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# The Warrior

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Weeping Water, NE — March – April 2018

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## From the Superintendent's Desk...

Here we go again. The school year is coming to a close and I'm wondering again "Where has the year gone?" On May 11th, our seniors will depart these hallowed halls of WWHS for the last time, taking with them memories and experiences to cherish for a lifetime. It truly has been an enjoyable and pleasurable experience for me to have had the opportunity to watch these seniors grow and mature, and to have been a part of their lives during my six years here in Weeping Water. I am very proud of them and their accomplishments.

While our thoughts and hopes certainly go with our graduating seniors as they embark upon their futures, we remain focused on the immediate and long-term future needs of our remaining student body. Educational research tells us that students lose ground educationally during the months of summer vacation. There are some things that we as parents can do to reduce some of the regression that typically occurs over the summer months.

\*\*\* Have your child (ren) continue to read during summer vacation – **Yes, this also includes our high school kids!** At least once a week make a visit to the public library and allow your child to pick out reading material. If they have plenty to read at home it should provide some of the incentive necessary to keep them reading.

\*\*\* Family vacations with an educational theme are helpful ways to keep students learning and stretching their minds. A trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo for example challenges students to keep engaged academically.

\*\*\* Watching the news with your child(ren) and discussing what is going on in the world and our community gets them thinking about current events and local civic issues. Challenge your child (ren) to solve community problems.

\*\*\* A possible summer excursion could be having your child(ren) visit your place of employment. Some students can be limited in what they know regarding careers and future employment. The more places they are able to visit and learn about, the better they become at mapping out the direction they want to go in their lives.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our graduating seniors and their parents. It has been a long and sometimes arduous journey, filled with much success, joy, and happiness, as well as trials, tribulations, and disappointments. Seniors, you have persevered. Parents, you have "survived." But everyone, in some way, has grown from his or her experiences. You are truly very deserving of the many congratulations and accolades bestowed upon you. I am very proud of and happy for all of you. CONGRATULATIONS!

In closing, I would like to share with all parents of our future graduates the following poem, one of several I have hanging on my refrigerator that helped me keep my time and priorities in a proper perspective when my kids were young. Please read it over and keep the theme of this poem in mind. I openly express my firm belief that children are our most precious gift. The wise person also understands that they are our future and time devoted to the cause now will pay great dividends in the long run.

I hope everyone has a great summer that proves to be rewarding, refreshing, and invigorating – and remember, everyone keep reading. ENJOY!

*Ken Heinz*

**TO MY GROWN UP SON**

My hands were busy through the day,  
I didn't have much time to play  
The little games you asked me to.  
I didn't have much time for you.  
I'd wash your clothes, I'd sew and cook,  
But when you'd bring your picture book  
And ask me please to share your fun,  
I'd say: "A little later, son."  
I'd tuck you in all safe at night  
And hear your prayers, turn out the lights,  
Then tiptoe softly to the door –  
I wish I'd stayed a minute more.  
For life is short, the years rush past,  
A little boy grows up so fast.  
No longer is he at your side,  
His precious secrets to confide.  
The picture book is put away;  
There are no longer games to play,  
No good-night kiss, no prayers to hear –  
That all belongs to yesteryear.  
My hands once busy now are still –  
The days are long and hard to fill.  
I wish I could go back and do  
The little things you asked me to.

(Author Unknown)

## From Principal Wockenfuss' Desk

By. Gary Wockenfuss

We made it to the last 2 weeks of school; students, staff, parents, guardians and our community members. Yes, the end of school is here, seniors last day was May 11 with graduation on May 12. Our 6th to 11th grade last day is May 18th and I see it in their eyes on a daily basis. I still see those students trying to be focused on their academic and activity work, but still making a sprint to the finish with all the year-end activities that are planned. Our students see the world with fresh eyes as they continually set goals and try to achieve their short and long term dreams.

Passing classes and graduation what counts? I think for the past 10 years I have put these do's and don'ts on grades at the end of both 1st and 2nd semester newsletters. I have heard from many parents/guardians that they find it reassuring and a great reminder on the importance that students, parents, teachers and guardians stay on top of the semester grades. Here are some Do's and Don'ts when your child fails to meet the grade:

### Do's:

- a.** Be calm and talk to your child about the problem.
- b.** Emphasize the positive no matter how small it is.

