

**Holdingford Elementary School**

**Principal’s Newsletter July 2017**



**Many hands are needed to make light work building the playground August 14-19. Please jump in and help out. There are days we will need over 140 volunteers. Please visit the following website to sign up. Invite a family member and drag a friend or neighbor with you! Together we will make our community a stronger, safer, fun place to play, learn, laugh, and grow.**

Volunteers:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4daaa82ea5ff2-worker>

Tools:

<http://huskerdreamcatcher2.weebly.com/lend-a-tool-for-the-build.html>

 **Another Way to Help:**

Swing by the elementary office and pick up a donation slip to help feed our playground workers. Please fill out the top half and bring in items by August 4th. Many hands make light work! Together we will build a a stronger, safer school! Thank you very much for pitching in and helping out.

Our Summer School program is off to a GREAT start! A huge thank you is given to our teachers, support staff, and bus drivers for stepping up and helping out. It is wonderful to have staff and students back in the building. Smiles and laughter once again adorn our Husker hallways and classrooms. I would also like to thank our fantastic custodial staff for all their hard work in June cleaning the school and relocating the summer school program. Our hallways shine with Husker pride! Last but not least, I would like to thank Rodney Ebnet for calling every Summer School family conveying bus routes and times. Rodney, your level of customer service is exemplary. Thank you! Way to go team! Your efforts are greatly appreciated and you truly make a huge difference in the lives of our children!

 **Enrollment for 2017-2018 School Year:**

Grade # of Sections/Teachers Number of children Average Class Size

Kindergarten 4 68 17/18

1st Grade 4 86 21/22

2nd Grade 4 75 18/19

3rd Grade 3 73 24/25

4th Grade 4 99 24/25

5th Grade` 4 90 22/23

6th Grade 3 79 26/27

**Total: Students: 570**

**Get the word out…Send your little ones to School Readiness at Holdingford Elementary! It is a GREAT place for children and families!**

**New Staff at the Elementary:**

I would like to welcome our new 5th grade teacher Ms. Katherine Murnane. Welcome to Holdingford Elementary Ms. Murnane! Welcome Melissa Hartung! You will be an amazing addition to our early childhood program. As a classroom support staff member, you will love working with our littlest Huskers. Welcome aboard! Last but not least, we welcome Christy Gustafson. Mrs. Gustafson will be our new elementary school secretary. Mrs. Gustafson, your attention to detail, warm caring smile, and upbeat personality will help children, families, community members, and staff feel special, safe, and welcomed.

**July notes from your K – 12 Social Worker:**

PBIS and the Husker High Five way!

Holdingford Elementary School has created a set of expectations called the Husker High Five.  We have shared them with the students and modeled them in our classrooms and on our buses. These expectations remain the same for students on the playground, in the cafeteria, while using the bathroom and when walking in the hallway. The Husker High Five was created to keep our school safe, positive and productive to learn and make friends. But, what about at home?

How can using PBIS and the Husker High Five help your family at home?

**Expectations:**

In your home you can use the same expectations of our school, Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible Every Day Everywhere! When talking to your child about these expectations at home use this language to help define your rules and expectations. For example model for your child and expect them to use their Husker manners.  Offer specific praise such as “thank you for being RESPONSIBLE by cleaning up after dinner.” Or “thank you for being READY for your swimming lesson today.”

**Area specific visuals:**

You can create area specific expectation posters for all the rooms of your house that set out what the specific expectations are for that setting.  For each room you can create a poster that lays out what it means to be ready, respectful, and responsible. For example, in the kitchen a sign could inform your child that to be safe they should ask for help and use all materials properly. For being responsible they should wash hands and clean up after they eat. For being respectful they should say please and thank you and wait until everyone is served before eating.

**Teaching behavioral lessons:**

One cannot assume individuals (adults or youth) will be able to automatically reach our behavior expectations of them. We must take time to teach these behavior expectations and how one can reach them. At home you should take time on a weekly basis (or more often if needed) and work with your children on how to meet your behavior expectations. Practicing these skills and behaviors in the setting is effective; for example practice how one should do homework without distractions.  You can also use role playing and talk through “what if” scenarios with your child.

**Acknowledgements:**

A crucial element of PBIS and the Husker High Five is acknowledging students who reach our behavioral expectations. Positive behaviors should be acknowledged verbally to encourage your child to continue to show those behaviors. One can also introduce tangible acknowledgements to help encourage your child to reach specific behavioral goals they are struggling with.  One can set a certain behavioral expectation goal (cleaning up after dinner every day or remember to brush your teeth daily) and provide a tangible acknowledgement when this behavioral goal is reached. Some examples of tangible acknowledgements could include:

§  Read a story to your child or have your child read to you.

§  Stay up 10 minutes past bedtime.

§  Cook his or her favorite dinner.

§  Provide computer time at home or at the public library.

§  Play a board game or complete a puzzle together.

§  Color or draw with your child.

§  Get out of having to do chores for a day.

§  Watch his or her favorite movie.

§  Help cook dinner.

§  Go for a walk outside together.

§  Send a positive note to your child’s teacher about the good job your child is doing at home.

§  Or Mr. Stang’s favorite, ice cream cone from the Dairy Queen.

§  Or Mrs. Johnson’s favorite, a card game of the child’s choice.

**Go**



**Husker High Five! Leading the way to a healthier, happier Holdingford Elementary!**

 **Ready, Respectful, and Responsible Every Day Everywhere!**

**Important Dates to Remember:**

August 14-19 Dreamcatcher II Playground Build

August 30 Elementary Open House 5-7 pm

September 5 First Day of School!

School Readiness classes begin September 5th and 6th with parent and child orientation. Orientation/School Readiness start date will depend on your child’s M-Wed or T-Th schedule.