

# April 2022 Newsletter

## Burwell Elementary

By: Katie Moon

### IMPORTANT APRIL DATES

<b>1 PM Dismissal</b>	<b>Thursday April 14th</b>
<b>No School</b>	<b>Friday April 15th</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday April 17th</b>
<b>No School</b>	<b>Monday April 18th</b>
<b>Evacuation &amp; Reunification Drill</b>  <b>Earth Day</b>	<b>Friday April 22nd</b>
<b>LHP Celebration @ 2:15 PM</b>  <b>Arbor Day</b>	<b>Friday April 29th</b>



Pictured from left to right: Mrs. Ballagh, Jesa Anderson, and Mrs. Schott

### American History Essay Contest

In September 2021, the Loup Trail Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) invited area students in grades 5 thru 8, to enter an American History essay contest. Students were asked to submit a 300 – 1,000 word essay (depending on the grade level) that addressed the topic: “The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier”.

November 11, 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Students were asked to imagine that they had a brother who lost his life on the battlefields of France during World War I, and that their family had attended the November 11, 1921 dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. Students were to describe what this would have meant to themselves and their family. They were to also include an explanation of why it is important to remember those who have given their lives to serve our nation.

Eleven students from the Burwell 6th grade class participated in this national contest. Jesa Anderson’s 981-word essay was the 2022 6th Grade Nebraska State Winner. She received a medal and a monetary award for her written work.

The Loup Trail Chapter, NSDAR wishes to express their appreciation to Mrs. Joy Schott (Burwell Elementary 6th Grade Teacher) for teaching history, and encouraging her students to apply their writing skills by entering this contest. The Chapter also congratulates Jesa Anderson on her winning entry!



A pink banner with the words "Teacher Spotlight" in a large, white, bubbly font with a blue outline. Above the text is a string of black cord with several glowing light bulbs in white, yellow, and blue. The banner has a soft pink glow around it.

# Teacher Spotlight

This month's Teacher Spotlight will come from Mrs. Williams from Second Grade.

**1. What is your #1 rule in your classroom?**

*Mrs. Williams*— #1 Rule- Be KIND! That is the most important rule in our classroom and in life.

**2. What is your favorite part of the school day?**

*Mrs. Williams*— My favorite part of the school day is right after lunch when we are all a little exhausted from the morning but ready to regroup and finish the day! It's kind of like a roller coaster ride and we've reached the top and are ready to fly down to the bottom:-)

**3. What is your favorite class to teach?**

*Mrs. Williams*— Math is my favorite subject to teach because it's so easy to see them building upon their knowledge as the concepts get bigger, but I also love to just spend time reading books with the kids!

**4. If you could have an animal in your classroom, what would it be?**

*Mrs. Williams*— We have Aqua Dragons this year, thanks to Noah, and I can say they are the easiest, least smelly classroom pets! We have also had African Dwarf Frogs before and they were super cool too!

**5. What inspires you to teach?**

*Mrs. Williams*— I love kids, and I love learning new things, so for me to get to see young people experiencing those moments when they really understand something...that's what inspires me!

**6. If you had to describe your classroom and students to a blind person, how would you describe it?**

*Mrs. Williams*— Well, we're often a little crazy but smiling; a little loud but learning; and our room is full of bright colors and kids willing to help their friends when needed.

**7. If you could switch roles with another teacher or staff member for one day, who would it be and why?**

*Mrs. Williams*— I would switch roles with Miss A, but just for a day, to see what the kids in 3rd grade remembered from 2nd grade! However, personal opinion, 2nd grade is the best and I wouldn't really want to switch anyone for very long!

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# 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE



Recently, in Mrs. Schott's 6th grade classroom, we had a guest speaker. Stefania Passyka, also known as Sonn, was invited to speak to our class because her origins began in Ukraine. Sonn lives close to the school and loves her life in America. She began her story telling us about her life that began in a displacement camp in Germany. In 1940, Sonn's mother was taken by the German Nazi's and her parents were shot. At just 17 years of age she was then put in a German labor camp. A German farmer took her to work for him for the next four years. After the war ended, Sonn's mother did not want to go back to Ukraine and she met Niloki Kasyan in an army barracks. After a short courtship, Stefania Passyka was born on July 24, 1946, in a displacement camp in Heiden, Germany. Tragically her biological father was killed in a vehicle accident when Sonn was just one year old.

