
The Warrior

Weeping Water, NE — January-February 2018

From the Superintendent's Desk By. Ken Heinz

With St. Patrick's Day rapidly approaching, I find myself thinking about "The Luck O' the Irish" phrase and how many times during my coaching days I remember really buying into the belief that sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. While I do have a little bit of Irish in me and will certainly take the luck that is inherent with that, and will certainly always smile at, and accept, any lucky breaks I may get, I would nonetheless like to share with you a number of recent accomplishments that we have experienced here in our district that have nothing to do with luck, but rather hard work and dedication on the part of many within the district. These are accomplishments that we, as Weeping Water Indians, can be very proud of.

While testifying at the LB 998 hearing a few weeks ago, I had several individuals associated with lobbying organizations, the School Board Association, and Nebraska Department of Education, catch me and,

from their personal and organizational perspectives, share with me that they were hearing many, many good things about our school district from different sources and wanted to let me know that we should be very proud of the great work and progress we are making and should know that we are gaining a high degree of respect. To be honest, that really kind of floored me. I can tell you that after being in education for 33 years, 26 as an administrator, that type of interaction in that type of situation and setting just doesn't happen. It obviously made me feel very proud and gratified. Upon further reflection, I got to thinking about the numerous accomplishments that have occurred within this district over the past number of years that we all should take great pride in. With the guidance and support of the school board, the leadership of the administration and the incredible hard work and dedication of ALL staff, both certified and classified, we have made impressive strides and gains in multiple areas. Please indulge me and let me reflect upon some of these.

- Assessment scores – Our assessment scores, as shared with you by our principals, have increased dramatically over the past several years. ESU #3 has tracked the results of its 18 school districts including Millard, Elkhorn, Westside, Papillion, Gretna, Louisville, Conestoga, Elmwood-Murdock, etc. for many years now and, quite frankly, we have historically been quite low. Last year, however, we had the highest scores/rankings our district has had since they have been keeping records, and this year we were in the top three in two categories and in the top 50% in the third. These scores consist of the state assessments administered by the state and include the NeSA scores and ACT scores. Our other in-house assessments that we administer show continued growth as well.

- Curriculum revision and alignment – All district core curriculums have been revised and aligned with in-house and state standards to allow for content to be taught at the appropriate age and levels and remove overlapping and gaps. This was a very time consuming and intensive process for our staff that they accepted and did a great job with.
- True 6-8 middle school – We re-configured grade levels with the Nebraska Department of Education to include a 6-8 middle school with a true middle school concept. This change has proven to be very successful in many, many different ways and has given the middle school students, among other things, an identity that they are very proud of.
- 3-year-old preschool program – This supported and complimented our existing 4-year-old preschool program, providing more opportunities for our parents but more importantly, early childhood growth opportunities for our students.
- In-district daycare – With the addition of an in-district daycare, additional opportunities have been provided for parents who may work

out of town or have other time issues to have a type of a “one-stop shop” for their children’s day care needs.

- Grab n Go breakfast – With the addition of a Grab n Go breakfast five years ago, our breakfast participation rates have risen from 35% to right around 85%. This has allowed the opportunity for students to get a solid, nutritious breakfast often in the face of very hectic morning schedules – we have had many, many parents thank us for this addition and tell us it has really helped ease their morning schedules. We have seen discipline issues decrease later in the morning hours that we think is directly attributable to this and an increase in homework completion and scores that seem to be in part related to this. We also won a state award the year following the implementation of the program for most improved foods program among all schools in the state.
- \$12 million bond renovations and updates project – What a tremendous source of pride this can be for all of Weeping Water: community, students, staff, business, etc. This has greatly enhanced and embellished the learning opportunities for our students as well as health and wellness opportunities

for our community. We continue to get ongoing praise and compliments from multiple, multiple audiences and entities.

- Career and technical education – We have greatly expanded opportunities for our students in our career and technical education programs including industrial tech, business, info tech, and FCS. Being one of the early schools to apply and take part in the Nebraska Department of Education’s ReVISION program, we greatly expanded our career pathways to 24, which was tied with Plattsmouth at the time for the most, and substantially more than any other schools in the area.
- Special education – Our number of students involved with special education in our district has dropped from 19% to the area of 8% or 9%. This has occurred while our poverty rate percentages have increased to pushing 40%. What this says is that the interventions and programs we have initiated are working and our staff are doing a tremendous job in implementing them.

