



New Underwood School Newsletter

**New Underwood School District 51-3
PO Box 128
New Underwood, SD 57761**

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**From The Administrative Office Of
Dr. Julie A. Ertz, Supt./Elem. Prin.**

March: in like a lamb....out like a lion....or vice versa. I don't know about anyone else, but I am READY for some warmer weather! It would be nice to get some of the snow banks melted. However, we will have to be ready for built in swimming pools then too with all of the snow still piled around.

DARE graduation will be held following our third quarter awards ceremony which will be March 25th at 9:00am. We hope you will join us. Parents of fifth graders are invited for coffee and cake following the ceremony.

March 25th marks our next parent teacher conference. School will be dismissed at 1:30pm with conferences scheduled from 2-8pm. Supper hours for the staff are 5:00-6:00 for elementary and 5:30-6:30 for high school so please try and avoid coming during those times to allow our staff a break. We do encourage you to come in and visit with your child's teacher/s. Your involvement is valued.

Congratulations to the fourth and second grade classes for being recognized to receive the golden trash can award during January and February.

Staff have been busy reviewing a new science curriculum for adoption for next year. We have invited publishers in to present their product to staff for review. The month of March will bring three publishers for staff to listen to. We continue to work with a five year cycle and science is the content area for adoption for next year.

With the end of February and into March comes tournament play for our basketball athletes. We hope you were able or will be able to join us during the districts and beyond, should we be able to advance. Don't forget to move your clocks ahead at midnight on March 14th too! If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, be sure to give me a call at 754-6485 or email me at Julie.ertz@k12.sd.us.

Dr. Ertz, Supt./Elem. Prin.

Non-Discrimination

The New Underwood School District 51-3 does not discriminate on the basis of race or color, national origin, gender, disability, age, religion and creed, or marital status, in admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. For inquiries concerning the district's compliance with Title VI or Title IX please contact Julie Ertz, Superintendent, Box 128, New Underwood, SD, 57761, (605) 754-6485. Inquiries concerning Section 504 or the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) acts contact Rebecca Hale, JH/HS Principal, Box 128, New Underwood, SD, 57761, (605) 754-6485. For further inquiries contact the Regional Director, Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 10220 North Executive Hills Boulevard, 8th Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, 64153-1367, telephone (816) 880-4200, TDD (816) 891-0552, or Fax (816) 891-0644. (Forms are available for submitting grievances.).



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



From the desk of Rebecca Hale, 7-12 Principal

It is almost time again for the students to take their annual standardized testing in the spring. We really need the support of you, the parents, in encouraging our students to take the testing seriously and to prepare for it. We are actually preparing your student every day when they come to school and are instructed in their classes and assigned homework. When a student listens in class, interacts with the teacher and other students, and does the assigned homework – they are learning. That experience not only prepares them for their future, but our spring testing as well. Help us to help your student by encouraging them to do the best they can every day.

We have tentatively set the dates for testing on March 29th, 30th, and 31st. We will be testing grades 7-11. The seniors will have regular classes. Here are some tips to help your student do their best;

- See that your student gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
- Make sure your student eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
- Encourage your student to listen carefully to all test-taking directions by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.
- Encourage your student to do his/her best.
- The most important way to improve your student's academic performance is to be supportive and reflect a positive outlook about test-taking and school in general.

Our testing in the spring gives our students an opportunity to showcase what they know and have learned. It is a way we can measure what we are offering our students academically and how they are achieving. It helps us in pointing out areas that we need to improve in our educational program.

Attn. Seniors

Senior Pictures are due at the School Office No Later than March 18th. These should include a baby picture, childhood picture and senior picture. These will be used for the Graduation ceremony, presentations and the Yearbook. Digital pictures are best but if you bring in any printed pictures, they will be scanned and returned to you. Please turn them into Jenn in the Office or to Mr. Broomfield in the Computer Lab.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are March 25, 2010, school will be dismissed at 1:30PM. JH/HS conferences are open from 2:00-5:30 and 6:30-8:00. Elementary conferences will be individually scheduled. Watch for a note coming home in your student(s) tiger folder with your conference time. We hope to see you all there as it is a wonderful opportunity to meet the teachers and discuss your student(s) progress.

