



March 2010

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News from Mr. Rodemeyer:

So far, as of this writing, we have had 10 snow days !!! I have been in education for 34 years, and have never experienced this type of winter, or this number of snow days. But once it turns, we will certainly appreciate the green grass and spring weather. Never again, will I ever complain about mowing grass.

As for making up snow days, yes, the state of Iowa mandates that school districts make up days missed to inclement weather, and this can be done a variety of ways. One way is to simply tack the days on at the end of the year. Another way is to find days in the calendar that have been selected as vacation days and use those as make up days, such as Easter vacation or spring breaks. Another way is to use time and add minutes to the day. This can be at the start of the day or at the end of the day or a combination of both.

The state of Iowa has ruled, should you decide to add time to the day, the minimum you can add is 30 minutes. In order to make up one day of school, you would have to add 30 minutes to 11 days of school. That means to make up two days you'd need to add 30 minutes to your day for 22 days in a row and so forth.

Some schools are already adding minutes and some have already made some days up. Our plan (so far) will be to use April 6 which was originally scheduled for Easter break and then add 4 days at the end of May. That still leaves us with 5 more days to make up. We wanted to wait until deciding on those remaining days, just in case we got some more weather related cancellations. Hopefully, this coming March we will make a decision and give students and parents enough time to plan accordingly. Basically, we have three options. We could add days to the calendar in June, add minutes to the day, or a combination of both. Again, we are discussing these options and will let you know ASAP.

We have just completed our site visit from the Department of Education and we will be getting their report concerning things that we need to change, comply with according to state mandates, or areas which they suggest we target for improvement. Every school in Iowa has a site visit every five years and it just happens to be our turn this year.

Let's all think spring and maybe our combined power will convince whom ever is in charge to give us a break and begin the thawing process.

-Brian Rodemeyer



Due to Snow Days -



***the end of the 3rd Quarter for Jr./Sr. High will be moved to Friday, March 26, 2010
Classes will be held on Tuesday, April 6th and also on May 25th, 26th, 27th & 28th.***

“Parenting is Prevention” - a powerful evening parents won't want to miss!

By Milton Creagh - Emmy Nominated Motivational Speaker

Monday, March 1, 2010 - Garner-Hayfield High School Auditorium

Families Welcome

A Note Concerning School Board Meetings

Ventura School Board conducts their regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. These meetings begin at 7:15 p.m. and are held in the Elementary Media Center.

All regular meetings are open to the public, however if you wish to be on the agenda, you must contact the School Board Secretary the Wednesday prior to the meeting you wish to attend and state your reason for wanting on the agenda.

-Nancy Watson, School Board Secretary



Counselor's Corner:

Greetings from Guidance!

March is here and it's going to be a busy month. On **Monday March 1**, we will be taking a field trip with all junior and senior students to the **2010 Hancock County Career Fair**. There is also a parent event at 7 p.m. where Milton Creagh, a nationally known speaker will address parents on child development. I have heard good reports on this presentation and plan on attending myself. I would encourage you to as well.

On **Tuesday, March 9**, 6:30-8:00 p.m. there is a **college fair** hosted at Belmond-Klemme High School Gym. This college fair is intended for juniors. Approximately 50 college reps and three military reps are scheduled to attend. U of I, UNI, Iowa State, and NIACC have presentation times as well. This would be a great opportunity for you to do some initial college exploration with your son/daughter in one place w/o having to travel all over the state!

On **Wednesday, March 10** all juniors will be taking a **field trip** to area businesses. In conjunction with NIACC and Iowa Workforce Development students will visit area businesses in the areas of Info Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience and more. I believe this will be an excellent opportunity to expose students to wide field of work environments that they probably don't even know exist in north Iowa! Students will also attend a presentation on College/Workplace readiness at NIACC.

Some additional tidbits:

Juniors/Junior parents: Consider arranging an on campus college. This might be something you would want to consider arranging after the college fair at Belmond.

Seniors/Senior parents: Keep checking the web page for updated information on scholarships. Many deadlines are in the month of April.

-Mr. Stan Newton, Guidance Counselor & Tech Support

**Check your lunch account balance, grades, attendance - even assignments on
JMC Parent Access!
Contact the school office to get set up TODAY!**



HOT LUNCH NEWS

Our Hot Lunch Program is a computerized system with each student having a "lunch account" that money is deposited into. As the students eat each day the cost of the meal and any extras are deducted from the account. Costs are listed below - but please remember that many students DO eat EXTRAS and this depletes their lunch money quicker!