- c.** Talk about how things can be better for their future.
- d.** Make a plan with them, suggestions, homework, and check over work.
- e.** Look behind the grade. Could it be an eye problem, attention issue, learning disability, hearing etc.?
- f.** Encourage your child always to try their best, regardless of the grade earned.

### Don't:

- a.** Lose your cool.
- b.** Focus only on the bad things.
- c.** Use the report card to judge your child's future "You will never amount to anything".
- d.** Leave it totally up to your child to figure out how to do better.
- e.** Forget to look at all the reason why your child isn't doing well.
- f.** Assume A's reflect students best.
- g.** Think a poor report card means you're a poor parent.

### Summer Things:

What to do this summer with your child? Go to the school website; [www.weepingwaterps.org](http://www.weepingwaterps.org), \*click District tab, \*click administration, \*click on Gary Wockenfuss, \*click parent corner for summer things to do.

As we all are going over the 2017-2018 finish line this year, I want to encourage all parents/guardians to contact their respective teachers if you have any questions or

concerns. Teacher contact information is listed on their respective web pages, which can be located under district page then click on "Staff Pages" on the WWPS Home Page (<http://www.weepingwaterps.org>) for this information. It truly has been a collaborative effort to make it to this point in the school year. In addition, I want to wish the seniors good luck as they take their next step in life. I firmly believe that great things are in store for each of them.

DO remember all of us can create a good home where children can learn and grow. The rest is up to them.

"It Is A Great Day To Be A Weeping Water Indian"

## What is Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)?

By Dawn DeTurk, Elementary Principal

Weeping Water Elementary is committed to providing high-quality instruction and support to help students be successful academically and behaviorally. Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), is a framework put in place to help do just that. It is a practice that identifies struggling students through regular testing and provides extra help early to the students who are not making enough progress. Intervention begins for all students with quality instruction in the general education

classroom to prevent academic failure.

MTSS includes:

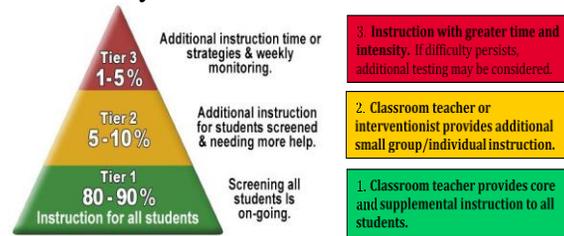
- Regular testing (school-wide screener such as Aimsweb) for all students three times per year- Some people call them a “well check”
- Use of scientifically research-based instruction/interventions
- Decisions are based on quality test scores
- On-going monitoring of those students getting an intervention
- Multiple tiers of increasingly intense interventions that are matched to student needs

Good classroom instruction is the basis for all student progress. The process begins at the bottom of the below triangle, making sure all students have access to quality instruction and the opportunity to learn. That is why we are working to make sure students have 90 minutes of focused instruction in reading every day and 60 minutes for math.

The best part of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), is that we don’t have to wait for a student to fail before we give them the support and instruction they need.

This diagram shows what percentage of students typically receives a specific level of support. We call each colored section a tier. Eighty to 90% of our students should be able to learn to read at Tier 1. If our screening tests show that they are not making adequate progress, we can add additional instruction to help that student be more successful. Thank you for your support as we work to implement this process at Weeping Water

Elementary.



### FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Notice is hereby given that Weeping Water Public School intends to destroy the records of all students who exited its special education program either during or prior to the 2012-2013 school year. Pursuant to section 009.03M1 of Nebraska Rule 51, all special education records dated for students who graduated or received a certificate of completion from Weeping Water Public School District in May of 2013 or earlier will be destroyed as of August 1, 2018. The purpose of destruction is to protect the student from improper and unauthorized disclosure of the confidential information contained within the file. Please note that the student, parent or guardian for social security benefits or other purposes may need certain records.

Records requested, in writing only, will be available for review beginning June 15, 2018 at Weeping Water Public Schools for 10 days. Destruction of these records will begin on July 15, 2018.