Booster Club News

Congratulations to Teri Heavlin for placing 3rd in the goat tying at the 20X rodeo during the Black Hills Stock Show. Good luck to our rodeo team in their upcoming season.

Good luck to the girls and boys basketball teams in districts. We fed both teams prior to their first district games. We also provided snacks to the basketball teams for the Bison games.

We have finished our 3-point shot contest for the season. We would like to thank Terry Silbernagel for his donation of pop for this.

We are working on some new logo designs for clothing so be watching for those.

Please watch the school daily announcements for our next meeting date and time.



This month in Kindergarten . .

We will continue writers' workshop during our language arts lessons. Look for your child's book coming home in the Tiger folder each week. We will continue our weekly spelling words learning a new word family each week. We will read and learn about fairy tales this month in reading. In math, we will learn how to create graphs and record information. We will start a new science unit about animals and continue our social studies chapter about the economy and workers in our country. Watch for fun projects coming home in your child's Tiger folder!

--Mrs. Bengel

FYI

- We will be celebrating the 100th day of school this month
- Early dismissal at 1:30 pm Thursday, March 25th for parent teacher conferences from 2:00-8:00 pm





This document is available in alternate formats upon a 5 working day request. Examples of alternate formats include: Braille, large print, tape, etc. Please contact Rebecca Hale at 754-6485 to make a request.

College Financial Information Night

Junior/Senior Parents and Students: there will be a financial education night Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 5:30 in Mrs. Scott's classroom. We will discuss financial aid, scholarships and what to expect when college approaches. Please contact Mrs. Thompson if you have questions at 605-754-6485.

Counselor Corner

If you have questions or concerns about your child's academic, behavioral, or emotional needs, please feel free to stop in or call Mrs. Thompson at 754-6485.

We will begin the Dakota Step Testing March 29.

Testing is sometimes a stressful time for students. It is a change in their daily routine. There are ways to help your student feel prepared and ready to tackle these very important tests. Make sure your student is at school every day; this will provide the knowledge to be successful of the test. Have your student eat a good breakfast in the morning so they are alert and feeling well. Sleep is important, an early bedtime and plenty of rest leading up to the test will increase their alertness. These are just a few simple adjustments that will assist your student in being successful in their test taking skills.

Music Notes...

Preparations for spring concerts, contests, and band tour are well under way for all grades in the music department. Elementary students have previewed their two-part concert, the first being about "positive character" and the second about "humor" all done in songs, skits, classroom music instruments, band accompaniment. All 3rd-6th grade students will have a minimum of a short speaking part, and the selection process is under-way for soloists, skit actors, and other meaningful parts in the concert. 7th-12th grade musicians will perform some of the planned Pops Concert music as well as other varieties of standard music in the Spring.

We would like to thank those who had expressed interest in attending our Pops Concert this year, however with low overall student participation, time to prepare the music, and not many pre-auctioned tables, the involved students decided that other fundraisers would be enough for this year. We hope to have more student involvement and community-wide support for a Pops Concert next year. Band will soon be selling Little Caesar's pizza kits--see any band member for more information. Eligible students in JH/HS band and their chaperones will be off to St. Louis from Wednesday evening April 7 through Sunday afternoon April 11.

As a correction to an earlier announcement, JH/HS band contest is on Thursday, April 29 in Rapid City and after having a "master" class in St. Louis, we should score well this year! A 5th-8th grade vocal and band, solo and ensemble music contest is also scheduled for Saturday, April 17, at Hill City. This is a super opportunity for our developing musicians to get additional tips and help with their abilities, despite it's not being on a school day. I view music contests as a way for me to see what I can do to improve as a teacher of these students, very similarly to how most teachers view Dakota Step and other current tests. Please encourage your children to attend these contests and to do their very best!

Board of Education Meetings

The 2009-2010 meeting dates for the regular Board of Education will continue to be held in the lunch room beginning at 6:30pm on the third Monday of each month, unless otherwise determined by the Board. Following are the meeting dates:

March 15th
 April 19th
 May 17th
 June 21st

News from the PTO...

Last month we held a bake sale on the 12th.

This month we will be having a luncheon during teacher in-service on the 5th, helping with Read Across America Week, and supplying snacks and water for those grades doing Step Testing.

Our next meeting is March 22 at 6:30. We will be discussing Summer Elks movie tickets, Field Day, and Scholarship Applicants.