

THE CARDINAL'S CHIRP



ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOL
PO BOX 170
ALMA, NE 68920



VOL XXXVII, ISSUE NO. 5

February 2018

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT DAVIS

School Board Reorganized for 2018

At the January Board of Education Meeting the Board reelected Allen Brugh as president and Lori Tripe as vice-president. Janna Tripe was elected as treasurer and Dianna Melton reappointed as recording secretary. Board members were appointed to the following committees - Negotiations: Brett Hammond, Janna Tripe, Lori Tripe; Curriculum, Americanism and Staff Relations: Lori Tripe, Jerry Kovarik, Janna Tripe; Transportation and Facilities: Scott Prickett, Brett Hammond, Janna Tripe; and the Humpert Scholarship Advisory Committee Representative: Janna Tripe.

Election Time

The Primary and/or General Election deadline for filing for the Alma Board of Education's three seats is February 15, 2018, for incumbents and March 1, 2016, for non-office holders. If more than six candidates file for the three positions available, then the candidates will face off in the May Primary Election. If there are six or less candidates, all six will advance to the November General Election with the top three vote getters taking office in January 2019. The incumbents who are up for election are Brett Hammond, Jerry Kovarik, and Lori Tripe.

Mr. Galen Kronhofman retiring after 43 years.

After 43 years as an educator, Principal Galen Kronhofman has chosen to retire at the end of the school year. Mr. Kronhofman came to Alma in the fall of 1997, as a Physical Education teacher and head football coach and girls basketball coach. During the majority of that time Mr. Kronhofman has served as the school's Activities Director. In 2007, he was hired as the K-12 Principal and continued on as the school's Activities Director. Additional information on Mr. Kronhofman, his educational career, and retirement information will be featured in a future newsletter article. The search for a new principal is in progress and should be completed by mid-February. I personally would like to thank Mr. Kronhofman for his 43 years in education and especially the last 11 years as part of Alma Public School's administrative team. He will be missed.

If you have any specific questions that you would like answered in regards to school related issues, please contact me by calling the school at 308-928-2131 or send your question by email to jon.davis@almacardinals.org.

VLACH, WALDO, AND SMOLIK RECEIVE RPAC ART HONORS

The high school art students spent the first semester researching artists, media and techniques. Combine the research to the exploration of the students' individual interests in two dimensional art and the results are top-notch submissions to the RPAC Art competition.

The competition, which included every school from the East and West side of the conference, was held January 17, at Cambridge. Each school submitted up to 14 pieces. Four pieces were chosen from each school to travel around the conference.

Junior, Alissa Vlach received a Medal for her watercolor entitled, "Kasima, Beauty and Elegance". Junior Abigail Waldo received two honors. Her acrylic, "Pride" received 1st honorable mention and her acrylic "Bond" received 3rd honorable mention. Senior Emma Smolik recently joined art in January and worked diligently to complete a piece for submission to the competition. Her hard work was rewarded with 2nd honorable mention for her piece entitled, "The Space Man".

These four pieces are traveling in the RPAC show and will be on display in the Alma School Commons February 12-16, 2018.

Be sure to come see the show!
--Mrs. Ritter



ACT TEST IS THE STATE ASSESSMENT

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEST ANSWERED FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the Nebraska Department of Education chose the ACT to replace the NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability Assessment). This testing will continue this year with each 11th grader in the state taking the ACT test this spring. **Alma has elected to give the traditional paper/ pencil test to the class and then do any make up testing with the online version.** The State hopes that by having all Juniors take the ACT, they will be promoting a college going culture and perhaps open opportunities for our students that had previously not considered college as a post-high school option. Tuesday, April 3rd is the date for the ACT to be administered. **Please mark your calendars to ensure all Juniors are in school on this date. With this date falling directly after Easter break, it is imperative that juniors be in school that day and not have extended holiday breaks.**

Here are some questions that have been asked about the ACT:

FAQ:

Q: Will the students have to pay for the test?

A: No, this test will be provided free of charge.

Q: Will this score be a valid score to send to colleges?

A: Yes, the scores will be treated the same as any other National test date.

Q: Does my student need to register online?

A: No, the State plans to upload the student information to ACT based on the information the schools already provide them. Students will then have the opportunity to choose colleges where they want the scores reported.

Q: Where will the students test?

A: The students will test in Alma at the Johnson Center.

Q: When will they test?

A: April 3, 2018. The ACT requires that we start the test on-time so parents need to ensure their son/ daughter arrives to school on time the day of the test.

Q: What is different about the ACT than the NeSA?