Along with these articulated accomplishments, multiple other accomplishments such as financial and fiscal stability, the development of new teacher

and administrator evaluation tools, enhanced professional development opportunities, etc. have all attributed to the huge gains and strides made within our district that we all, as Weeping Water Indians, should truly take great pride in!

Everyone please enjoy the great spring weather coming soon and may the Luck O' the Irish be with you!

Ken Heinz



Weeping Water Reminders

By. Gary Wockenfuss

Junior ACT Testing date April 3 8:00-1:00pm.

We will meet here at the school and then we will bus down to the Gibson Hall to take the test. We have decided to take the test there so that there are no distractions to the students. Once the test is complete (around 12:30 or 1:00) we will bus back to the school and then juniors will be dismissed for the day. **We need all juniors to be sure to attend school on this day.**

Wellness Center Weight Room/Walking

Track times:

Monday-Friday: This may change per administration and board of education decision.

*weight room hours 5:30pm to 6:30am

Monday-Friday

*walking track hours 5:30pm-7:30am

Monday- Friday

The weight room is closed during any 9-12 school activities. Please refer to your weight room contract. Weight room is open over the weekend when no 9-12 activities are in progress. Please check rschool or call the school for more information.

Section 18 School Dances/Prom

All students (excluding MS students) who attend school dances (Homecoming/Prom) must be a registered high school student. Outside guests must be **19 years old or younger** to be admitted as a date of a Weeping Water student. A Weeping Water guest permission form must be signed and approved for a guest from another school district, for graduated students, and for out-of-town guests. A school ID or driver's license **may be** required. Post-prom is not a school-sponsored activity. Middle School dances are for Weeping Water students who are registered Middle School students in grades 6, 7 or 8. No outside guests are allowed at Middle School dances. At all High School dances, individual students may bring only one (1) guest to dances. **PDA (public display of affection) will not be tolerated at any school function.**

Section 4 Promotions, Retention for K-12th grade students

The professional staff at Weeping Water Public Schools will place students at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally.

Middle School grade students 6th-8th must pass ALL core courses (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) and ½ of the elective classes to be promoted to the next grade. Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the professional staff to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the educational program.

Grade Classification:

Sophomore: 1 year of high school and 65 credit hours

Junior: 2 years of high school and 130 credit hours

Senior: 3 years of high school and 195 credit hours

Down list and Ineligibility reports:

Down list reports will be run each Monday at 9:00 a.m. and will be sent home by U.S. Mail or electronically.

Ineligibility reports will be run at 2:30 pm Friday afternoon. Eligibility is based on the

current class grade and are ran weekly where they are used to determine is students may participate in activities/athletics.

Students have until 8:00 AM Monday to raise their grade. If the student fails to raise their grade or grades to meet eligibility status, they will be ineligible until grades meet district standards.

*Ineligibility for any activities will start 2 weeks after the beginning of each semester.

Section 12 High School End-of-the-Semester Exams

Semester exams for the 2017-2018 school year will be at the discretion of the teacher. Teachers may give exams or other assignments as they see fit. All students in 6th-12th grade classes will be running on a normal scheduled day. Grades will be running total of the points per semester.

Testing is Important

**By Dawn DeTurk, Administrator
and Gary Wockenfuss, Administrator**

The state assessments are like an academic photo being taken at one point in time during the school year. This photo is a snapshot that helps the school get a view of how our students are doing. The state has made some changes to our testing system this year. They have gone with a different company to manage our state test. They also changed the name of our state test to the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS). As reported earlier this

school year, the state used the ACT to assess our juniors last year and they scored well.

We plan to give the state tests starting the last week in March and continuing through the last week in April to grades 3-8. The ACT test will be given to the Juniors on April 3rd. Please support our school by encouraging your children to do their best.

Whether your child is taking a class test or a standardized school, state, or national test, it is always important to do his / her best. Some kids enjoy the challenge of tests. Many get stressed at the prospect. Here are ways to help your child make the grade!

- Review the subject matter together for upcoming test.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's rest before every test.
- Serve a light, healthful breakfast on test day.
- Have your child dress for comfort.
- Ensure that your child gets to school on time.
- Bolster your child's confidence by sending him / her off to school with words of praise and support.
- If stress is an issue, suggest that your child do deep breathing exercises to relax before testing begins.
- Tell your child that it is very important to pay close attention to directions, read instructions carefully, and ask questions if anything isn't clear.
- Advise your child to do the easiest

parts of the test first, and to check over answers before turning it in. Remind your child that if there is time, he / she should go back and try to answer harder questions.