Breakfast = \$1.35 Lunch = \$2.00 Extras = \$.25 - \$.75

Please pay ahead by sending money regularly for your lunch account. This will help keep your account with a positive balance. If you think you might qualify for free or reduced lunches there is a form provided in this newsletter or you can call me for an application. The guidelines are quite generous and it helps the school qualify for reimbursements and additional funding for early childhood programs. It is completely confidential for you and your student. Not even the people entering lunch data can tell who is free or reduced.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school by note, phone (829-4484) or email (npeterson@venturaschools.org). THANKS! -Nan



300

This was the title for a popular movie that was shown in movie theaters just a year or two ago. Although this movie was not entirely historically accurate, it allowed for a springboard of ideas from the students as they dove into the discussion. Many students were aware of who Leonidis and Xerxes were, as well as the fact they lead the Spartans and Persians in an epic battle, "The Battle of Thermopylae". This battle was one of a complex series of superior military maneuvers made by the Greeks. The 300 represents the 300 strongest and mightiest soldiers Sparta produced to take on thousands of Persians on land in the Thermopylae pass. Themistocles, the leader of Athens and the brains behind the military strategies, lead the sea battles against the Persians. The victory by the Greeks allowed the democracy created by Athens to continue. If the Persians had won, democracy would have been wiped out. *Thanks to Scott Carpenter, our night custodian and history buff*, the students were able to view "The Last Stand of the 300" - The Legendary Battle of Thermopylae, produced by the History Channel. This made for an intense and exciting learning experience for the students. This does make one wonder if we will ever have the superior commitment to military intelligence that the Greeks had.

If you have a freshman student in World History class, I encourage you to ask them about this time in history. In most cases you will be impressed by their level of interest and understanding.

-Mr. Ziesmer, Very Proudly a Ventura Teacher



STUDENT COUNCIL BLOOD DRIVE

On MONDAY, MARCH 29TH during Parent Teacher Conferences, the Student Council will be conducting it's second BLOOD DRIVE this year at the high school in Ventura. It will run from 2:00 until 6:00. PLEASE help us reach our goal for blood. You can either call Mrs. Ziesmer (563-542-2344) to schedule a time or talk with any Student Council Member. The Student Council Members will be calling past donors to schedule appointments.

Student Council Members are: Blair Berhow-Goll, Amber Smith, Jadya Byers, Chelsea Mathews, Andrea Toppin, Kiana Cullinan, Kaitlyn Chizek, Alex Young, Zach Reyerson, and Alysha Clevenger.

Thanks

-Mrs. Z

P.E. News



The physical education department is looking for any old/used tennis racquets that anyone might be willing to donate to the P.E. program. If you have any around the house that you no longer need or want, we would be glad to take them off your hands. Just drop them off at the school or send them with your child. It would be greatly appreciated. Hope everything is going well as the warm days of spring are just around the corner.

Thanks, Mr. Kruckenberg



Elementary News:

Ventura Elementary Fundraiser

The Ventura Elementary students will be conducting a fundraiser March 9th –March 22nd. Items such as pizza, cookie dough, soup and coffee will be offered. The items ordered will be available for pick up at the elementary building during conferences on Monday, March 29th. Watch for information packets in your child bag on the 9th.

The money raised from this fundraiser helps fund elementary programs such as The Accelerated Reader Program along with admissions to NIACC performances. Please help support us by ordering or stop in the elementary office to place an order.

THINK (Ventura's Talented & Gifted Program)

Congratulations! to the FPS (Future Problem Solvers) who participated in the State Qualifying Problem #3. Six teams, five Juniors & 1 Middle, plus 5 parents, got up extra early on a school day to load up on a special bus to Forest City on Friday, January 29th, 2010. Their topic was about Orphaned Children, and these students used their problem solving skills to write in their packets for two hours – identifying challenges, selecting an underlying problem, producing solutions, selecting and applying criteria, and developed an action plan to help with the 12,000 children living in Largo Park in Recife (pronounced Ray-see-fee), Brazil, in the year 2063. These FPS packets have been sent to evaluators to judge, and we should know the results during the week of March 8th. GOOD LUCK to Ventura's fine teams! After the writing was done, each team created a skit to demonstrate their action plan. I am pleased to announce that Ventura brought home three trophies from their skits. ☺ **3rd Place Skit Winners at the Middle School Level** (which is very difficult at a higher level) is our team of Madison Benzing, Emma Hall, Mikah Millard, and Jordan Nelson. **3rd Place Skit Winners at the Junior – B Level:** Nick Joynt, Will Kirschbaum, Tyler Obermann, and Alex Stadlander. **1st Place Skit Winners at the Junior – A Level:** Megan Jones, Carlie Knutson, Alexander Palmer, and Parker Schnieders.