A: This is a different test in many ways. The NeSA was an untimed, criterion referenced test where the ACT is a strictly timed, normed reference test. The NeSA was taken in segments over the course of several days and the ACT will be given in one setting on April 3rd. The subject areas are similar, students will take Reading, Math, English, Science Reasoning and Writing.

Q: How can my child prepare for the ACT?

A: There are multiple ways your child can prepare for the ACT. Here are several recommendations I have.

- The state will also be providing ACT prep through the ACT website itself. Each junior has taken one practice test utilizing this system. Students are encouraged to use this Online ACT Prep site and may also download the corresponding app to practice questions and strengthen their knowledge of each tested area.
- Utilize practice books that have been given to the students or additional practice books are available in my office.
- The school has access to John Baylor Test Prep which students are encouraged to utilize. They can email me or come talk to me about getting materials and an account login to use these videos and practice activities to prepare. There are two different programs. The Fundamental program is for students wanting to gain basic knowledge and preparation for the ACT using 8 video sessions, those shooting for a score in the 20s. The Traditional prep is for students fine tuning their knowledge of ACT material and aiming for a score of 30. These 12 sessions are faster paced.

Q: I can't afford the \$42.50 for my child to take the ACT but want them to test again besides the free test offered to all Juniors on April 3rd. Is there any way I can get help paying for this?

A: If you are eligible for the Free or Reduced Lunch program you are also eligible for a fee waiver to take the ACT two times per year! See Mrs. Biskup for these waivers.

Q: What happens if my child cannot take the ACT on April 3rd for an unavoidable reason?

A: Makeup testing will be available but it is discouraged due to the restrictions we are given by the ACT. ALL Juniors will be required to test.

Q: My child has an IEP. Will she be able to get accommodations on the test?

A: Yes, if accommodations are allowed in the student's IEP, those requests can be submitted for ACT for approval on the test. If approved by ACT as an allowable accommodation, such as extended time, the student will be tested separately from (go to page 3)
The Cardinal's Chirp

ACT from page 2

the group and given the appropriate accommodations. However, if the accommodations are not approved by ACT, the student can choose to get accommodations anyway and have the score become “not college reportable” or choose to take the test without accommodations so the scores can be used for college. Our first choice would be to try to obtain the approval for accommodations.

The teachers, administrators and I are working hard to help our students achieve success. We know any time we change tests or have a change of protocol the state passes down to us it sometimes takes a toll on all involved.

Previously the ACT has only been taken by those intending to go to college, specifically four-year colleges. Now all students, regardless of future plans will take this test. **As a district, we may see a drop in score averages due to the change in the inclusiveness of all students testing. However, we hope over time our preparation leads to increased scores for all students.** If you have questions about this new process or how else parents can help, please contact me at brittney.biskup@almacardinals.org.

ALMA MUSICIANS SELECTED FOR UNK HONOR GROUPS

Each year, the University of Nebraska at Kearney hosts an honor band/choral clinic. Students from schools all over Nebraska and Kansas audition for a spot in these groups.

The clinic this year was to be held Monday, January 22. The clinic features 3 choirs (honor choir, festival choir, women’s choir) and 2 bands (honor band, festival band). Seven Alma High School musicians auditioned for selection into the UNK Honor Band/Choral clinic. All seven were selected for the top ensemble.

Students selected from Alma were: Matthew Bell – Honor Choir, Diego Campos – Honor Choir, David Ehrke – Honor Choir, Christian Hansen – Honor Choir, Peyton McQuay – Honor Choir, Sadie Ritter – Honor Band, and Emma Smolik – Honor Choir.

The Cardinal’s Chirp

SPORTS NUTRITION CLASS OFFERS HEALTHY HABITS FOR STUDENTS’ FUTURES

Many people might not know what a Sports Nutrition class entails at a smaller school like Alma Public Schools. Sure, one might have taken a Nutrition class in college, but the benefits of a class like this during high school can be substantial for a group of students unprepared for nutrition and exercise expectations after they graduate. Offered during 1st period, Sports Nutrition is a class that centers around organizing student’s meal plans to help them become more successful in their athletic endeavors as well as their life after high school. A huge focus is what meals students should be eating/drinking before games, during games, and after games. The basic understanding of foods that are “healthy” compared to “unhealthy” is a huge objective during the school year, as well as how to shop for foods during your college years. Students have also learned how to cook meals high in carbohydrates, proteins, and “good fats” that will provide energy for optimal sports performance. A breakfast lab during the second semester highlights the importance of eating breakfast in order to adequately fuel one’s body for performance. Students are also able to visit Hy-Vee in Kearney and learn more about food labels, how to shop on a budget, and making enjoyable smoothies for nutritional gain.