Her mother went on to marry Wassyl Passyka, who brought with him his siblings, John and Olga. Together they had a little girl named Etica and later Jim and Mary. They wanted to move to London, Ontario where there was a Ukrainian community already established. However, by some turn of events they ended up in America. It was the year 1954 and Sonn and her family were taking the last boat from Germany to Ellis Island. When they arrived, she and the rest of her family were put through tough and extreme health tests. They had to wait a few days until a social worker from the Lutheran Social Services arrived and handed them papers which arranged for their family to go to Bassett, Nebraska. The family lived and worked for a rancher in Bassett for two years until the family's next move.

Sonn was a teenager when her father purchased 50 acres of land that was just a couple miles outside of Ainsworth, Nebraska. Sonn graduated from Ainsworth High School in 1968 and went on to Wayne State College to become a teacher. She was also known for her love of sports and even played in college. Sonn loved basketball and volleyball. With her love for athletics, Sonn was hired as a P.E. teacher in Clinton, Iowa. She shared with us that her office was actually in her car! Her second job was in Mukwonago, Wisconsin. Mukwonago is the native Indian word for "place of the bear." The area was originally a Native American village and the tribal seat of the Bear Clan of the [Potawatomi](#) Indians. It was a smaller community where Sonn taught for 32 years until her retirement.

Since Stefania Passyka visited our classroom we have learned a lot about the country of Ukraine. The Ukrainian flag is blue and yellow. The blue on the top represents the beautiful skies of Ukraine and the yellow is symbolic of the plentiful wheat fields. The soil in Ukraine is very rich and wheat fields flourish. Ukraine is known as the 'breadbasket of Europe' and is among the top three exporters of grain in the world. The Ukrainian flower is the sunflower. Sunflowers are spectacular, highly productive and a major agricultural export of Ukraine. They are also the national flower of Ukraine and are a powerful symbol of the resistance of the Ukrainian people to the invasion by Russia.

Since the invasion of Russia on the Ukraine many people are without a home or have even lost their lives. Sonn left us with many things to think about and said that because of her experiences in life it has left her with a great appreciation for freedom and the life we are privileged to live in the United States of America. Sonn's message to us was to pray for the Ukrainian people.





# HERE'S THE NEWS



National FFA Week was held on February 19th through the 26th. The elementary students participated in a school wide coloring contest, where one winner was chosen from each class. The petting zoo was held once again on March 4th. Animals included in the petting zoo were pigs, chickens, a donkey, lambs, a calf, and a pony. Thank you Mr. Simpson and FFA Members for including the elementary during the week long celebration and to the families that brought their animals in for the petting zoo!



Coloring Contest Winners pictured above from left to right

**6th Grade**—Cole Williams

**5th Grade**—Jordee Johnston

**4th Grade**—Nariah Klanecky

**3rd Grade**—Raylan Stutzman

**2nd Grade**—Kynlee Jeffres

**1st Grade**—Laykley Lowe

**Kindergarten**—Collin Jeffres



# Counselor's Corner

by Miss Tetschner

Happy Spring!!

In Kindergarten we started a safety unit sponsored by Modern Woodman of America. During this safety unit we discussed germs and the proper way to wash our hands, fire safety, how to call 911, water safety, playground safety, and personal space.

The first graders started their books, "My First Book", donated by generous local businesses. So far we have enjoyed reading together and having good discussions.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders will be finishing the "Too Good for Drugs" curriculum sponsored by the GLW Children's Council.

The last two months of the school year for the K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be learning and practicing several social skills, including the skill of group work, effective communication, listening vs hearing, and many more.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin their transition into junior high school soon. We will have a question box, "questions about junior high" for students to anonymously drop a question in the question box. We will spend much of our discussion around the questions they have and the differences between elementary and junior high. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a pre-registration form, visit with current high school students, take a tour, and meet some of their junior high teachers.

I have greatly enjoyed working with your children and I look forward to next school year.