Upon review, a copy of any information contained in the record will be provided to the parent/guardian. If no parent or guardian

responds to this public notice, the school district will assume consent to destroy the entire record specific to the student. If you do not understand this notice or are in need of interpretation, please contact the District Office at 402-267-2445.

**Pre-K**  
By. Mrs. Burch

The Weeping Water Pre-K will be wrapping up the school year with May 15th being our last day for Pre-K and our end of the year celebration that evening at 6 pm. How we have grown this year! We celebrated Week of the Young Child April 16-20 with a visit to several of the High School classes where Mrs. Cejka and her students helped us make clowns in Art. We also practiced our ABC's along with some gross motor skills to help keep our bodies strong and healthy in Miss Endorf's health class. We acted out something for each letter flying like an airplane, walking like a bear, standing like a cactus--all the way up to the letter Z. We also went through an obstacle course in the gym. We ended the week with Family Friday, inviting our moms and dads were to join us for breakfast in our rooms. We had our Pre-K Open House for students who are enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year. This gave them a chance to see their classroom and meet their teacher for the upcoming year.

We had our field trip Thursday, May 3 and went to see "Curious George and the Golden Meatball" at the Rose Theater.

We have enjoyed each and every student this year at WW Pre-K and look forward to the next school year!

## **Kindergarten @ Can-Do Land**

**By: Mrs. Schafer**

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The Mighty Men of Weeping Water (and yes, the class is still all boys) have surprised me with every assignment they are given. The boys “tickle me pink” each and every time they eagerly dive into a challenge which is most of the time! The boys are reading machines and wonderfully creative when writing sentences or stories! They are “human” calculators and cash registers as well as time tellers! The boys have zipped through my skip-counting program and some are counting to 120 by 6’s while others are counting to 220 by 11’s and up to 320 by 16’s! These boys “CAN DO” and are ready for First Grade!

Our field trip on April 16 was just perfect for a group of boys! The boys visited Orsi’s Italian Bakery and Pizzeria near 7th and Pacific where Mr. Jim gave them dough to roll and braid or twist. While waiting for the bread to bake, the boys and parents were treated to delicious pizzas as well as the most scrumptious cheese bread! Parents and students all took 2-3 bags of bread home to enjoy. Mr. Jim would not take payment so please try Orsi’s the next time you are craving pizza! We guarantee you will not be disappointed! Our next stop was the Burlington Northern Railyard in Omaha. Matt Miller, Wyatt’s grandfather, gave us a tour of the tower, the catwalk and other parts of the yard as well as some of the equipment

in motion. The Mounted Patrol Facility was our next stop where Officers Scott and Tony introduced us to their mounts before demonstrating how the rider and horse work together as a team. Our field trip provided one awesome, educational day that was perfect for a group of boys!

## **FIRST GRADE**

**By: Mrs. Meeske and Mrs. Wilson**

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The First Graders have been very busy working hard to finish up our year. In reading we are learning about solving problems and how inventions and solutions can make our life easier. Our reading skills have improved since the beginning of school and many students have earned classroom awards with their reading.

In math we are working on second grade skills. We are adding and subtracting with regrouping and going to work with money. We have been using That Quiz to increase our math fluency and IXL to hone in on our skills.

Some first graders have also earned some recognition outside of the school system. John Henry Lackore received an honorable mention and Hazel Karstens received a 3rd place honor with their writings about Super Hero powers. Kason McCaulley received 3rd place from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture for his drawing with the theme: Sharing the Story of Nebraska Agriculture.

We want to take this time to thank all of our families for working with us this year – together we DO make a difference. Please also remember to continue reading and working on math facts during the summer to

help them be prepared for their second grade adventure.

## **Second Grade**

**Mrs. Stacy Bickford**

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The second grade has had a very busy winter—we weren’t sure it was ever going to end though!

Our school improvement goals continue to focus on math and writing. We have been busy writing every day as well! It’s great to have goals to work towards & it’s awesome to see the scores going up! We were recently recognized as a top school district in Nebraska! I am extremely happy to see all the hard work paying off! I am proud to be a part of WWPS!!

Second grade would like to thank all of the parents for the support we have received for parties, activities and any other donations we have asked for this year. We just took our field trip on April 27th to the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo! The students worked hard to sell calendars and their efforts were rewarded! The weather was wonderful and the students made many memories!