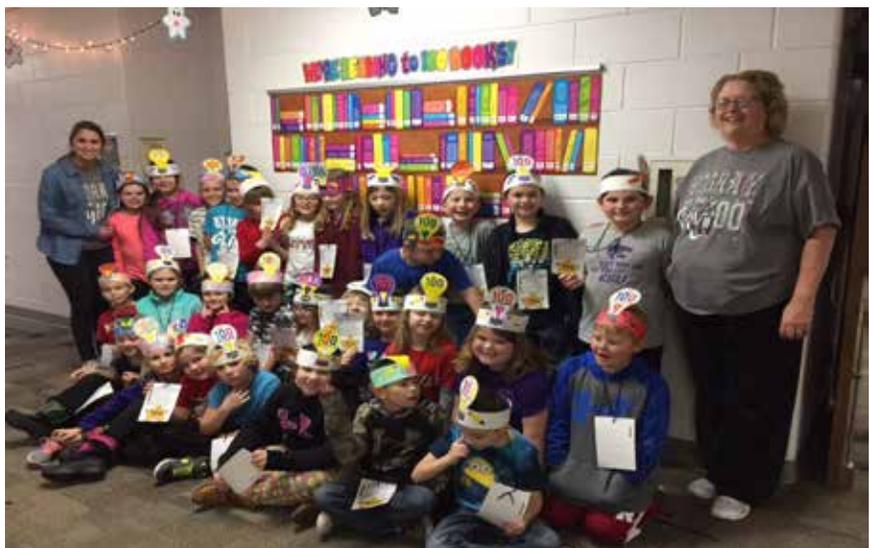
As these students’ teacher, I feel I have a huge responsibility to help students grasp even the most basic concepts of eating healthy and balancing one’s calories with adequate physical activity. The one concept I always tell my students is, “You eat every single day of your life, no matter your age. Food will constantly be an indicator of how healthy, happy, and productive you are as an individual. Why not understand the basics of food and exercise from a young age, and apply these basic tools that will enable you to have a happy and productive life?”
--Mr. Ehrke

SECOND GRADE CELEBRATES 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

January 24th was our 100th day of school! Both second grade classes joined together for a fun filled day with many activities. It was such an exciting day for the kids to celebrate learning for 100 days.

The second graders started the day off by making a 100th day breakfast. The students made crowns to wear around the school throughout the day that said they are 100 days brighter! They also enjoyed getting to read 100 books to the third grade class. Thank you to the third graders for all of their help! Later we wrote a little story about what it would be like if they were turning 100 years old.

The students were able to draw a picture of what they would look like and tell us 100 things they would want or not want. We ended our day making a trail mix with 100 pieces that went into it and doing several 100 piece puzzles. We had a wonderful day in second grade and can’t wait to learn more! --Ms. Nelson



FOURTH GRADERS TAKE ON MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Right before Christmas break, the fourth graders had to apply their detective skills and solve the Twelve Clues of Christmas. The students worked diligently with their trusty partner solving each clue and moving on to the next challenge. They used iPads to unlock QR codes which directed them to their next location.

The secret agents had to complete a task in order to collect a required item. The students did a fantastic job of sleuthing, from greeting Mr. Felix with a firm handshake and eye contact to exploring different types of fingerprints with Mrs. Christensen. Thanks to everyone that helped make this activity awesome!

With warm regards,
Warren January
(aka Mr. Ellis)



Cue up the “Mission Impossible Theme Song”

****Note: This article will not self-destruct in 30 seconds. Please continue reading.**

At Mrs. Hammond’s we wrote a haiku. A haiku is a poem that starts with 5 syllables, then 7 syllables, and ends with 5 syllables. By Sea Edge (aka Jaylea) and Cobra Magpie (aka Isabelle)

We had to sing a Christmas carol to Mrs. Fritz. We sang Jingle Bells. Mrs. Fritz rewarded us with a Little Debbie Christmas Tree. By Yellow White (aka Zane) and Chuck Abacus (aka Emma)

In Mrs. Howsden’s room, we drank pop with her and made snowflakes. By Tri Magpie (aka Abraham) and Winter Crux (aka Donna)

In Mrs. Radil’s class, we had our buddy sign are secret note pads. Next, we had to tell her a pronoun. Then we scanned a new clue sheet. By Fern Edge (aka Logan) and Cobra Corner (aka Ian)