I am proud of the efforts of all the FPS students who participated and hope they continue to STATE! The State FPS topic is Food Distribution, and will be at ISU in Ames on April 9th & 10th. Stay tuned for more information!

Congratulations! to Parker Schnieders, who will represent Ventura at the annual Invention Convention at the Southbridge Mall on Tuesday, March 2nd. His invention is called the Garden Guide, and should help to have an organized and weed-free garden.

3rd Grade THINK Students are studying Action-Based Problem Solving, and are using the Fairytale of Baby Bear's Dilemma.

4th Grade THINK Students are studying a unit on Leadership.

5th Grade THINK Students are beginning research on Careers.

6th Grade THINK Students have begun their Pizzathon unit, where they create a new pizza!

Dr. Seuss Day is Tuesday, March 2nd!

Grab a hat and read with the cat! We will celebrate the 13th annual READ ACROSS AMERICA literacy event on 3-2-10, by wearing red, black, & white. Bring your favorite Dr. Seuss book to read and celebrate the birthday of this author who loved children and wanted reading to be fun for them. Also, it is the 20th anniversary of the book, Oh, the Places You'll Go! It'll be a fun day for all as readers, young & the young at heart, can read books with fascinating settings, both realistic and imaginary. Let's all have fun!



Elementary News:

First Grade News

Finishing up geometry and starting to take on fractions in our math.

In our 4th reading book we will be reading more and more of the materials by ourselves using the reading skills we have been taught.

Readng stories out loud to our classmates has been fun and it also has been helping us with our fluency skills.

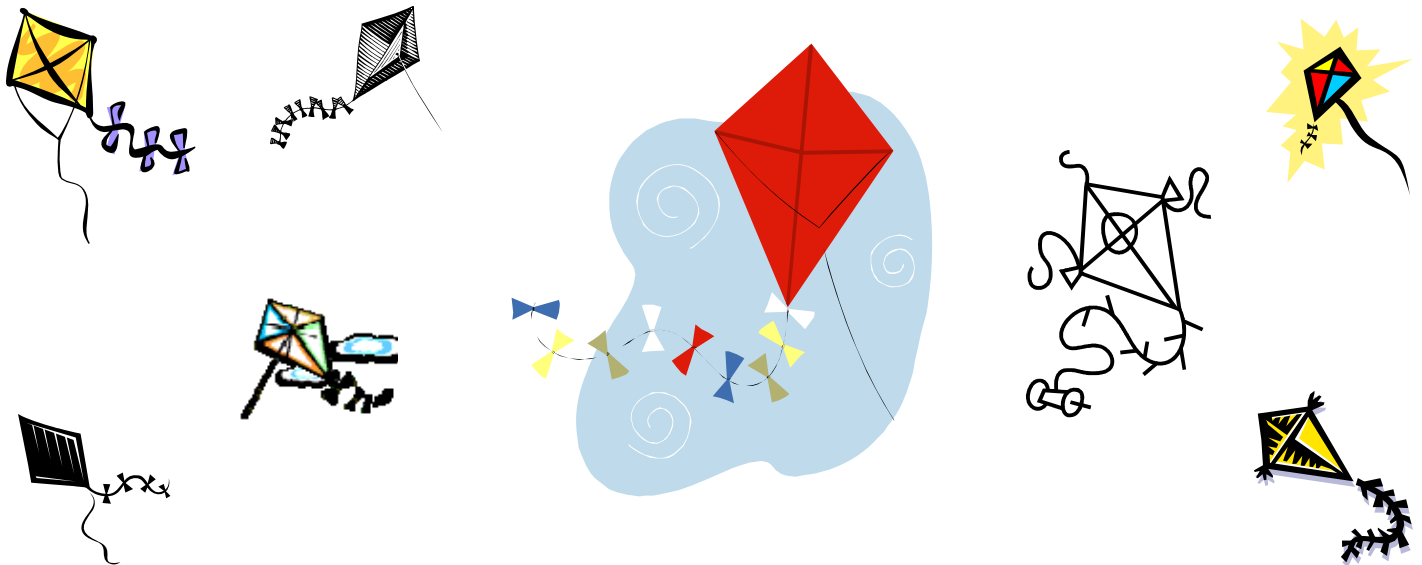
Seuss Day is coming (March 2). Read your favorite Seuss book with someone you love!