- Encourage your child to want to score well, but explain that one test can never measure all your child can do.
- Remind your child to do their best. All we can ask is that they take their time and do their very best.

Kindergarten with Mrs. Shafer

By: Madison Carnes, Sophomore

In the world there is about 115,000 to 130,000 hippos but this one hippo will outshine the others. Fiona was a hippo born on January 24, 2017 six weeks prematurely to Bibi and Henry. Her story shocked and amazed many people including the Weeping Water kindergarteners of Mrs. Shafer's class. The class had decided to make gifts and letters for the now one year old Fiona. Each of the 10 boys made a letter containing their names and something about them. The boys enjoyed to dedicate class time making drawings and loved watching videos of Fiona grow up into one of the most famous animals. This is her story.

Fiona had grown into a national sensation by being herself. She was born at a small weight, 29 pounds and lived on an oxygen tube to help out her premature lungs get the air needed. Now she weighs a

staggering 660 pounds and is off the oxygen tube. The zookeepers and a team of doctors had stayed by her side making sure she stayed healthy. For her birthday people from all around would send her gifts including Schafer's class who each brought in a gift or two for the class. The gifts brought ranged from dog food and goldfish crackers to Chinese cookies. Schafer had wanted to "show the class how much giving helps" She wanted to dedicate time to create gifts for Fiona. For example on Valentine's Day the class would send valentines to her as a special treat.

Her existence had been seemed to also be a gift. She had been one of the first hippos to be born prematurely. Now Fiona is content with her life eating her normal diet and is running alongside her mom. While the class is content with their lives. They enjoyed creating the letter and the gifts for Fiona. Schafer plans on continuing on this tradition for years to come.

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until you've walked a
mile in his moccasins."
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FIRST GRADE

By: Mrs. Meeske and Mrs. Wilson

The First Graders have been super busy in the classroom learning many new skills with reading and math and learning about some famous Americans in our history.

Our unit this month in reading is about changes in nature. We have read many stories that correlate with our science on life cycles and the seasons. We are increasing our vocabulary weekly with selection vocabulary, high-frequency words, and our AMAZING words.

For math we are just finishing up our topic on measuring length. We have used many different tools to measure such as cubes, paper clips, and straws to measure a lot of the things that we have in our classroom.

In Social Studies we spent some time talking about Martin Luther King Jr. and the impact that he made on our country. We have also discussed Harriet Tubman and how she was the "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. With President's Day we have been discussing George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and their lives.

We would like to take this time to thank the parents for working with their children on the homework skills that we send home

weekly. Reading to/with your child is an important part of their growth in education.

Second Grade

Mrs. Stacy Bickford

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the third quarter. I think the school years go faster and faster—especially the older I get. We have continued to practice our skills and have introduced several new concepts. In Math, we have been working hard on adding and subtracting in different ways with several numbers and multiple digits. Any additional practice you can provide at home would be beneficial. Our students also have access to a computer program called IXL which allows them to practice independently using the website. We have a new Social Studies book this year and we have enjoyed all that it offers. They have enjoyed learning about landforms and famous Americans to name a few things. During February, we focused on studying famous African Americans-- we had some great conversations about the trials and tribulations some endured, the heart, dental health, and presidents—specifically Abe Lincoln and George Washington. Writing continues to be a school wide goal of ours—we write daily and try to incorporate a variety of writing as well. The calendars came in before Thanksgiving break and the second graders immediately started selling them! They did a great job!

We are now in the process of planning our field trip to the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo in April. We hope 2018 continues to be a great year for you!! We are excited for all the challenges that lie ahead for us as we finish second grade!

SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADE

By. Mr. McGill

In 6th and 7th grade Explore we just finished our “Wax Museum Night”. Students researched a famous person from the United States and made a presentation for the public. We held our 1st Wax Museum night on February 26. The students worked hard and did a fantastic job on their projects. Thanks for all the came and supported their hard work. In 8th grade and 6th grade PE we just finished up our basketball unit and will be now moving on to other sport related skills while still focusing on the weight room for 8th grade and physical fitness for the 6th grade.

**It Is A Great Day To Be A
Weeping Water Indian!**

ENGLISH WITH MRS. WEBER

By. Mrs. Weber

Ninth grade English students have been hard at work on our Drama unit. We began by acting out a short excerpt from a play by

Neil Simon and are currently reading Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”.