We liked doing our fingerprints with Mrs. Christensen. We got a bottle of water (aka H₂O). by Silver Cell (aka Ryan) and Drop Tailor (aka William)

We really liked how Mrs. Schluntz let us check out a book. One of the books we checked out was a Magic Tree House book called Good Morning Gorillas. By East Crux (aka Nolan) and Main Achilles (aka Kaylan)

In Mrs. Wolfe’s room, we did a math problem. We liked doing the addition math problem. Thank you Mrs. Wolfe for letting us have fun. By One Edge (aka Parker) and Main Distance (aka Kallie)

In Mrs. Ehrke’s room, we did a word ladder. Then we got a candy cane! It was fun to go to her room. By White Call (aka Colten) and Sea Corner (aka Josa)

We had to shake Mr. Felix’s hand and get his autograph. We got to watch Josa giggle. It was so fun! By Green Kodak (aka Mason) and Main Distance (aka Kalea)

In Mrs. Lukas’ room, we wrote letters to Santa. Then we had to find the footprint with the next clue. Finally, we got a candy cane before we left. By White April (aka Cami) and Five Abacus (aka Tucker)

We started in Mr. Ellis’ room with the rules. When we finished, we returned to our room for the last clue. We got licorice! We got prizes, and we got to dress up like spies. By Chuck Magpie (aka Elizabeth) and Try Call (aka Aiden)

Note: All names were created using a Spy Code Name Generator to protect the identities of the agents. Each special agent was issued a clearance badge with photo identification and code name.

FIRST SEMESTER AND SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

*Denotes High Honor Roll

12th Grade

Erica Barwick	Q2/S1*
Matthew Bell	Q2*S1*
Madalyn Brugh	Q2/S1
Trevor Bruhn	S1
Madison Cervera	Q2*S1*
David Ehrke	Q2/S1
Jadyn Heckenlively	Q2/S1
Ty Heft	Q2*S1*
Kaleb Kindler	Q2/S1*
Hallie Prickett	Q2*S1*
Marc Ramirez Marco	Q2/S1
Janae Schluntz	Q2/S1
Emma Smolik	Q2*S1*
Carson Wolfe	Q2/S1

11th Grade

Jarod Asche	Q2/S1
Diego Campos Lendinez	Q2/S1
Hunter Dahlgren	Q2/S1*
Carter Davis	Q2/S1
Joseph Felix	Q2/S1*
Mitchell Gehrig	Q2/S1
Dakota Hughes	Q2/S1
Tanner Kauk	Q2/S1
Kelsey Kermmoade	Q2*S1*
Kayla Kindler	Q2*S1*
Kortnie Lennemann	Q2/S1
Jackson McKenzie	Q2/S1*
Peyton McQuay	Q2*S1*
Jayden Patterson	Q2/S1
Sadie Ritter	Q2/S1
Alissa Vlach	Q2*S1*
Abigail Waldo	Q2*S1*
Tiffany Wells	Q2*/S1

10th Grade

William Anderson	Q2*S1*
Ethan Baker	Q2/S1
Burke Boehler	S1
Abigail Cervera	Q2*S1*
Kyle Johnson	Q2/S1
Vladyslava Lobachevska	Q2/S1
Caitlyn Menze	Q2/S1
Daylan Russell	Q2*S1*



9th Grade

Tessa Bach	Q2/S1
Alex Barwick	S1
Karri Christensen	Q2*S1*
Colton Dahlgren	Q2*S1*
Maddie Ehrke	Q2*S1*
Zach Halbert	Q2/S1
Andrew Russell	Q2/S1
Ehren Smolik	Q2*S1*
Teagan White	Q2/S1
Haylee Wing	Q2/S1

8th Grade

Kaylee Baker	Q2/S1*
Abigail Fox	Q2/S1*
Nakayla Hock	S1
Grant McQuay	Q2*S1*
Jessica Pfeil	Q2/S1
Kendall Stemper	Q2/S1*
Jason Stenka	Q2/S1
Carlee Stuhmer	Q2*S1*

7th Grade

Linden Biskup	Q2*S1*
Lili Brown	Q2/S1
Ryan Brugh	Q2/S1
Wyatt Hammond	Q2/S1*
Ryan Kermmoade	Q2/S1
Addison Neal	Q2*S1*
Kathryn Prickett	Q2*S1*
Delaney Seyler	Q2*S1*
Torrance Tischner	Q2/S1
Jack Waldo	Q2/S1

REMINDER!
WINTER BREAK
2:00 DISMISSAL ON THURSDAY, FEBRU-
ARY 15
NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

