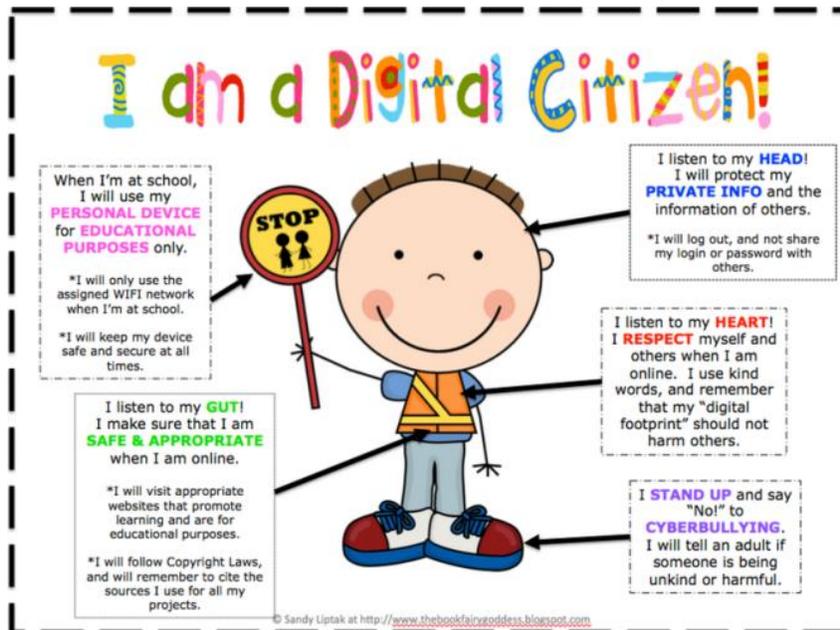


Holdingsford Elementary School Principal's Newsletter May 2019



Summer Digital Safety:

Digital safety at home, in school, on the bus, and around town: Know what your children are watching, playing, downloading, and sending out via social media! Please take some time this summer to navigate your child's smart phone, tablet, or laptop and go through programs, apps, and social media with them. Remind them what is safe usage, as well as what are school and family expectations.

Next fall, if your child brings a device on the bus or to school, please ensure all games, apps, and media are school appropriate. Remember, it is our duty to take care of our littlest Husker students on the bus, in our school, and when out in the community. Thank you for your help and consideration.



K-4 Music Program Changes Please Read:

Children in grades K-2 can be dropped off before the concert in the high school little theater. Children in grades 3-4 can be dropped off in the high school media center. Upon entering the theater and/or high school media center, parents will notice grade level signs and classroom teachers helping get kids to their grade organized seating. At the end of the concert, 4th grade will come off of the risers and connect with parents. Kindergarten through 3rd grade will be picked up in the theater or high school media center. Thank you for your patience and help. It will be an OUTSTANDING concert!

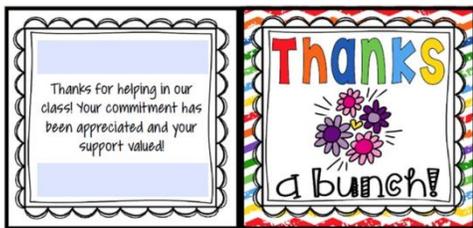
Jim Stang and Maia Hamann

Principal Note



It is hard to believe May is upon us and summer vacation is right around the corner. I hope my newsletter finds your family well and excited about opportunities to recreate and slow down the pace of life. I am excited for my daughter's graduation from St. Ben's. She will be an amazing nurse! I am not super excited to have Marvin back home. An empty, clean, quiet house was really nice to come home to. In fairness, to Marvin, he is a great kid and fun to have around. He is just not the neatest, and eats a ton! I hope to get out on the lakes to do some fishing with my grandchildren and family. I hope to grow a plentiful garden and enjoy the outdoors with friends and family.

Jill Schmitt will be our new summer school principal. She is working hard on organizing the program. I would like to thank our families that made summer learning a priority. July will be here before we know it. I love having children and staff back in the building. Summer school is the BEST! It is not too late to join the fun!



Before we say goodbye for the summer, I would like to thank everyone for a wonderful school year. I can't believe how quickly the school year flew by! I can honestly say (once again)...it was one of my best years in education! I/We have the BEST kids and staff in Minnesota! I am truly honored and blessed to be your principal, and I thank you for letting me share in your child's life.

