



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER  
NEWSLETTER

## Reminder for Senior Parents from Mrs. Helberg

The senior research paper is due Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> by 1:00 P.M. Absolutely no exceptions! Each student has selected their topic and has started writing their paper. Every two weeks there will be a check point for the students. This is an opportunity for me to see their progress and make suggestions along the way. I encourage parents to read their child's paper. The more eyes that look over the paper before the final due date, the better. However, it is important to remember that the student needs to write the paper, not the parents. The senior research paper is worth a large portion of your child's final grade, so it is vital that parents are aware and up to date on their child's progress. If anyone has questions or concerns about the research paper please feel free to contact me by email at [meg.helberg@gmail.com](mailto:meg.helberg@gmail.com) or by phone at 308-346-4150. Thank you for being supportive of your senior!

Mrs. Megan Helberg.

## Burwell Elementary Wins National Award

When You Do Good Things, Good Things **DO** Happen! This fall it was announced that Burwell Elementary School was one of 286 schools across the United States to be honored as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2013. We are one of five Nebraska schools to receive this distinction: Wisner-Pilger Elementary School, Wakefield Elementary, Ord Elementary, St. Patrick's Catholic School-Elkhorn, and Burwell Elementary. Talk about Good things happening, WOW!

The award process began with a request from the U.S. Department of Education for nominations from the top educational official in every state. Burwell Elementary was nominated by the Nebraska State Department of Education in November, 2012. The application was completed and sent in February, 2013 with the application being accepted in April, 2013 and on September 24th, Burwell Elementary was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School.

The 286 schools fall into one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments (NeSA tests). The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40% of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments. We are in the first of these categories, "Exemplary High Performing."

The Burwell community is a large part of this award! Without Burwell's continual support with time and resources, the elementary students would not have been able to perform at the level that they did. Elementary Principal Gordon Goodman said, "There are 98,817 public schools in the United States. Our elementary school is in the top 286 across the nation. This is a huge honor for our students, staff, and community. We truly are the best of the best. And when WE did good things---Good things happened!"

## October 2013 Newsletter

### Counselor's Corner *by Miss Tetschner*

The school year is off to a great start and much has happened in the first few weeks. I am still learning names and faces, but the students have been very welcoming. I have several mini-lessons planned for the year for the 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and I'm eager to visit their classrooms and get to know them better.

**Junior High School:** Many junior high students have a difficult time adjusting to the academic responsibilities and the new atmosphere of the high school building. There are several dependable students that have volunteered to tutor and offer suggestions on how to better adjust to the expectations of junior high school. If you think your son/daughter could benefit from a one-on-one session, please contact me.

**7-11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** In the first quarter of school I will meet with each grade, 7-11, to discuss their academic career, academic planning, transcripts, test scores, etc... and how that all works together and a holistic picture of them as an academic student. I strongly believe the more informed students are in regards to their academic status, what colleges and scholarship committees look for, and employers consider, the more students comprehend the importance of a quality education and the seriousness of their studies.

**College Fairs:** Any student in grades 9-12 can attend a college fair, especially juniors and seniors. This is a quick, easy way to gather a lot of information in a one-stop trip. To get the most out of a college fair here are some tips:

1. Visit [www.NebraskaCollegeFairs.org](http://www.NebraskaCollegeFairs.org) to register for a barcode. Take the barcode to the college fair so college reps can scan it and you won't need to complete a student information card at every college booth you visit.
2. View participating colleges and see who will be at the college fair at [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org).
3. Arrive early so you can visit all the colleges that interest you.
4. Stop by the EducationQuest booth to get free college planning materials and for a bag to collect college view books.
5. Come prepared with questions for the college reps:
  - What are admissions requirements and deadlines?
  - Does the school offer academic programs that meet my interests?
  - What is the cost of tuition and fees, room and board?
  - How do I apply for college-based scholarships?
  - What are the housing options?
  - What student activities can I get involved in?
6. Attend a financial aid program offered during the College Fair.

7. If you decide a college isn't for you, contact that college and ask them to take you off their mailing list – this saves you from unwanted mail.

**College Fair Dates:**

**October 6 – Tri-State College Fair** Marian Center – South Sioux City 12:30 pm-3:00 pm

**October 13 – Scottsbluff/Gering Area College Fair** Gering Civic Center 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

**October 20 – Omaha Area College Fair** UNO – Sapp Fieldhouse 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

**October 27 – Lincoln Area College Fair** Lincoln – Southeast Community College 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

**College Reps:** Any student 9-12 can stop by to visit with College Reps that come visit our school and students can gather information. Colleges are in the process of calling to schedule a College Rep appointment. Please keep posted on college visitors in the daily bulletin, emails, and posters in the hallways. Take the opportunity to meet with these college reps, ask questions, and gather information. All college reps are scheduled during Encore time in the library.

