conferences exemplified the strong educational partnership we share with our families and community. I am proud to say that 99% of our families conferred with their child's teacher! We have the best families, students, and staff in the State of

Minnesota! The extra efforts to attend/communicate are greatly appreciated and will help keep doors open to learning opportunities and growth!

Husker High Five: As we say goodbye to the year 2017 and welcome a new beginning in 2018, I ask all our families to review our Husker High Five. We believe our school motto is more than words, rather a code of conduct that challenges us to have integrity when we are being taught, supervised, or alone. It reminds us to be our “BEST” by being Ready, Respectful, and Responsible, Every Day and Everywhere! It is our hope and wish that together we raise our children to know right from wrong, learn self-control, self-discipline, and self-respect. We want to teach our children rigorous academics and achievement, and the ability to step up when their families or classmates need a leader. We want them to recognize when to and how to say they are sorry, how to humbly accept praise, and possess the integrity to accept consequence. We have an amazing school that is safe, fun, rigorous, and filled with top-notch teachers, staff, and children. We thank you for sharing your family with us. Your smiles brighten our days and make our community “Husker” strong and proud. Every Day...Everywhere!



Winter Weather and Hazard Awareness: With the arrival of snow, please make sure your children are dressing appropriately for the weather. Boots, gloves, snow pants, hats, and jackets are required in order to play in the snow. Thank you very much for your support and for keeping your children safe from the winter’s wrath. As we plan for another season of treacherous weather and road conditions, please read recommendations from Stearns County Emergency Management System:

1. Always have appropriate clothing, including mittens and hat.
2. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
3. Know the warning signs of hypothermia: uncontrolled shivering, memory loss, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.
4. Keep extra supplies and food at home in case a storm prevents traveling.
5. Have a battery operated radio to listen to updates during a storm.
6. Create a home and car survival kit for you and your family.
7. Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent the gas line from freezing.



School Closing Information:

TV:
WCCO
Kare 11
KSTP
Fox 9
Radio:
KASM
KCLD
WJON
WWJO
WYRO/KFML



December notes from your K – 12 Social Worker:

Thank you for another season of successful conferences! I enjoyed connecting with families to communicate all the positive things that continue to happen here in Holdingford! Everywhere I look, I see students learning and growing in so many ways! Not only are kids becoming more skilled academic learners, they are also building new friendships, learning to be respectful leaders and are standing up for each other! A super huge thank you goes out to all who are directly responsible for positive growth our students have made this year, and it's only December! Students both young and old are a product of their environment. Children can't make positive choices without an environment that makes those choices easy, natural and enjoyable. Thank you to all the parents, teachers, support staff and many others who help provide our students a healthy environment in which they grow!

The "I wants" are all around us this holiday season. With advertisements getting a boost during cartoon shows, and newest hip electronics splattered on the back of cereal boxes, it can be hard for both children and parents not to give in to the amped up marketing. It's important to remember what the holiday season is really about. The ads kids see around the holidays can help foster unrealistic expectations and lead to disappointment. After imagining their "wish list" items all around them, it's hard for reality to measure up when they actually open their gifts. Here are some tips to help:

- 1. Have a discussion on needs vs. wants.** When your kids ask for products they see advertised, teach them that commercials and other ads are designed to make people want things they don't necessarily need. Teach kids that not everything they want can always be theirs and that a little "want" here and there isn't all bad. The key is to want things in moderation and to fully appreciate what you're given.
- 2. Talk about which family traditions your family loves the most.** Then figure out how you can put more emphasis on them. If you love the tradition of lighting the menorah, get together as a group to make your own candles. If you enjoy the family trip to pick out a tree, make it an all-day event and head to a tree farm to choose your own.
- 3. Teach kids to give of themselves.** Volunteerism, especially around the holidays, offers an ideal opportunity for families to have fun and feel closer to each other at the same time. Community service helps to drive home the message that giving is much more than laying down cash for the hot gift of the season or scrambling around to buy mounds of presents.
- 4. Give gifts with meaning, make homemade gifts together.** Create photo albums, especially small "brag books" that family members can carry around with them. Not only does this capture precious memories and show just how much they mean, making photo album gifts also shows loved ones that a lot of thought and time was put into their presents.
- 5. Instead of giving gifts of things, teach kids to consider giving gifts of time.** For example, their grandmother may welcome their help in learning how to use a computer. Or their little sister may want to learn how to knit. Have family members create special gift certificates (e.g., "two free car washes," "five free specially prepared meals," "10 free loads of laundry," etc.). These days, when everyone's so stretched, a gift of time can be more meaningful than one that costs big bucks.



Upcoming Events:

December 7 Elementary Band Concert

December 14-15 PTA Penguin Patch

December 17 Elementary Christmas Concert K-2 performs at 1 pm and Grades 3-5 perform at 2:30 pm in the High School Gym.

December 18 Grades 6 and 7 Choir Concert in the Little Theater

December 20 School Board Meeting 6pm

December 22 All School Sing Along, 8:30 am Elementary Gym

January 3rd School Resumes! Happy New Year!

Christmas Vacation: Last day of school in 2017 is December 22nd. School resumes on Wednesday, January 3, 2018! All of us at Holdingford Elementary wish your family a blessed and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!