By: Mrs. Sikes

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, elementary students who made their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter AR goal were on “**Tenpins and needles**” as they were ready to “**ROCK and BOWL**”! BES students were determined to “**leave no pin standing**” as they got to celebrate their reading success. The students had a “**ball**”! For some, they discovered that “**bowling was right up their alley**”.

The kids were “**split**” into “**lane**” groups for an hour of bowling, table games and refreshments. Not only did the kids enjoy bowling, they got to sip and sample either a Shirley Temple or a Roy Rogers and delve into delicious snacks. No cheese sticks were “**spared**”!

A special shout out goes to Sarah Lindsay and the Longhorn Lanes staff for helping to make this event a fun and memorable one for the kids. They really helped in “**Letting the good times bowl**”!







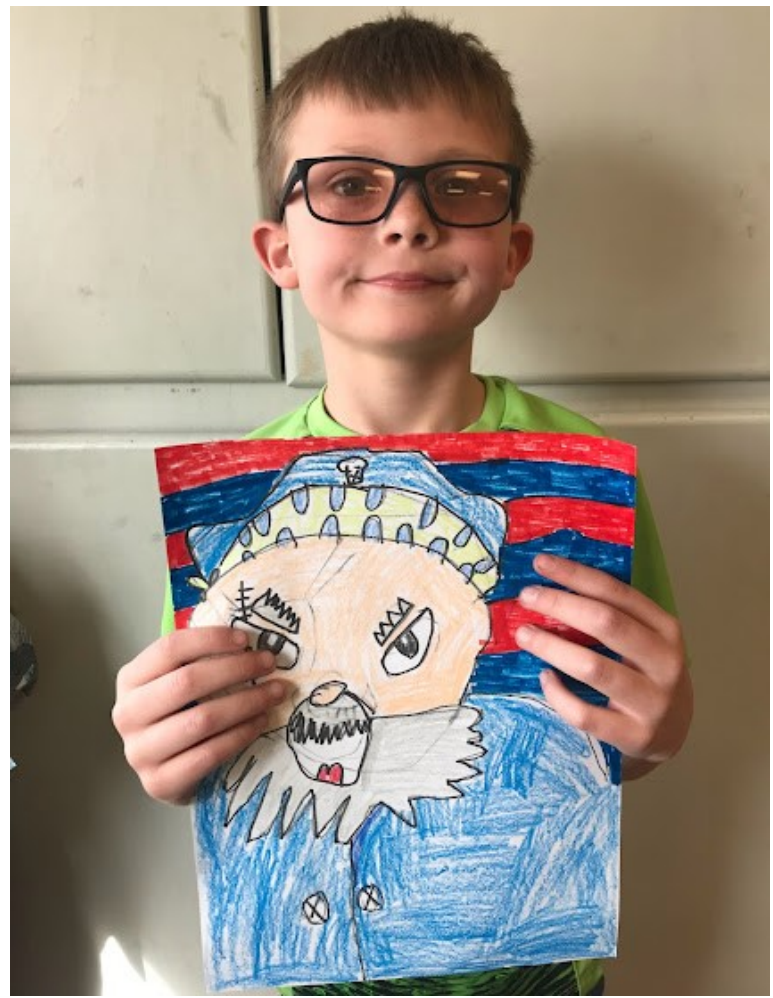


# Elementary Artists of the Week

## Week of March 21st – Breon Hughes & Brock Hruza

**By: Ms. Heerten**

The first graders are the chosen artists of the week! These students created their own self-portraits after learning about balance and symmetry. To make these self-portraits extra fun, the students drew themselves as pirates! The chosen students for first grade are Breon and Brock. After learning how to draw themselves as pirates, they traced their lines with a black Sharpie and filled in their drawing with crayons. The class reviewed what patterns are and used markers to create the background. Brock and Breon both said that tracing the lines was the hardest thing to do, and they both really enjoyed coloring their drawings!