**College Rep Dates (so far);**

**October 15 – La'James International College (cosmetology)**

**Juniors:** It's not too early for juniors to start gathering information from colleges they are interested in. It's also not too early for juniors to start going on college visits. A campus visit is a great way to get a good feel for the college and the atmosphere, as well as ask questions and get admission and financial aid information. Setting up a college visit is as easy as a phone call or a click to register online.

Juniors received their ASVAB results on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from Sgt. Tim McCaslin of the Army National Guard. Please ask your son/daughter to see their results.

Juniors who are looking at a 4-year college are encouraged to take the ACT Test at least once their junior year. The ACT Test score is used for college admission and scholarship purposes. Most colleges only take the ACT Test through December of their senior year, so taking the ACT Test early their junior year is important. For more information go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or stop by my office. Some juniors are taking advantage of the ACT Academy and learning tips and tools about taking the ACT Test through John Baylor.

Juniors who are looking at a 2-year college are encouraged to take the COMPASS test at least once their junior year. This test is used for academic placement their freshman year of college, scholarship dollars, and admission to certain programs. To take the COMPASS at CCC in Ord contact Crystal Ramm [crystalramm@cccneb.edu](mailto:crystalramm@cccneb.edu) or call 308-728-3299. Also junior who plan to attend a 2-year school should apply NOW as programs tend to fill up fast. It is better to be on a waiting list now, than to have to wait a semester or year after you graduate from high school to get in. Stop by my office and I can help you.

**Seniors:** Thank you to the seniors and senior parents for your participation in the senior parent meeting. Please remind your son/daughter to return the needed information to me ASAP if you haven't already done so. Parents, if you missed the meeting and would like up-to-date information that comes through my office, please send me your email address to [jtetschner@esu10.org](mailto:jtetschner@esu10.org).

Go Visit!!! Seniors if you haven't been on a college visit to your top college choices, go!!! It is important that you get on campus to get a feel for the college and its atmosphere, as well as ask questions.

Apply for admissions. Senior it is important to apply early for college admissions. If you are interested in a two-year program apply ASAP as some programs fill up fast. Please apply to your top college choices by the end of October. Once you apply the college will send you an acceptance letter and other information about scholarships, etc... but you must apply to get the process started.

Complete your Academic/Activities Resume. When you have completed a draft of your academic/activities resume, please give me a copy to edit and offer suggestions. Remember this one page piece of paper is your first impression to scholarship committees.

**Important Dates:**

**October 16** – PSAT Test for juniors who registered

**November 8** – ACT Test registration deadline for Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> test

**November 11** – Financial Aid Presentation by EducationQuest at 6:30 pm for Juniors and Seniors and their parents in the library

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** – Spring registration starts for the ACE Scholarship for students taking college credit classes

## **Junior and Seniors To Do List:**

Attend College Fairs  
Go on College Visits  
Get involved in school and community activities  
Register for ACT Tests  
Look for scholarships  
Apply to colleges  
Stay informed:

- Read the daily bulletin
- Email – check your emails daily
- PARENTS – of juniors and seniors who would like instant messages of important information that comes through my office, please share our email address with me. Simply send me an email: [jtetschner@esu10.org](mailto:jtetschner@esu10.org)

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- PSAT TEST FOR JUNIORS WHO REGISTERED: OCTOBER 16, 2013
- FALL CONCERT: OCTOBER 29, 2013
- FALL BREAK: NOVEMBER 1, 2013
- PICTURE RETAKES: NOVEMBER 7, 2013.
- ACT TEST REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR DEC. 14TH TEST: NOVEMBER 8, 2013
- VETERANS DAY PROGRAM: NOVEMBER 11, 2013
- FINANCIAL AID PRESENTATION AT 6:30 FOR JR'S , SR'S AND PARENTS IN THE LIBRARY: NOVEMBER 11, 2013
- SPRING REGISTRATION STARTS FOR THE ACE SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS TAKING COLLEGE CREDIT CLASSES: NOVEMBER 15, 2013
- BURWELL PLAY NIGHT: NOVEMBER 19, 2013
- FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS NIGHT: NOVEMBER 25, 2013
- THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 27-29, 2013 (1PM DISMISSAL)