Eighth graders have recently completed their study of “The Diary of Anne Frank” and a grammar unit on verbs. They are looking forward to starting the novel unit “The Outsiders”.

Seventh graders also successfully completed a grammar unit on verbs, as well as a unit on short stories. The short story unit culminated in a comparing/contrasting writing activity that the students found to be very interesting. This class will also be starting a novel unit with “A Day No Pigs Would Die”.

The sixth grade class is working on grammar skills. We’ve covered all the basic parts of speech and are working improving our writing skills. The novel unit for sixth grade is “Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry”, and we will be starting this mid-March.

Springtime Science

By. Mrs. Robinett

Well, as spring seems to be around the corner, we begin the process of starting science fair projects. The theme this year will be STEM. Each class will be given a challenge to solve using their newly learned science understandings from the school year. 8th grade will be competing in a building contest following rules from a national contest and will submit their entries to see if they can win a prize. They will be

applying skills and knowledge from force and motion units and well as their understanding of energy transfer. 7th graders will be challenged with building structures to withstand earthquake forces. 6th graders will be given clean water challenges or solar structure challenges for their projects. We will be holding the Science fair April 23. The public is welcome to come see the projects and talk with students during the open house.

Choir News

By. Mrs. Hammer

The WWPS Vocal Department has been busy preparing for the all-school musical since late January. The musical this year is Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “State Fair”. The small-town Frake family attend the Iowa State Fair, the annual highlight of their summer. Son Wayne (Tyge Thomas) plots revenge on a midway barker (Garrett Neumeister) who had embarrassed him the summer before and falls for the beautiful singer Emily (Kaylee Tighe, Bobbi Ritzman), while his melancholy sister Margie (Samantha Thomas) becomes smitten with slick city-boy reporter Pat (Robert Brill). Meanwhile, mother Melissa (Brogan McDonald) and father Abel (Michael Stackpole) plot to win their respective competitions. Over 50 WWPS students are involved in the production, which will be held on Thursday, Friday, March 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the WWPS Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

The middle school vocal students have been preparing for their contest to be held in Weeping Water on Thursday, April 5 beginning in the late afternoon. This contest will include the Vivace Choir, 6th grade choir, JH choir and solos and small ensembles. A schedule will be available closer to the event date.

The elementary students have had a great time the last two months working on multicultural dancing units. We have learned how to perform a Chinese Ribbon Dance, an Indian Dandiya Dance and are just beginning to work on the Tinikling Dance from the Philippines. The 3rd-5th students have also had the awesome experience of writing their own lyrics to a melody. We have some very creative students in our elementary classes and those creative juices have been flowing as they have been working on songs about baseball, swimming, tacos, dancing, chairs, food and traveling.

Industrial Technology

By. Mr. Jorn

The industrial technology classrooms are making changes daily to make them more people friendly. It has been fun to see the students taken over ownership of the classroom looking for ways to make improvements and also to add more equipment to help with making sure that everyone is better prepared to move to their next adventure. Along with all of the

changes all classes have been very involved with building and repairing their classrooms and school. Students have been stepping up and taking charge when help is needed. These workers have replaced a roof, repair sinks faucets, building book shelves, repairing everything from musical instruments to buses. They have been here before school after school, during their study hall and whenever they have time. It is fun to work with an eager group that just cannot learn enough

SUGAR! SUGAR!

By. Ms. Endorf

Over the last few weeks the 9th grade Health class has been participating in some eye opening lessons and activities involving reading their food labels as well as the sugar and sodium content in their foods. We've taken some of their favorite snacks and beverages and physically measured out how much sugar that product contains. Did you know that the American Heart Association recommends limiting the amount of added sugars you consume to no more than half of your daily discretionary calories allowance? For most American women, that's no more than 100 calories per day, or about 6 teaspoons of sugar. For men, it's 150 calories per day, or about 9 teaspoons. I see a ton of kids drinking soda or the peace tea drinks that they get at the convenience store here in town. One bottle of coke contains about 10 teaspoons of sugar! To figure out how much sugar is in the food or beverage you are consuming just take the amount of

grams divided by four. So if a food contains 20 grams of sugar that is equivalent to 5 teaspoons of sugar! Please be aware of what you and your family members are putting into your bodies! You only get one, fuel it with food that helps you rather than hurts you!