## **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE NEWS**

**By: Mrs. Thomassen**

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What a wonderful day we had on May 2! The 3rd grade class traveled to Nebraska City for a field trip. We visited Arbor Day Farm and the Mansion and had a wonderful time learning about the early years of Nebraska history and what it was like to live here in Nebraska. We want to thank all the

parents and grandparents that traveled with us.

3rd graders are reading stories about freedom, and what does freedom mean? We have read The Story of the Statue of Liberty. This story is about why DO we have symbols that represent freedom. Along with other stories from this unit we have learned some amazing things.

We wish everyone a great summer! Keep reading, writing, and working on math facts.

### **4th Grade**

**By. Mrs. Lindau**

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The Fourth Grade Class was happy to welcome a guest speaker to WWPS on Friday, April 27.

Mrs. Micheline Creager of Lincoln presented a program on Orphan Trains. Mrs. Creager's mother came to Nebraska from New York City aboard an orphan train in 1911, at the age of two. In the 75 years the trains operated, nearly 250,000 orphans found homes with families in the United States and Canada – many of them in the Midwest. Mrs. Creager shared photographs and documents, as well as relating the personal stories of several orphans. The students had many good questions and she patiently answered them all.

She also brought a number of books of the subject. We are planning to add some of the titles to our classroom library. Clara Meyer commented, "It made me a little sad when you showed us those pictures. Most of them just needed someone to love them or someone who cared."

## **5TH GRADE**

**By. Mrs. Menghini**

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WOW! Here we are already, with our 4th quarter almost over! Although it has been sporadic weather, having a couple inches of snow one day and a 75-degree day the next, we still have continued diligently with our journey in learning.

In Language Arts, we just finished writing pieces of poetry for The American Library of Poetry contest! We LOVED doing this, and hopefully in September we will possibly have good news of a winner or two! We also continue to do journaling, and our creative writing pieces. We just finished our Basil readers and have now started reading a novel entitled, Bridge to Terabithia. The kids thoroughly enjoyed this heart-warming book about a very unlikely pair that develop a friendship/bond ~ only to have a tragedy strike and change everything. Along with reading this great book, we also completed a bio on author Katherine Paterson, and did a character sketch of important characters from the book.

In Math, we just finished adding and subtracting fractions. We have now moved into multiplying and dividing them, along with conquering mixed numbers, improper fractions, and mean, median, mode and range. The kids have decided that fractions aren't NEAR as tough as they thought they would be!! We continue to talk daily about how very important it is to have our basic math facts MEMORIZED! Please continue to study them! Again, it's NEVER too late to learn them!

The kids have shown a great deal of perseverance in continuing to master a number of different concepts. Keep working hard! Also, I continue to encourage all of our Math kids to practice skills on their IXL accounts to reinforce what we do daily in the classroom. It is a terrific tool to practice a variety of skills and enhance their learning of many of these Math concepts. This is ALSO available for them to do over the summer! It's important for them not to lose ground on how FAR they've come! In Science, our fifth graders current unit of study is "Earth and Space." Ask a fifth grader to explain the difference between a meteoroid and a meteorite. The kids are very excited to be learning about SPACE right now! We took an AMAZING field trip to SAC Museum and did cool activities, and visited the planetarium.

HAPPY SPRING from all the Fifth Grade!!

### **5Mrs. Garner's 5B**

**By. Mrs. Garner**

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Mrs. Garner's 5B class is hurriedly wrapping up this Elementary gig! With a lot of hard work, discipline and stamina-building, they are mastering skills, benchmarking on tests and learning to co-exist with one another in a peaceful manner! What a delight it's been seeing this social skill being strengthened! Fifth graders dominated in practice of fractions, coordinates and geometry etc. in preparation for the NSCAS. We are hopeful the scores prove it! In among finalizing the test prep, they made time to work together

on group Colony projects. It's been a fast and furious Fourth Quarter!

The 5th Grade teachers: Mr. Haveman/Mrs. Menghini/and myself (along with many parents) accompanied the group at the Strategic Air Command Museum in April – enjoying a full day of observing the Solar System in a planetarium, riding a space simulator, observing inside retired bomber airplanes and crafted the Solar System and a homemade rocket! This field trip tied in perfectly to our current Science unit. We had a “blast!”