Time to start watching for those first signs of spring! Also, remember to start planning for Parent-Teacher conferences this month. They are scheduled for March 29th from 4-8 and again on March 31st from 4-8.

Think spring,

-Mrs. Fey and Her First Graders

1st



We have exciting news from the elementary art room. The artwork of thirteen of our students has been chosen to be displayed at the Clear Lake Art Center during the month of March. Congratulations go to Lizabeth Richardson, Ryan Hackenmiller, Rebecca Jones, Macey Spilman, Brady Hess, Ashley Markla, Parker Schnieders, Jeremy Soderberg, Sarah Gray, Todd Finley, Alix Britt, Chris Harris, and Alysia Kramer.

This student exhibit will feature the artwork of K-12 students from several North Iowa area schools. This is always an excellent art show and I hope everyone will have the opportunity to view the exceptional artwork of our area students. Hours for the Clear Lake Art Center are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. In addition, a reception will be held at the art center for the students, their families, and friends on Saturday, March 6th from 1 to 3 pm.

Again, congratulations to all of our Ventura Elementary art students!

-Mrs. Kappmeyer, Elementary Art



March 2010



School Cancellations/Delays/Early Dismissals

Whenever we will have a late start or early release due to weather, please listen to the radio and/or television. We try to contact stations **KGLO (1300 AM / 93.9 FM), KLSS (106.1 FM / 1490 AM / 102.7 FM), KIMT (Ch. 3), KIOW (107.3 FM) and KJCY (95.5 FM)** as soon as possible.

Please use these sources of information instead of calling the school in the morning. If certainty of weather allows me to, I will try to notify the media the night before and delay or cancellation. However, if it does not, I'm on the road in the morning between 5:00 and 5:30 AM and try to make a decision related to a delay or cancellation around 6:00 AM.

Early Dismissal: We try to have at least 2 hours notice for our families if we are dismissing early. So if we are going to dismiss at 1:00 PM. We try to make the notification before 11 AM and so on. We will announce to students and staff when we know.

Parents of young children: have your "snow plan" in place. Where do your elementary children go if you're at work? Do you want your junior high student to ride home with his senior brother, or ride the bus? Will the house be unlocked, or should the kids go to the neighbor's? It is important that all students know the "emergency" plan. Our goal is that all students arrive safely at whatever destination you have selected, so neither of us has to worry about a student's whereabouts.

P.O. Box 18
Ventura, IA 50482
High School - 641-829-4484
Fax - 829-3995
Elementary - 641-829-4482
Fax - 829-3906

Email - (name)@venturaschools.org





We're on the Web!
www.ventura.k12.ia.us

Bus Riding Changes



Please call the bus barn 829-4448 if you have changes in your routine. Call Redeemer Daycare 829-3615 if you ride that bus and have a change or during school hours you may call the Elementary Office at 829-4482. We are no longer taking calls in the High School office.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Dates/Items change on the master school calendar - please check the monthly newsletter calendar. 
- Gym Use/Availability for activities should be checked out through Nan Peterson, Administrative Assistant
- Long distance phone calls need to be limited from the school office. Please make appointments and social arrangements outside of school hours. 

Some Things to Remember:

- *7th-12th graders need to bring their own school supplies. We do not provide pencils, paper, etc. for them.
- *Please be sure to let the office know if your address, phone numbers, email, etc. change through-out the school year so staff are able to reach you.
- *The Superintendent & Board Secretary may be reached at the Elementary Building: Phone # 641-829-4482

Post Prom Parent Meeting

Sunday, March 7th at 5pm High School Commons.

All Junior parents are invited to come!

THANKS!

CALENDAR CHANGES/UPDATES:

- Monday, March 1st - Parenting is Prevention Seminar @ Garner
- Tuesday, March 2nd - Dr. Suess Day
- Monday, March 15th - Girl's Track @ ISU Indoor
- Tuesday, March 23rd - Girl's Track @ UNI Indoor
- Friday, March 26th - End of 3rd Quarter
- March 29th - Student Council Blood Drive 2-6 PM HS Gym
- Tuesday, April 6th - Classes will be held
- Friday, April 30th & Saturday, May 1st - Spring Play
- May 25th, 26th, 27th & 28th - Classes will be held



Please check the school website for any other changes due to scheduling and winter weather!!