# Elementary Artists of the Week

Week of March 29th – Nataya Bozarth & Jannessa Morrison

**By: Ms. Heerten**

This week's featured artists are from the fifth grade class! These students just got done with their clay projects of the year. They each created an animal whistle. After learning how to make a whistle out of a hollow ball of clay, each student added more clay and details to turn it into an animal of their choice. The students finished their projects by painting them with metallic paints. Nataya and Jannessa are the featured artists! Nataya was happy that her cat turned out cute, while Jannessa was glad she was able to make a pig out of clay. Nataya said she would shape the body differently if she could redo this project, but enjoyed learning how to work with clay. Jannessa agreed to this, and said if she could do anything differently it would be to change the tail. Good job fifth grade!



# Longhorn Pride



The March edition of Longhorn Pride was held on Friday, March 25th. Winner's of the monthly drawing of those students that received Longhorn Pride slips received a bucket of goodies put together by Mrs. Christen.

From left to right, front to back: Moxon Shermer, Adelise Hulinsky, Riddick Garcia, Abram Gideon, Brayden Gideon, Addyn Stout, Cole Williams, Kynlee Jeffres, Jace Morrison, Natalya William, Ava Petersen, Katelyn Ohlman, Cort Hicks, Frank Green.

Our next celebration will be held on Friday, April 29th beginning at 2:15.





# Calamus Kids PRESCHOOL

By: Tonya Lakin

The end of our school year is close by and that means we are about to the end of our alphabet. We have been spending time learning the letter V and W. Letter V was VERY entertaining! We played a voice game where we had to guess our friends' voices without seeing their faces, we did an explosive Volcano experiment and lastly the morning class's favorite was a visit from a Veterinarian. Jason the veterinarian came to share with us all about his job and read a fun story to us.

Letter W was just plain WACKY! So wacky we even got to have a wacky day to dress up silly. Some of us wore costumes, wore clothes backwards, or made our hair really crazy. It was an exciting and wacky day.

Some thing we thought was so cool for W Week was our visitor Sara Stevenson. Sara brought a worm habitat to share with us. She told us they were compost worms she will use in her garden. Sara also taught us many cool things about worms. They will eat almost anything, except they don't like onions and strawberries, and they definitely don't like the light. We learned a lot about worms and thought they were pretty neat.



**April Birthdays**

5th—Christian William  
 7th—Chase Dawe  
 8th—Mrs. Dawe  
 9th—Mrs. Sikes  
 13th—Fiona Trausch  
 14th—Jeremy Bozarth  
 16th—Brye Burnham  
 29th—Mr. Nelson & David Stevenson

**May Birthdays**

5th—Mrs. Hughes  
 8th—Leo Franson & Khloe Toelle  
 10th—Natalya William  
 11th—Isannah Woods  
 14th—Coy Taylor  
 15th—Corrien Shetterly  
 17th—Jackson Joy  
 18th—Mrs. Busch  
 26th—Tucker Hasenauer  
 27th—Hannah Dearmont & Katelyn Ohlman  
 28th—Lola Badura  
 31st—Adelise Hulinsky

**LONGHORN  
LOOKOUT****Friday, May 6th**

Kindergarten  
 Recognition  
 AR Recognition

**Monday, May 9th**

Elementary Field  
 Day

**Thursday, May 12th**

Longhorn Pride  
 Finale

**Friday, May 13th**

Elementary  
 Academic Awards  
 Day  
 Last Day of School

***Friendly reminder** As we wish spring weather is here for good, we do live in Nebraska! Please keep watch of the forecast and send your child with the appropriate outerwear as students travel to the high school for lunch daily.*

**Save your Tabs!**

Pull for the  
 House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

GCEA would like to thank all the elementary students and parents who support us by purchasing our candy bars. Proceeds from the sales help with scholarships, member grants, and the Children's Fund. Once again thank you for your support.

- GCEA Member, Nancy Swett

SCAN YOUR  
 RECIEPTS or DROP  
 THEM OFF AT THE  
 ELEMENTARY  
 OFFICE TO BE  
 SCANNED!



EARN FOR  
 BURWELL  
 ELEMENTARY!

**SHOP AT**

**BURWELL**  
**Shurfine Food Center**

**& Buy Best Choice  
 Brand Items?**

Cut out the UPC label from your Best Choice Brand products and bring them to Burwell Elementary. We can redeem them for cash for our school!



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