This up-coming new crop of learners truly enjoy learning and being challenged...even when the “stretching” feels a bit painful, the outcome is worth it and they embrace it!

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

### Physics

By. Mr. Strong

The physics class completed their annual egg drop contest quarter. Only one design was able to withstand the first drop off the bleachers and the second drop out of Mr. Barrett's window. The final drop was done from the top of the roof on the 1938 building. That is a long drop. Unfortunately, no egg survived.

This project gives the students a chance to put their theoretical knowledge into practical application. They get to see if their ideas and concepts of physics conform to the real world. Sometimes, the designs withstand the ultimate drop while other times they don't make it past the first stage.

Every time the students get to experience basic engineering using physics principles learned in class.

And, finally this quarter, the physics class completed their 9-page research paper in APA style format. Students are free to pick a personal physics topic of interest. This, hopefully, stimulates engagement. They have 4 weeks to complete the project while doing other things. However, seniors like to procrastinate until the last week, typically. Writing research papers are an important way to help prepare for college, and the physics class is always afforded that opportunity.

## Choir News

By. Mrs. Hammer

As the school year winds down, the music department gets busy with end of the year contests and concerts. The Middle School students will hold their end of the year concert on Tuesday, May 15 in the auditorium, immediately after the Kindergarten celebration. (approximately 7:00). This concert will feature the Vivace Choir, 6th grade band and choir, 7th/8th band and choir. The Middle School contest was held in Weeping Water on Thursday, April 5. The students performed for judges and received ratings. Vivace Choir, 6th grade choir and the JH Choir all received Superior Ratings from the judges. Students later performed solos or in small ensembles for the judges. Vocally, there were 15 entries and the group ended the day with 11

superiors with 2 perfect scores and 4 excellent plus ratings.

The High School students held their final concert on Tuesday, April 17 in the auditorium. This was a pre-contest recital. This concert gave each student participating in the District Music Contest the opportunity to perform before a live audience prior to competing at the contest. DMC was held in Auburn, on Friday, April 20. The high school choir received an Excellent rating, just missing a superior by 1 point. They received a superior (10 points), an excellent (11 points) and an excellent (13 points) from the 3 judges. Ten points and lower are considered a superior rating. The choir sang quite well and the students were complimented on their professional look and manners on stage. Additional ratings at the contest were: Superior Vocal Solos: Robert Brill, Tristin Brill, Joey Morlan, Tyge Thomas; Excellent Vocal Solos: Kayden Tummons, Bobbi Ritzman, Kaylee Tighe; Good Vocal Solo: Chrystal Meyer; Superior Vocal Duets: Robert Brill & Kaylee Tighe; Tyge Thomas & Bobbi Ritzman; Superior Ensembles: Mens' Ensemble: Robert Brill, Tristin Brill, Kayden Tummons, Tyge Thomas, Trey Lamkins, Luke Meredith, Joey Morlan, David Meredith; Superior Mixed Ensemble: Bobbi Ritzman, Katrina Thomassen, Kaylee Tighe, Samantha Thomas, Brogan McDonald, Courtney Bockman, Robert Brill, Kayden Tummons, David Meredith, Trey Lamkins. It was a great day of music!!

## *Greater Southeast Nebraska Math Challenge*

By. Mr. Schliefert

We took three teams to the Greater Southeast Nebraska Math Challenge at Peru State College on March 16, 2018. Those teams were Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus. The students represented the school well. They took an individual test, team test, and competed in a quiz bowl. The results were:

Geometry Team (Peyton Barrett, Avery Heath, Kole Brack):

-3rd place team test

Avery Heath - 3rd place individual test

Algebra 2 Team (Lucas Buller, Wenli Bian, Cory Groleau):

-1st place team test

Wenli Bian - 1st place individual test

Lucas Buller - 3rd place individual test

Quiz Bowl semifinalists

Pre-Calculus Team (Marshall Garner, Michael Stackpole, Jayden Brammier):

Michael Stackpole - 2nd place individual test

Marshall Garner - 3rd place individual test

Quiz Bowl semifinalists

-2nd place team test

If you want to congratulate all these students I'm sure they'd appreciate it. We should all be proud of the effort they are giving in the classroom and the examples they are setting. The hard work and time they are putting in is paying off.