Art News

By. Melody Cejka

Congratulations to Libby Cozad, Tory Lamkins, Jessie Jordan, Erin Redfern, Rebecca Markham, Kirsten Neumeister, Bobbi Ritzman, Faith Adams, Katie Dettman, and Madison March whose art work was selected for the ECNC art show February 22 in Lincoln NE. Taking top honors winning gold was Kirsten Neumeister, 1st honorable mention, Bobbi Ritzman, 2nd Honorable Mention, Tory Lamkins, 3rd Honorable Mention Libby Cozad. These students art work can be viewed along with the other conference schools artist at the Wells Fargo Bank Building 10th and "O" Street Lincoln Nebraska. This art show will be on exhibit through March 20th honoring Youth Art Month.

Good luck to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade students who entered the Nebraska Department of Agriculture poster contest. Proud of all of you Good Luck.

March is Youth Art Month. Please take time to visit difference art exhibits displayed in our hallways.

WW Wrestling: 50 Years of Excellence

By. Mr. Strong

The 2017-2018 WW wrestling season, the 50th year of wrestling at this school, is officially in the books. As we reflect on this historic season, and remember the ups and downs of this incredibly tough sport, we can see the tremendous individual growth from the beginning of the season to the end. We were striving to continue the tradition of excellence set forth by all those that have gone before us. The dedication and hard work these wrestlers persevered through showed up in a big way at districts. We were blessed to host the 19-team D-1 district. Our wrestling team finished 4th in the team race and three guys: Garrett Neumeister, Michael Stackpole, and Marcus Cave qualified for the state meet. It is the 40th straight year somebody has represented WW at the state meet, impressive!

More evidence of hard work and commitment to excellence manifested this season, as there were several guys that carved their names into the individual record books. Michael finished 6th on the career wins list (122), as well as finishing as the all-time leader in WW history for matches wrestled in a career (206) and most escapes in a career (133). Marcus Cave finished in

the top 10 for most pins in a season (28), wins in a season (42) and matches in a season (57). And, Jason Burch finished 2nd all-time for most escapes in a season (44).

In addition to a great team finish at districts, our team was able to etch a view marks into the record books, as well. The 2017-2018 team finished 7th all-time for most team takedowns (444) and most team wins (338). We also finished 10th for most team pins in a season (191). Finally, this 50th anniversary team finished with the most matches per wrestler all-time (43.07).

What a tremendous season! Full of individual success, team achievement, and camaraderie; we couldn't be more proud of the 15 guys that competed this year for the wrestling program. Thank you to all the wrestlers, coaches, parents, fans, and supporters of WW wrestling to make this year such an awesome year.-

AMERICAN HISTORY

By. Mr. Barrett

The students are currently discussing The Cold War Era and the world leaders involved with this time period. This time period shaped our societies way of life and determined American Foreign policy well into the new century. George Washington warned Americans to stay out of foreign affairs when he left office because he felt it would be a danger to our American way of life. The students will be discovering

whether he was correct or not. Students will be researching whether it is better to be internationalist or isolationist. They will also investigate whether we should try to work with world organizations to solve world issues or just handle them ourselves.

-CLOSE UP-

This years Close Up students will leave March 23rd and return home March 31st. We have 21 juniors/seniors participating this year and have already started their countdown of days before they depart. Weeping Water has sent over 400 students on this once in a lifetime experience. Thanks to all of you who have purchased products from these students, to help make their trip possible.

-Thank You-

In case this is my last opportunity, I want to thank everyone who helped out this year, and for that matter, the last 32 years with taking gate, running the clock, announcing, scorebook, supervising, signing, or just supporting our student athletes. Thank you to the rescue squad and the American Legion for showing up at all our home football games in the fall, also a big shout out to the cheerleaders for supporting all the activities as much as they did. It is always a daunting task to schedule and fill all that we use our building for, but it is what we built it for. Our athletes do appreciate it, and so do I.

-Mike Barrett



Weeping Water Public Schools P.O. Box 206
Weeping Water, NE 68463

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Weeping Water Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: High school students: Gary Wockenfuss, 6-12 Principal, 204 West O St., Weeping Water, NE 68463 (402) 267-4265 (gwockenfuss@weepingwaterps.org). Elementary students: Dawn DeTurk, Elementary Principal, 204 West O St., Weeping Water, NE 68463 (402) 267-2445 (ddeturk@weepingwaterps.org). Employees and Others: Ken Heinz, Superintendent, 204 West O St., Weeping Water, NE 68463 (402) 267-2445 (kheinz@weepingwaterps.org). Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114, (816) 268-0550