Have a safe and blessed summer. Fill it with laughter and fun-loving family memories. Please remember to read and practice math daily. The more reading and math practice at home this summer, the easier next fall will be! Do not let your child slide or fall behind. Thank you for your support! Husker summer vacation is GOOOOOD! Belonging to our Husker Nation...is GREAT!



Grandparents' Day:

May is filling up fast and reservations are flying in for Grandparents' Day. We are very fortunate to still be able to put on this special day of learning. I would like to thank our amazing and supportive PTA, and send a huge and heartfelt thanks to my staff and the many volunteers who will help on May 10th. The day will be a smashing success! Our school will be on display, and we will work tirelessly to make the day special for our families. From a great meal, to the beautiful artwork adorning our hallways, to classrooms filled with special reader's theater presentations and games, to an adorable kindergarten performance the day will highlight our community spirit, talented staff, and amazing student body.



Thank You, Grandparents:

Thank you for braving the weather, jam-packed parking lots, crowded hallways and hectic schedules. This day means the world to us and we are proud to honor our grandparents. Together we make a difference and together we make our children and community stronger, safer, and a better place to raise a family.



Teacher Appreciation Week: May 6-10

A huge thank you goes out to our talented and energetic PTA for highlighting our certified and non-certified teaching staff! Holdingford Elementary is a very special place for children and families. We work tirelessly to make our school a safe and accepting place for children and families. We pour our heart and passion into every day, every hour, every minute in hopes to better children socially, emotionally, and academically. As we wind down the year, please take a moment to thank your child's teachers for a successful school year. Write a note, place a well-deserved call of thanks or send an e-mail letting your child's teacher know they are appreciated and respected. Thank you for a GREAT year, teachers! You make a difference every day and you give hope and inspiration to many! I am proud of you and I am proud to be your principal.

A truly special teacher is very wise, and sees tomorrow in every child's eyes. ~Author Unknown

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child. ~Carl Jung



6th Grade Graduation and Last Day Assembly:

Thanks to Mother Nature and her wicked ways, our last day will be a half day on May 31st. Please note that we will be releasing students at 12:05 pm. On May 31st at 8:30 am in the intermediate gym, we will be distributing attendance awards, and celebrating our 6th graders as we send them off to the 7th grade. I have contemplated failing them all in order to keep them with us for one more year, but their hard work and excellent school leadership have earned them the right to move on. We will miss you, and please know you will always have a home amongst our halls and staff. You are a very, very special group of young men and women. We love you! We are proud of you! Please know we are always here for you to share a laugh or help you solve a problem. We are your Husker Elementary Family!

a great opportunity to get to know the children your child talks fondly about and to set up a few playdates.

3. Put the 'free' back in free play. Many communities offer free or low-cost programs for children during the summer months. Be sure to take advantage of the events and activities put on by your community.

With a few phone calls to your City or Town Hall, community centers and recreation departments, you'll likely find a host of free or low-cost activities and events planned for the children in your community during the summer months. In many communities, local businesses sponsor children's entertainment and libraries offer story times and special events.

4. Move from entertaining to engaging. For many children, free time during the school year is limited and spent playing video games or watching television. During the summer months, parents may wish to make a conscious effort to engage rather than entertain their children.

During the summer months when free family time is at an all-time high, consider setting aside time each day to do something together. When you do something together, you provide your family with the chance to be their own source of entertainment. A walk around the block after dinner, a family game night or even kicking around the ball in the backyard provides an opportunity for the family to reconnect and re-establish their sense of unity and togetherness.

5. Optimize your outlook. Considering the wonderful opportunities summertime has for your family can help parents stay focused on the great things the school break has to offer.

For many parents, coming up with activities and outings to keep their children occupied during the summer months is a challenge. For those who have financial and work scheduling considerations, this burden may seem overwhelming. Taking a step back to optimize your outlook can help keep negative feelings at bay. The summer break offers parents valuable time with their children that they often don't get during the school year. Regardless of whether you're cruising around the world or riding a pretend raft in your own backyard, the additional time you have together provides for priceless opportunities to strengthen the parent-child bond.



Important Dates:

May 9 Elementary Spring Concert Grades K-4	HS Gym	6:30 pm
May 10 Grandparents' Day		10 am – 1:30 pm
May 16 Choir Concert Grades 5-8		7:00 pm
May 23 Elementary Band Concert		7:00 pm
May 20 End of the year K-6 Inflatable Party		All day at school!
May 31 6th Grade graduation and elementary awards ceremony		8:30 am intermediate gym

**May 31st Last Day of School Please note it is a half day...Dismissal at 12:05. Have a Fun Filled
and Safe Summer Vacation!**