## **The Library Lowdown**

By. Mrs. Barrett

This week elementary students welcomed Mrs. Linda Behrns, Executive Director of Keep Cass County Beautiful, to the library. She came to share the Guest Reader Litter Prevention Program in honor of Earth Day 2018. Mrs. Behrns shared a different Earth Day themed book for each grade and followed up with age-appropriate discussion about how to prevent littering and take care of the Earth. First graders enjoyed listening to *I Can Save the Earth!: One Little Monster Learns to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle* by Alison Inches. What's not to love about an adorable, furry green monster's path to eco-consciousness? Fifth grade students joined in readers-theater style to explore *The Wartville Wizard* by Don Madden, and kindergarteners shadowed a day in the life of a garbage truck with *I Stink!* by Kate McMullan. One second grader felt a special kinship with her pirate-planet-protector namesake in *Look Out for Litter* by Lisa Bullard! *The Garbage Monster* by Joni Sensel challenged third graders to decipher a secret coded message, and *The Day the Trash Came Out to Play* by David M. Beadle encouraged fourth graders to practice the four "R"s of environmental activism: rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle. Mrs. Behrns raised questions about why people litter, offered practical solutions for kids to implement, and stressed the importance of reshaping behaviors. Students were highly engaged with discussion and several indicated intention to stage their own

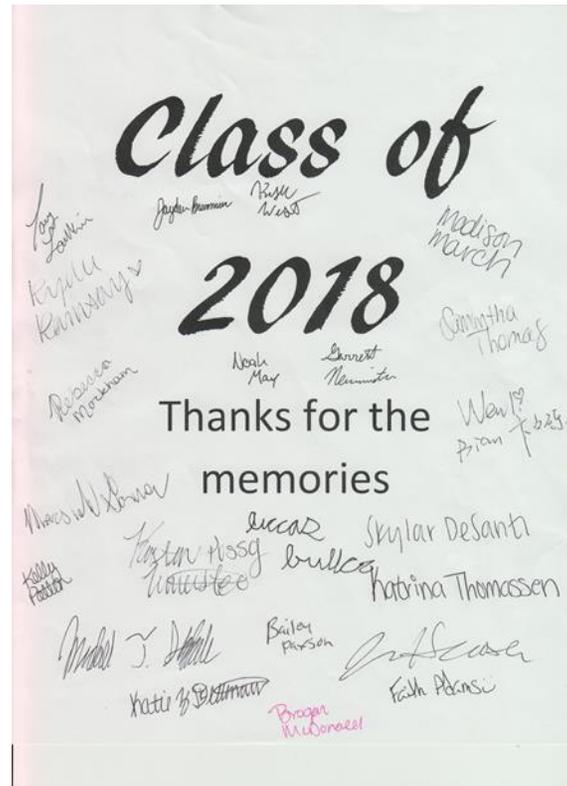
neighborhood cleanup, especially after having done so near the school with their own classmates. Indeed, the high school FBLA kids, too, served as positive examples of local participation in the Great American Cleanup 2018.

## **FBLA**

By. Mrs. Heinz

From April 5<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>, 19 members of the Weeping Water FBLA chapter were in Omaha at the State Leadership Conference taking tests, presenting projects and hoping for their chance to make it to National Leadership Conference. Students participated in tests from Accounting all the way to E-Business. Weeping Water had seven students make it to the National Leadership Conference in five different events! Junior David Meredith snagged a second-place trophy and a bid to nationals in Agriculture and E-business. Junior Ryan Smith was also able to get a second-place trophy and a bid to nationals in Help Desk. Seniors Tory Lamkins, Katie Dettmann and sophomore Tyge Thomas worked their way towards third and are going to nationals in Hospitality Management. Seniors Marshall Garner and Michael Stackpole are taking their Management and Decision Making skills to nationals as well. In addition, Marshall Garner and Jayden Brammier earned an Honorable Mention in Sports and Entertainment Management. Also receiving recognition were Noah May, Sammy Thomas and Kyle West for earning the "Leader" level of the Business Achievement

Awards. The FBLA National Leadership Conference is held June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Baltimore, Maryland. We send them all our luck!



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

